

# Appendix C5

## Feedback and Response Log - Indigenous Communities - Weenusk First Nation



**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	1	<p>Provincial Environmental Assessment Requirements                      “The decision regarding ownership of the Community Access Road has yet to be made. It is currently unknown who will own, maintain and operate the Community Access Road.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation seeks clarification on the plans for the road. Additional details are required in the final EA/IS to ensure that the principles and commitments established during the Environmental Assessment process will be maintained by future owners of the road.</p>	<p>Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding the ownership and operations for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	138
Weenusk First Nation	2	<p>“Indigenous land and resource use refers to specific areas and resources used for traditional purposes when Indigenous peoples learn and practice their Indigenous Knowledge.”</p> <p>Indigenous land and resource use extends beyond traditional practices and purposes, encompassing modern activities that integrate socio-cultural, environmental, and economic dimensions. This must be included in the final EA/IS</p>	<p>Section 6.1 of the Final EA/IS Report and Section 3.1 of the Technical Support Documents has been updated with the following text:</p> <p>"Indigenous Land and Resource Use refers to specific areas and resources used for traditional purposes when Indigenous peoples learn and practice their Indigenous Knowledge (Garvin &amp; Northern Forestry Centre (Canada), 2001). This includes the areas and sites used for hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering and the resources harvested, as well as cultural sites, features and</p>	<p>Technical Support Documents Section 3.1 (all - template update)                      Final EA/IS Section 6.1</p>	142

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			practices—sometimes referred to as Traditional Land Use.”		
Weenusk First Nation	3	<p>“Gender-Based Analysis Plus data collection for the Community Access Road included demographics, human health, engagement opportunities, and secondary research.”</p> <p>Please specify how the impact of inequity on Indigenous Peoples can be assessed using the identified data collection methods, given the apparent insufficiency of source data beyond engagement opportunities.</p>	<p>The impact of inequity on Indigenous Peoples was assessed through a multi-source approach. Demographic data was analyzed to identify population distribution, etc.; human health indicators were reviewed; engagement findings provided qualitative insights into lived experiences; and secondary research was used to supplement data.</p> <p>While disaggregated datasets specific to Indigenous communities—particularly those reflecting intersections of gender, age, and Indigeneity—are limited, these combined methods allowed for both quantitative and qualitative assessment of inequity.</p> <p>We recognize that disaggregated datasets specific to Indigenous communities, particularly those that reflect intersections of gender, age, Indigeneity, and other identity factors, are often limited in availability and scope. This is a well-documented barrier to applying Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in many infrastructure projects involving Indigenous communities, and those limitations are described in the</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	143

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			report. Refer to Section 4.5 of Appendix T Community Well-Being Technical Support Document for more information on the GBA+ methodology.		
Weenusk First Nation	4	<p>The Project inclusion list specifies that mineral exploration activity and mining claims are included in accordance with the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines; however, no mineral exploration activity was included in the assessment as they are not considered “active projects” (e.g., Zenyatta Venture’s Albany Graphite Deposit, Page 772 [PDF Page 820]).</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation is aware of, and experiences impacts from exploration activities in our traditional territory. Particularly, areas that include peatlands or areas where caribou are present and may avoid sensory disturbance which occurs with exploration.</p> <p>The final EA/EIS must be updated to include mineral exploration activity in the cumulative effects assessment as various studies areas (e.g., ungulates) extend north to where there is active exploration occurring.</p>	<p>Mineral deposits and exploration activity were included on the Project Inclusions List and considered, however, were not carried forward to discipline-specific cumulative effects assessments as they are mineral deposits and plans for future development have not been disclosed at the time of preparing the Draft and Final EA/IS Report, therefore cannot be assessed as reasonably foreseeable activities in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>The descriptions of mineral deposits in the Project Inclusions List have updated in the Final EA/IS to clarify that the activities are not reasonably foreseeable, where applicable.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	145
Weenusk First	5	Temporary infrastructure will be	A Vegetation Restoration Plan will be	Comment	151

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Nation		<p>decommissioned/removed, and areas will be allowed to revegetate naturally.</p> <p>Areas where temporary infrastructure is decommissioned or removed may not revegetate in a timely manner and revegetation may not support plants of traditional importance. Confirmation is required that Marten Falls will develop a revegetation plan for temporary infrastructure that includes species of interest to Indigenous Nations that may be affected.</p>	<p>developed and finalized during the next phase of the Community Access Road and will include seeding and/or planting of Traditional Use Plants.</p>	<p>noted; see response for details</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	6	<p>“Explosives will be transported, handled, and stored in compliance with federal and provincial regulations and will only be used by trained professionals. The storage of explosives will be in specially designed and secured containers and set back and isolated from all other activities.”</p> <p>Please indicate if Marten Falls will implement a blasting plan and potentially include blasting offset measures, if necessary, near waterbodies.</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement and the Technical Support Documents were prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. The development of a Blasting Plan is not a regulatory requirement and as such was not developed as part of the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.</p> <p>However, a Blasting and Communication Management Plan that describes specific measures that would be implemented if blasting is required is identified as a mitigation measure in the Final EA/IS.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	152

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			The details of this plan will be developed and finalized during the next phase of the Community Access Road.		
Weenusk First Nation	7	<p>“Domestic wastewater will be discharged to onsite leaching beds at the temporary construction camps.”</p> <p>Please specify whether leaching beds will be constructed underground and whether they will be removed/ decommissioned following conclusion of construction activities.</p>	Specifics on the type of domestic wastewater systems to be used will be determined during detail design. Options may include holding tank systems with off-site disposal or on-site leaching beds designed in accordance with applicable codes and approvals. Management of domestic wastewater will be governed by established Provincial legislation, Best Practices and Guidelines and will be subject to applicable regulatory applications and permits. Construction camps and associated domestic wastewater systems will be decommissioned following the conclusion of construction activities.	Comment noted; see response for details.	153
Weenusk First Nation	8	<p>Weenusk First Nation is deeply connected to water courses and watersheds in their traditional areas. This was highlighted and described in the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report.</p> <p>The final EA/EIS must be updated to reflect information from Weenusk First Nation in this table and throughout the relevant sections.</p>	Table 8.1-1 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to reflect input from Weenusk First Nation.	Final EA/IS Table 8.1-1	154

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	9	<p>This table refers to Technical Support Documents (Appendix I) for Valued Component information related to Peatlands.</p> <p>The Code of Practice for Environmental Assessments (January 2014) in Ontario specifies that “Any interested person reading the environmental assessment document should be able to easily follow the process used by the proponent...” and that “Clarity, simplicity, completeness and precision are objectives for which to strive when preparing the environmental assessment document.” [emphasis added]</p> <p>Further, it specifies that “If a multiple volume document is prepared, the main document should be sufficiently detailed so that it can stand on its own and provide a complete picture...” [emphasis added] Marten Falls must update the final EA/IS to include the information from the Appendix to allow for consideration.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 8.1-2 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include the peatlands information.</p>	Final EA/IS Table 8.1-2	155
Weenusk First Nation	10	<p>This table refers to Technical Support Documents (Appendix I) for Spatial Boundaries related to Peatlands.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>Table 8.1-3 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include the peatlands information.</p>	Final EA/IS Table 8.1-3	156

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	11	<p>In place of this Figure, there is a placeholder that refers to Technical Support Documents (Appendix I) for visualization of Spatial Boundaries related to Peatlands.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>Figure 8.1-3 has been added to Final EA/IS</p>	<p>Final EA/IS Figure 8.1-3</p>	158
Weenusk First Nation	12	<p>“Field investigations included flying over the area and conducting ground surveys at selected water crossings from 2019 to 2022.”</p> <p>Additional detail is required on how water crossings were selected for field investigation.</p> <p>Additional detail is also required on why field investigations were discontinued in 2022.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>1) Water crossings for field investigations were identified based on proposed route alignments, including alternative route options. Access to the locations accessed during the field program were further determined based on availability of suitable spot for helicopter landing, safe water level and flow conditions in order to complete an assessment, and the density of vegetation surrounding the proposed crossing locations. For details regarding the existing conditions study design and methodology, refer to Section 4.3 of Appendix F Surface Water Technical Support Document.</p> <p>2) Field investigations during the Aquatics field program were coordinated and completed to collect data on surface water quantity and quality during different seasonal conditions and varying flow conditions. Upon collection of baseline field data to characterize existing conditions, field investigations were</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	161

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>discontinued because survey intensity was completed to meet the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. For additional details, refer to Section 4.3 of Appendix F.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	13	<p>“Ogoki River at Crossing RA-1-WC-05: ... Fish sampling was not conducted at this crossing but the fish community in the Ogoki River is well documented.”</p> <p>Field investigations between 2019 and 2022 excluded this crossing.</p> <p>Further field investigations are necessary to verify the existence of the listed species and to ascertain that their population sizes and seasonal patterns remain consistent.</p>	<p>For the EA/IS, fish sampling was conducted to document fish presence in the vicinity of the waterbody crossings. Limited fish sampling was conducted in the Ogoki River as the fish community is well documented. Instead fish sampling efforts focused on waterbodies where the fish community was not as well described.</p> <p>A fish habitat survey was conducted at crossing RA1-WC-05 on the Ogoki River on September 8, 2019. Although fish sampling was not specifically conducted at RA1-WC-05, fish sampling was conducted in the Ogoki River at another crossing location (RA1-WC-11) in June and August 2022 (Section 3.3.15 of Attachment B of Appendix G Fish Habitat Technical Support Document).</p> <p>Due to the historical fish presence information and Indigenous Knowledge regarding the Ogoki River, no additional fish sampling is required to support the EA/IS or Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	162

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			and the Ministry of Natural Resources permit applications for this crossing.		
Weenusk First Nation	14	<p>Ogoki River at Crossing RA1-WC-11: In-text reference: Government of Ontario 2015, Golder 2013; and “Fish sampling done in 2022...”</p> <p>The fish listed to be found at this crossing by the sources Government of Ontario, 2015, and Golder, 2013 were not verified through fish sampling done between 2019-2022. Additional field investigations should be conducted to confirm the presence of the listed species to ensure those species are present with similar population sizes and seasonal usage.</p>	<p>For the purposes of the EA/IS, all fish species previously recorded through historical information for the Ogoki River as well from Indigenous Knowledge were considered to be present at the Ogoki River crossings, as well as the fish species captured through sampling.</p> <p>Due to the historical fish presence information and Indigenous Knowledge regarding the Ogoki River, no additional fish sampling is required to support the EA/IS or Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources permit applications for this crossing.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	163
Weenusk First Nation	15	<p>Albany River at Crossing RA1-WC-27: “An unknown mussel species was found at the crossing.”</p> <p>Please provide information on whether these mussels will be evaluated to determine if they are invasive species, such as Zebra Mussels or Quagga Mussels.</p>	<p>After review of field photos, the mussel species observed in the Albany River at crossing RA1-WC-27 has been identified as a Giant Floater (<i>Pyganodon grandis</i>), which is a native freshwater mussel commonly found in Ontario rivers, with a wide distribution across Canada.</p> <p>Section 8.1.6.1.1 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include information on this mussel species.</p>	Final EA/IS Section 8.1.6.1.1 Appendix G	164
Weenusk First	16	Albany River at Crossing RA1: In-text	For the purposes of the EA/IS, all fish	Comment	165

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Nation		<p>reference: Government of Ontario 2015, Golder 2013; and MFFN 2021</p> <p>The fish listed to be found at this crossing by the sources Government of Ontario, 2015, and Golder, 2013 were not verified through fish sampling done in 2021. Additional field investigations should be conducted to confirm the presence of the listed species to ensure those species are present with similar population sizes and seasonal usage.</p>	<p>species previously recorded through historical information for the Albany River as well from Indigenous Knowledge were considered to be present at the Albany River crossing. Large-bodied fish including Brook Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye, Lake Sturgeon, and Lake Whitefish have all been documented in the Albany River as well as several small-bodied forage fish species (e.g., Lake Chub, Brook Stickleback).</p> <p>Due to the historical fish presence information and Indigenous Knowledge regarding the Albany River, no additional fish sampling is required to support the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement or Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources permit applications for this crossing.</p>	noted; see response for details.	
Weenusk First Nation	17	<p>Ogoki River at Crossing RA4B-WC-01: In-text references: Government of Ontario 2015, Golder 2013; “Fish sampling was not conducted at this crossing because it would have fallen during a restricted activity window, however it is assumed that the populations are similar to those found at Ogoki River at Crossing RA1-WC-11 (above).”</p>	<p>A fish habitat assessment was completed on October 15, 2020 at crossing RA4B-WC-01 on the Ogoki River. During the time of the assessment in mid-October, fish sampling was not completed due to the field program being scheduled during the fall restricted activity timing window (September 1 to June 15).</p> <p>The overall schedule for the field</p>	Comment noted; see response for details.	166

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>The investigation period is specified as occurring between 2019 and 2022. Kindly confirm whether this entire timeframe fell under a restricted activity window.</p> <p>If not, why was the investigation of this crossing not completed during any other time within the 2-year investigation period?</p>	<p>programs is outlined in Section 2.2. of Attachment B of Appendix G Fish Habitat Technical Support Document. As described in this section, field programs were subsequently conducted in 2021 and 2022; however, fish sampling was not completed at the large watercourses (i.e., Albany and Ogoki rivers) where historical records exist on the fish community.</p> <p>As described in the responses to #162, #163, and #165, historical information and Indigenous Knowledge was available regarding the fish species present in the Ogoki River, In addition, fish sampling was conducted in the Ogoki River at another crossing location (RA1-WC-11) in June and August 2022 (Section 3.3.15 of Attachment B of Appendix G). As a result of the information available, a subsequent field survey of this crossing was not considered warranted.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	18	<p>Albany River at Crossing RA4-WC-34: In-text references: Government of Ontario 2015, Golder 2013; “Fish sampling involved setting minnow traps; no fish were captured.”</p> <p>The fish listed to be found at this</p>	<p>As described in Section 3.3.48 of Attachment B of Appendix G Fish Habitat Technical Support Document, the fish community in the Albany River is well documented; therefore, fishing effort for the Project was minimal. Minnow traps were set at crossing RA4-WC-34 on the</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	168

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>crossing by the sources Government of Ontario, 2015, and Golder, 2013 were not verified through fish sampling done in 2021 as the 2021 investigation using minnow traps resulted in no fish capture.</p> <p>The habitat for spawning and rearing was rated moderate to high for large fish species like Lake Sturgeon.</p> <p>Minnow traps are commonly used to catch small-bodied freshwater fish species. Could you please clarify why no methods for large-bodied fish were implemented during the 2021 fish investigation? Will additionally investigations at this water crossing be completed to verify the older data used to report on species presence?</p>	<p>Albany River while the field crew conducted the fish habitat assessment on September 15, 2021.</p> <p>For the purposes of the EA/IS, all fish species previously recorded through historical information for the Albany River as well from Indigenous Knowledge were considered to be present at the Albany River crossing. Large-bodied fish including Brook Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye, Lake Sturgeon, and Lake Whitefish have all been documented in the Albany River as well as several small-bodied forage fish species (e.g., Lake Chub, Brook Stickleback).</p> <p>Due to the historical fish presence information and Indigenous Knowledge regarding the Albany River, no additional fish sampling is required to support the EA/IS or Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources permit applications for this crossing.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	19	<p>Table 8-10 Pages 132-137 (PDF 180-185) (g) Valued Component fish species</p> <p>Four fish were chosen as Valued Components (VCs) to represent the 37 fish species found in the Local Study</p>	<p>The approach for selecting the fish Valued Components is described in Section 4.2.2 of Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document. All of the fish species recorded during baseline studies have a role in the ecosystem; however, the</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	170

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Area.</p> <p>However, there was no representative VC selected for baitfish such as the fathead minnow. Brook trout, which as assumed to be representative of small-bodied fish such as the fat head minnow are larger carnivorous fish whereas minnows are smaller omnivorous fish; therefore, a representative VC should have been selected. Please provide rationale for no VC for small baitfish.</p>	<p>purpose for limiting the assessment on Valued Components is to focus on those species that were identified as most valuable based on the presence in the study area, importance to Indigenous users, government priorities (e.g., provincial or federal listed species), and life history requirements and role in the food web. This approach for selecting Valued Components is a common practice in environmental assessments (e.g., Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2024).</p> <p>The Valued Components in the fish and fish habitat EA/IS are the fish species in the May 2021 Final Fish and Fish Habitat Study Plan. The Study Plan process also incorporated feedback from regulators and Indigenous Groups on the Valued Components. Engagement was also conducted with Indigenous Groups on the preliminary Valued Components (Section 3.2 of Appendix G).</p> <p>Forage fish species (such as small baitfish) were not selected as a Valued Component as they were not considered a species of economic and cultural importance to Indigenous users and not a priority for regulatory agencies. However, forage fish are considered as</p>		

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			food for fish under the habitat quantity and quality indicator.		
Weenusk First Nation	20	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, the peatland existing conditions information was not available to summarize. The full Peatlands Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix I. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 8.1.8 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include the peatlands information.	Final EA/IS Section 8.1.8	171
Weenusk First Nation	21	<p>“Caribou and moose are culturally and traditionally important for Marten Falls First Nation. Moose meat is commonly shared with family, Elders, and community members, and almost all parts of the moose are used for different purposes (Marten Falls First Nation, 2023).”</p> <p>Caribou is of importance to Weenusk First Nation. Weenusk First Nation has requested that a caribou monitoring program be implemented as part of this project in their Weenusk Existing Conditions Report.</p> <p>Please update this section to reflect</p>	<p>The Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement and the Technical Support Documents were prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. The development of a caribou monitoring program is not a regulatory requirement and as such was not developed as part of the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.</p> <p>However, Table 8.2-1 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to reflect Weenusk First Nation's request for a caribou monitoring program.</p>	Final EA/IS Table 8.2-1	173

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		information from Weenusk First Nation.			
Weenusk First Nation	22	<p>“No such habitats have been recorded in the moose Local Study Area, but they likely exist and just haven’t been documented yet.”</p> <p>What measures will Marten Falls implement to ensure the documentation of described habitats? Additionally, what strategies are in place to verify the presence of these habitats?</p>	Section 8.2.7.2 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to summarize Section 5.2.2 of Appendix M Ungulates Technical Support Document which outlines the Moose Habitat Distribution within the Local Study Area.	Final EA/IS Section 8.2.7.2	174
Weenusk First Nation	23	<p>Several of the potential pit areas have not been verified for their properties.</p> <p>What processes will Marten Falls undertake to ensure fulsome documentation of potential pit areas?</p>	Material sampling and ground water monitoring at all potential aggregate sites are being undertaken as part of an ongoing permitting and preliminary design processes to verify their properties.	Comment noted; see response for details	176
Weenusk First Nation	24	<p>“Water erosion risk wasn’t calculated for open water, rock, human-made materials, or organic soils, which make up 66.2 percent of the Local Study Area.”</p> <p>Given that open water, rock, human-made materials, and organic soils constitute a significant portion of the Local Study Area, what was the rationale for not calculating the water erosion risk?</p>	The water erosion equation is designed to predict the amount of mineral soil that is likely to be detached and transported by water from a specific area and is designed only for mineral soil. An erosion risk rating was assigned to all mineral soils in the LSA. If a risk rating were to be assigned to organic areas, it would be "very low" as organic materials are typically effective at preventing water erosion. Areas of Organic soil are also associated with level topography which	Comment noted; see response for details	194

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Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>are not prone to water erosion. Bedrock is not susceptible to water erosion, so if a rating were to be assigned to that, it would be "very low". Water itself can not have an erosion risk rating, and in anthropogenic (human-made) areas, it is not possible to infer the soil texture or topography to calculate a reliable risk rating.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	25	<p>“Since there are few bogs or poor fens in the Local Study Area...”</p> <p>Page 190 indicates that fens make up 37% of the Local Study Area (LSA). Please provide detail on how these fens were determined to be poor quality.</p>	<p>The term "poor fen" does not refer to the quality of the wetland community, but rather the nutrient availability of the fen community. It is a classification of peatland as outlined in the Ontario Wetlands Evaluation System Northern Manual. Poor fens are defined as mesotrophic peatlands, are intermediate between mineral-nourished (minerotrophic) and precipitation-dominated (ombrotrophic) peatlands.</p> <p>The summary of the availability of fen ecosites in Section 8.2.8.7.5 of the Final EA/IS includes all fen ecosites from poor fen to extremely rich fen ecosites.</p>	Final EA/IS Section 8.2.8.7.5	195
Weenusk First Nation	26	<p>“The information, some of which is confidential, that has been used to inform this Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement related to the people disciplines is summarized in Table</p>	<p>Table 8.3-1 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 8-52 of the Draft EA/IS) has been updated to reflect information from Weenusk First Nation, where applicable.</p>	Final EA/IS Table 8.3-1	196

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		<p>8-52.”</p> <p>This table does not include any information from Weenusk First Nation despite submission of the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report.</p> <p>Please update this table and the EA/EIS to include information provided by Weenusk First Nation.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	27	<p>This table includes a placeholder for valued components for Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests.</p> <p>Please note that Weenusk First Nation identified six VCs within the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Reporting: Weenuski Inninowuk Identity, Intact Environment, Harvesting and Harvested Foods, Stewardship of the Environment, Governance and Important Sites on the Landscape. These can be used to update the final EA/IS.</p>	<p>The six Valued Components (VCs) identified in the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report have been incorporated into the Draft Weenusk First Nation: Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Assessment Report. Specifically, Section 5: Existing Conditions incorporates the VCs and Table 5-2: Relation of Weenusk First Nation’s and the Project’s Valued Components, Indicators, and Measurable Parameters demonstrates the correlation between Weenusk First Nation’s VCs and the Project VCs.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	197
Weenusk First Nation	28	<p>Table 8-53: Valued Components of People Page 312 (PDF 360) Valued Component: Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Indicators for this VC should include access to culturally significant</p>	<p>Changes in access to Cultural Heritage Valued Components (VCs) are documented in the Preliminary Impact Assessment, which is included in Section 8 of Appendix Q Cultural Heritage Technical Support Document.</p>	Appendix Q	198

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		landscapes. Measures of change should involve alterations in access to these culturally significant landscapes.			
Weenusk First Nation	29	Community Well-Being: Refer to the detailed Technical Support Document in Appendix T.  See ID #155	The draft Community Well-Being Report was made available for review on April 16, 2026. The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of the Community Well-Being Report.	Final EA/IS Table 8.3-2	199
Weenusk First Nation	30	Refer to the detailed Technical Support Document in Appendix V.  See ID #155	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of the Visual Existing Conditions and Effects Assessment Report.	Final EA/IS Table 8.3-2	200
Weenusk First Nation	31	“[Placeholder: Refer to the detailed Technical Support Document in Appendix O]”  See ID #155	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include Figure 8.3-1	Final EA/IS Figure 8.3-1	201
Weenusk First Nation	32	“[Placeholder: Refer to the detailed Technical Support Document in Appendix T]”  See ID #155	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include Figure 8.3-5	Final EA/IS Figure 8.3-5	202
Weenusk First Nation	33	“[Placeholder: Refer to the detailed Technical Support Document in Appendix V]”  See ID #155	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include Figure 8.3-7	Final EA/IS Figure 8.3-7	203

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Weenusk First Nation	34	<p>“This assessment includes several steps, which will be detailed in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 8.3.4 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include information on the Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests impact assessment.	Final EA/IS Section 8.3.4	204
Weenusk First Nation	35	<p>“The initial data collection for Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights was obtained by assessing the current state of valued components such as Indigenous Current Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes, Cultural Continuity, and Well-Being. Efforts to incorporate insights from engaged Indigenous communities, included organizing two forums for discussion.”</p> <p>Details from the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report were not included in the EA/IS and were not considered in the current state. Please update the EA/IS to include details from Weenusk First Nation’s Existing Condition Report.</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include information from the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report, where applicable.	Section 3.1 of the Technical Support Documents	205
Weenusk First Nation	36	“At a later date, each of the 23 Indigenous communities will be issued a Preliminary Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Existing Conditions and Impact Assessment Report. Our intention is for Indigenous communities	All placeholders in the Draft EA/IS have been replaced with finalized content in the Final EA/IS.	Final EA/IS all placeholder sections from the Draft EA/IS	206

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>to first review this Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>While the intention to review the draft ATRI report is noted, the draft EA/IS has many aspects that are incomplete. This means review is difficult, requires cross reference, or the necessary details are not present.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	37	<p>Table 8-55 Noise Monitoring and Measurement Locations</p> <p>Short term measurements of 20 minutes are briefer than is typical for assessment of noise levels which, in most cases, require samples of 1 hour.</p> <p>Please indicate how 20 minutes can effectively characterize noise sources or events in proximity</p>	<p>In addition to the short-term noise measurements, long-term noise monitoring was carried out at two locations: one representative of more populated areas of Marten Falls First Nation and one removed from human activities. Noise monitoring was carried out at these locations for approximately 48 hours. The short-term measurements were intended to supplement the long-term monitoring; however, were not used further in the assessment. As described in Section 7.1 of Appendix P Acoustic and Vibration Environment Technical Support Document, when establishing existing conditions for use in the effects assessment, the results of the long-term noise monitoring were used.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	207
Weenusk First	38	“The Stage 1 and 2 archaeological	Section 8.3.6 of the Final EA/IS makes	Comment	208

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Nation		<p>assessment reports for the Community Access Road have been shared with neighbouring Indigenous communities, and feedback has been received from some communities.”</p> <p>Section 8.3 mentions feedback received by Indigenous communities, but does not list this feedback, or the Nations that provided it.</p> <p>Please provide details on the feedback provided and how it was addressed in the EA/IS.</p>	<p>reference to the Stage 1 and 2 archaeological reports, which include a “Statement of Indigenous Engagement.” This statement is contained within the Supplementary Documentation that accompanies the archaeological reports but is not made publicly available. The Supplementary Documentation is submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism solely to fulfill archaeological licensing requirements. It provides a brief summary of who has provided archaeological feedback; however, it is not an official consultation document for the EA/IS.</p> <p>Due to the inclusion of confidential Indigenous Knowledge (IK), the feedback summarized in this documentation is not shared with other Indigenous communities. The purpose of the Supplementary Documentation is limited to meeting licensing obligations rather than informing EA/IS decisions.</p>	noted; see response for details.	
Weenusk First Nation	39	<p>“Therefore, only two of the nine river crossings were assessed in the fall of 2019...”</p> <p>Please clarify if the additional seven river crossings will be assessed later during the field investigation and whether this</p>	<p>Further archaeological investigations (Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments) will be required for the seven additional river crossings along the preferred route. These assessments will not be included in the Final EA/IS due to timing constraints. Once the Stage 2</p>	Comment noted; see response for details.	209

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		information will be included in the final EA/IS.	assessments are completed, the resulting reports will be shared with Indigenous communities, consistent with the approach taken for previous Stage 2 assessments for the Community Access Road.		
Weenusk First Nation	40	<p>“The Proponent team will continue to work with members of Marten Falls First Nation to determine culturally important areas rather than relying on the standard procedures to document existing conditions as prescribed by the Province.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation seeks further involvement in determining culturally significant areas - as capacity allows.</p>	We appreciate Weenusk First Nation’s interest in further involvement in identifying culturally significant areas. Should the Community Access Road EA/IS be approved to proceed, a consultation and engagement program will be established to address requests such as this in the next phase of the Community Access Road.	Comment noted; see response for details	210
Weenusk First Nation	41	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement Report, Community Well-Being information was not available to summarize.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 8.3.8 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of Appendix T Community Well-Being Technical Support Document.	Final EA/IS Section 8.3.8 and Section 9.5.6	211
Weenusk First Nation	42	<p>“Highway 11 is being realigned to support the Community Access Road development and operation.”</p> <p>Currently, the realignment of highway 11</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include the realignment of Highway 11 to the project inclusion list.	Final EA/IS Table 10-1 Appendix E	212

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		is not included on the cumulative effects project inclusion list (page 71 and 72). Please update the Project Inclusion List to include this project.			
Weenusk First Nation	43	<p>“At the time of the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, the visual existing conditions information was not available to summarize.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 8.3.10 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include the visual environment information.	Final EA/IS Section 8.3.10	213
Weenusk First Nation	44	<p>Figure 9-3: Peatlands Effects Assessment Local and Regional Study Area [Placeholder: Refer to the detailed Technical Support Document in Appendix I]</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include Figure 9.3-3.	Final EA/IS Figure 9.3-3	214
Weenusk First Nation	45	<p>Surface Water and Sediment Quality Full Section</p> <p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for</p>	The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.3.2 in the Final EA/IS includes a high-level plain language summary of the surface water effects assessment, while Appendix F Surface Water Technical Support Document provides a detailed surface water assessment completed for	Comment noted; see response for details	230

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Surface Water and Sediment VC.</p>	<p>the Community Access Road.</p> <p>Adverse effects on surface water and sediment were assessed and mitigation measures are provided in Appendix F.</p>		
<p>Weenusk First Nation</p>	<p>46</p>	<p>Surface Water and Sediment Quality Full Section</p> <p>There is insufficient detail within this section to evaluate the significance rating.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS has been updated to include further detail on significance.</p> <p>A conclusion on significance was made using the following characteristics: context, direction (i.e. positive, neutral, negative), magnitude (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high), geographic extent, duration (i.e. short term, medium term, long term), frequency (i.e. infrequent, frequent, continuous), reversibility (i.e. reversible, irreversible), likelihood (i.e. unlikely, possible, probably, certain) and uncertainty, as well as taking into consideration professional judgement.</p> <p>The assessment of significance of residual effects of the Community Access Road was informed by the interaction between the residual effects characteristics, with magnitude, duration, and geographic extent being the most important factors, along with consideration of context.</p> <p>Consideration was also given to the</p>	<p>Final EA/IS Section 8.1.5</p>	<p>231</p>

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>concerns of Indigenous communities, interested agencies, groups and individuals raised during engagement.</p> <p>A graded scale (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high) was applied to magnitude, which refers to the amount of change in a parameter relative to the baseline condition of a Valued Component with and without the Community Access Road in place or to other standards or guidelines.</p> <p>Although a graded scale was not used for the determination of significance in the Draft EA/IS, it was applied throughout the assessment process to inform the determination.</p> <p>The appended Technical Support Documents (Appendices F to V) contain detail information on how each valued component completed their assessment. The purpose of the Final EA/IS was to provide a summary of the technical information. Please refer to the Technical Support Documents for additional information.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	47	Mitigation measures are actions implemented to lessen the severity of impact. Compliance with established	As standard road design primarily focuses on safety and functionality, how the Community Access Road is designed	Comment noted; see response for	232

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>regulations is required and part of standard project design. Standard project design elements should not be considered mitigation measures.</p> <p>Please update the EA/IS to identify project design components, where applicable, and not as mitigation measures.</p>	<p>can serve as mitigation when it incorporates environmental design features. Inclusion of environmental design features in mitigation is a standard practice in environmental assessments. The design of the Community Access Road will be refined as it progresses to the next phase.</p> <p>Table 9.3-4 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-6 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the surface water assessment. Refer to Appendix F Surface Water Technical Support Document for detailed surface water assessment. It follows the identification of potential effects, and explores technically and economically feasible mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or minimize the identified negative effects. These measures consisted of industry-standard practices, federal and provincial standard specifications, regulator-mandated measures, best management practices, Indigenous and community recommendations, and recommendations from environmental professionals based on expertise, scientific publications, experience, and professional judgement.</p> <p>The Final EA/IS distinguishes project</p>	<p>details</p>	

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			design components (Section 7) from mitigation measures (Section 9).		
Weenusk First Nation	48	<p>“Chemical vegetation maintenance, including the use of pesticides and herbicides, will be in accordance with the Ministry of Transportation requirements and / or Pesticide Act and Regulations (Government of Ontario, 1990j), as applicable, noting that the use will be reserved for situation that cannot be managed by other methods and the use of herbicide will be restricted around sensitive area (for example, wetlands).”</p> <p>Within the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report, it was noted that 88.5% of Respondents would not harvest in areas where pesticide or herbicide was applied.</p> <p>Weenusk requires notification in the event of pesticide or herbicide usage to ensure Weenusk land users are aware. This notification must include locational and timing details.</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated for clarity around use of herbicides. Herbicides use is not planned.	Comment noted; see response for details.	233
Weenusk First Nation	49	Valued Component: Surface Water Quality, Sediment Quality Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effect: Changes to surface water quality and sediment quality from the wash-off of	This section is a continuation of the table on the previous page. The Final EA/IS has been updated so that all rows include the necessary information, and any blank cells are clearly labeled to	Final EA/IS Section 9	234

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>organic debris to nearby waterbodies and/or increased rates of erosion in disturbed and exposed areas with sediment transport and delivery to adjacent waterbodies</p> <p>There is no “Predicted Residual Effect” details listed. Please update or indicate that this is a continuation of the table on the previous page as all other table cells have repeated details except this one.</p>	<p>avoid confusion.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	50	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Fish and Fish Habitat VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.3.3 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the fish and fish habitat assessment from Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix G for detailed fish habitat assessment completed for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	235
Weenusk First Nation	51	<p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The Draft EA/IS already incorporated the information from Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document. Therefore, no updates to the Final EA/IS were required in response to</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	236

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			this comment.		
Weenusk First Nation	52	<p>Mitigation measures are actions implemented to lessen the severity of impact. Compliance with established regulations is required and part of standard project design. Standard project design elements should not be considered mitigation measures.</p> <p>Please update the EA/IS to identify project design components, where applicable, and not as mitigation measures.</p>	<p>As standard road design primarily focuses on safety and functionality, how the Community Access Road is designed can serve as mitigation when it incorporates environmental design features. Inclusion of environmental design features in mitigation is a standard practice in environmental assessments. The design of the Community Access Road will be refined as it progresses to the next phase.</p> <p>Table 9.3-7 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-10 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the fish and fish habitat assessment. Refer to Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document for detailed fish and fish habitat assessment. It follows the identification of potential effects, and explores technically and economically feasible mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or minimize the identified negative effects. These measures consisted of industry-standard practices, federal and provincial standard specifications, regulator-mandated measures, best management practices, Indigenous and community recommendations, and</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	237

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>recommendations from environmental professionals based on expertise, scientific publications, experience, and judgement.</p> <p>The Final EA/IS distinguishes project design components (Section 7) from mitigation measures (Section 9).</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	53	<p>Complete work as quickly as possible to shorten the duration of disturbance.</p> <p>The EA/IS does not include sufficient details for Weenusk First Nation to understand the duration of disturbance to evaluate whether this mitigation measure would be effective in addressing changes to fish habitat quantity and quality through physical alterations of waterbodies.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>Section 6.5.1 of the Final EA/IS indicates that construction of the Community Access Road is anticipated to last between 3 and 10 years. This range reflects variability in factors such as seasonal and climatic constraints, terrain and geotechnical conditions, logistical challenges in a remote setting, regulatory and permitting timelines, and construction sequencing required to minimize environmental impacts.</p> <p>Detailed, site-specific durations for in-water works at individual crossings are not included in the Final EA/IS, as these will be refined during the next phase of the Community Access Road.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	238
Weenusk First Nation	54	<p>“Avoid constructing in sensitive habitats (for example, spawning areas, groundwater upwellings) where feasible.”</p> <p>Please identify how sensitive habitats will</p>	<p>Sensitive habitats are identified through the results of the fish and fish habitat field surveys that have been conducted, or will be conducted, to support permitting during the detail design of the</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	239

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>be identified prior to construction as sufficient detail is not included in the EA/IS document.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>Community Access Road. Identification of sensitive features will be considered in the siting of the final crossing locations and design of the structures, where possible.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	55	<p>“Do not use herbicides during future maintenance.”</p> <p>This is contradictory to the mitigation listed for Surface Water and Sediment Quality which indicated that “Chemical vegetation maintenance, including the use of pesticides and herbicides, will be in accordance with the Ministry of Transportation requirements and / or Pesticide Act and Regulations (Government of Ontario, 1990j), as applicable, noting that the use will be reserved for situation that cannot be managed by other methods and the use of herbicide will be restricted around sensitive area (for example, wetlands).”</p> <p>Specify the approach to herbicide and adjust mitigation accordingly.</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS has been updated for clarity around use of herbicides. Herbicides use is not planned. Vegetation will be largely removed by mechanical means, except within 10 m of a watercourse or wetland. In these areas, vegetation will be removed manually, using chain saws and other hand-held equipment, while leaving the undergrowth and duff layer undisturbed to prevent erosion.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	240
Weenusk First Nation	56	<p>Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effect: Changes to fish habitat quantity and quality from the placement of waterbody crossing structures and changes in channel</p>	<p>Table 9.3-7 of the Final EA/IS (Table 9-10 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the fish and fish habitat assessment in Appendix G (Fish and Fish Habitat). Changes to fish habitat</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	241

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>morphology</p> <p>The third row of Table 9-10 on this page has Predicted Residual Effect listed as “Not Applicable” for multiple criteria.</p> <p>Additional details are required, and residual effects criteria must be evaluated and included for Magnitude, Geographic Extent, Duration, Frequency, Reversibility, Probability, Significance, and Uncertainty.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>quantity and quality from placement of waterbody crossing structures and changes in channel morphology is assessed in Section 7.3.1.5 of Appendix G Final Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document, with residual effects in Section 7.3.2.5. Refer to these sections in Appendix G for the rationale related to the residual effects characterization.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	57	<p>Blasting-related injuries or mortality to fish.</p> <p>The claim that blasting causes no residual effect on fish is not sufficiently documented. Please update this section to provide adequate evidence for this finding.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.3-7 of the Final EA/IS (formerly 9-10 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the fish and fish habitat assessment in Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document. The assessment related to blasting effects on fish is provided in Section 7.3.1.8 of Appendix G. This section describes the potential effects and the mitigation measures that will be employed. As guidelines to protect fish will be followed,</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	242

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>blasting is predicted to result in no residual effect on fish habitat quantity and quality or fish survival, reproduction, and distribution in waterbodies crossed by the Community Access Road.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	58	<p>Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effect: Changes to fish habitat quality from the deposition of air contaminants and fugitive dust emissions</p> <p>It is indicated here that there will be no residual effect. Much of the project construction and operation occurs around or within the boundaries of waterbodies. This contrasts with the finding of residual effects to peatlands due to fugitive dust emissions. Waterbodies do include less specialized ecosystems than Peatlands, but the finding of no residual effect is not substantiated through documentation to be deemed sufficient. Please update this section to adequately substantiate this finding.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.3-7 of the Final EA/IS (Table 9-10 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the fish and fish habitat assessment in Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document.</p> <p>The assessment related to Changes to Fish Habitat Quality from the Deposition of Air Contaminants and Fugitive Dust Emissions is provided in Section 7.3.1.9 of Appendix G. This section describes the potential effects and mitigation measures that will be employed. The surface water quality assessment, available in Appendix F Surface Water Technical Support Document used the results from the screening level assessment of air emissions to predict effects from air contaminants and fugitive dust emissions to water quality criteria;</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	243

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			no residual effect on surface water quality is predicted. As a result, no residual effect on fish habitat quantity and quality would be expected.		
Weenusk First Nation	59	<p>Changes to fish survival and reproduction from improved public access to recreational angling areas</p> <p>The residual effects criteria noted are conducive to a consideration of low to moderate significance. However, the predicted residual effect has ratings of “Not significant”.</p> <p>Please provide additional detail and rationale why, for this specific potential effect the rating was applied as such with the higher criteria ratings overall.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>Based on the impact assessment completed for fish and fish habitat, fish populations within the regional study area are predicted to remain self-sustaining and ecologically functional after the Community Access Road is in operations. Therefore, residual effects on fish and fish habitat are considered not significant.</p> <p>Changes to Fish Survival and Reproduction from Improved Public Access to Recreational Angling Areas is assessed in Section 7.3.1.10 of Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document, with residual effects in Section 7.3.2.8. Refer to these sections for the rationale related to the residual effects characterization, and the associated significance determination (Section 7.3.3 of Appendix G).</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	244
Weenusk First Nation	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Wash, refuel, and service machinery to prevent any deleterious substances from entering a waterbody (DFO, 2023).</li> <li>• Store fuel and other materials for the machinery in to prevent any deleterious</li> </ul>	Typically, the Proponent would be responsible for monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures. As Marten Falls First Nation continues to engage in discussions with the Province	Comment noted; see response for details	245

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>substances from entering a waterbody (DFO, 2023).”</p> <p>Please specify how the proposed mitigation measures will be monitored to ensure compliance, as there are no details provided in this section or the follow-up monitoring section.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>regarding the ownership and future operations and maintenance of the Community Access Road, an approach to monitoring of construction and compliance with the proposed mitigation measures is yet to be defined.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	61	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Groundwater and Geochemistry VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.3.4 of the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the groundwater assessment in Appendix H Groundwater and Geochemistry Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix H for detailed assessment of groundwater completed for the Community Access Road.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	246
Weenusk First Nation	62	<p>“Predicted Residual Effect: No predicted residual effect”</p> <p>Several rows in Table 9-14 are indicated as having no predicted residual effect. There are no relevant details describing</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	247

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>the potential impacts and why or why they are not considered residual. This leaves questions unanswered.</p> <p>See ID #155</p> <p>Currently, there is no information on whether extraction of aggregate material will include quarrying below the water table; there is no information on whether a site balance model was completed that incorporates groundwater fluxes for construction, operations, etc.; there is no discussion of spatial or temporal changes to groundwater quality at potential receptor locations – or indeed – discussion of receptors outside of baseline information. Overall, the EA/IS has insufficient information for Weenusk to review and provide critique of the conclusions.</p>	<p>9.3.4 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the groundwater assessment in Appendix H Groundwater and Geochemistry Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix H for detailed assessment of groundwater completed for the Community Access Road. The predicted residual effects include potential changes to groundwater quantity due to pit or quarry dewatering and potential changes to groundwater quality due to blasting or exposure of aggregate materials.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	63	<p>Permit or register water takings of more than 50,000 litres per day with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Permit to Take Water or Environmental Activity and Sector Registry programs.</p> <p>As it is a requirement for water takings over 50,000 litres to access a permit or register the water taking, this cannot be</p>	<p>Mitigation measures are best management practices that reduce potential environmental effects, and securing the necessary permits is an accepted and standard practice by both industry and regulators to support environmental protection.</p> <p>For this reason, obtaining a Permit to Take Water will remain listed as a</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	248

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>included as a mitigation. Please adjust this measure to be part of project design.</p> <p>Please apply this comment to other standard requirements, permits, etc. throughout the EA/IS.</p>	<p>mitigation measure in the Final EA/IS.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	64	<p>“Road maintenance should be carried out according to best management practices such as those outlined by Best Practices for the Use and Storage of Chloride-Based Dust Suppressant (Environment Canada, 2007) to reduce the use of chemicals for dust control and minimize runoff of chemicals to the environment.”</p> <p>Weenusk is concerned with the usage of chloride-based dust suppressants. Marten Falls must work to identify potential dust control alternatives and/or to mitigate the impacts that the use of chloride-based dust suppressants may have.</p>	<p>Marten Falls acknowledges Weenusk First Nation’s concern regarding the use of chloride-based dust suppressants. Marten Falls is committed to minimizing potential environmental impacts and will review best management practices recommended by Environment Canada as part of planning for dust control measures during the next phase of the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	250
Weenusk First Nation	65	<p>Alternative chemicals or methods of dust control that pose less risk of runoff and infiltration should be considered for use.</p> <p>Further exploration by Marten Falls is required to explore potential dust control alternatives and/or to mitigate the impacts that the use of chloride-based</p>	<p>Refer to response to #64.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	251

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		dust suppressants may have.			
Weenusk First Nation	66	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, the peatland effects assessment information was not available to summarize. The full Peatlands Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix I. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of peatlands.	Final EA/IS Section 9.3.5	253
Weenusk First Nation	67	<p>The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has advised that significance should be assessed using a graded scale (e.g., negligible, low, moderate, high). Kindly provide a rationale for not adopting this graded scale of significance and opting instead for a binary classification.</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation feels that the binary approach does not allow for a reasonable weighing of all evidence and rationales of effect.</p> <p>Further, due to the lack of narrative within the EA/IS it is hard for Weenusk to evaluate the determination in a</p>	<p>A conclusion on significance was made using the following characteristics: context, direction (i.e. positive, neutral, negative), magnitude (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high), geographic extent, duration (i.e. short term, medium term, long term), frequency (i.e. infrequent, frequent, continuous), reversibility (i.e. reversible, irreversible), likelihood (i.e. unlikely, possible, probably, certain) and uncertainty, as well as taking into consideration professional judgement. The assessment of significance of residual effects of the Community Access Road was informed by the interaction between the residual effects characteristics, with magnitude, duration,</p>	Comment noted; see response for details.	254

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>meaningful way.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>and geographic extent being the most important factors, along with consideration of context. Consideration was also given to the concerns of Indigenous communities, interested agencies, groups and individuals raised during engagement. A graded scale (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high) was applied to magnitude, which refers to the amount of change in a parameter relative to the baseline condition of a Valued Component with and without the Community Access Road in place or to other standards or guidelines. Although a graded scale was not used for the determination of significance in the Final EA/IS, it was applied throughout the assessment process to inform the determination. The appended Technical Support Documents (Appendices F to V) contain detail information on how each valued component completed their assessment. The purpose of the Final EA/IS was to provide a summary of the technical information. Please refer to the Technical Support Documents for additional information.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	68	“The magnitude of the predicted residual effects on surface water and sediment	The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to	Comment noted; see	255

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>features are negligible in magnitude.”</p> <p>A negligible surface water magnitude rating indicates minimal variation, with hydrology staying within natural levels.</p> <p>There are limited details within the effects assessment to substantiate this magnitude rating.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.3.2 is a summary of the detailed assessment completed for surface water (Appendix F Surface Water Technical Support Document).</p> <p>The residual effects assessment completed for surface water indicated that potential effects from the Community Access Road–environment interactions are negligible in magnitude, localized, and largely indiscernible beyond a short distance from the point of impact in the waterbody. With proper implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures, along with the proposed monitoring programs, there will be no residual adverse effects on surface water quantity or on surface water and sediment quality.</p>	<p>response for details</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	69	<p>“Residual effects on the surface water and sediment valued component were considered not significant as the residual effects were assessed negligible in magnitude, and they do not represent a substantial management concern.”</p> <p>See ID #255</p>	<p>Water and sediment have been identified as management concerns for the Community Access Road. The assessment was conducted with appropriate mitigation measures in place, and as a result, the residual effect after applying these measures is considered negligible.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	257

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	70	<p>“Residual effects on the fish valued component were considered not significant as the residual effects were assessed negligible to medium in magnitude and they do not represent a substantial management concern.”</p> <p>The significance rating for fish and fish habitat must be reevaluated using a non-binary scale. Further, additional evaluation is required for species of importance to Indigenous Nations in relation to their social and ecological contexts.</p>	<p>A conclusion on significance was made using the following characteristics: context, direction (i.e. positive, neutral, negative), magnitude (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high), geographic extent, duration (i.e. short term, medium term, long term), frequency (i.e. infrequent, frequent, continuous), reversibility (i.e. reversible, irreversible), likelihood (i.e. unlikely, possible, probably, certain) and uncertainty, as well as taking into consideration professional judgement.</p> <p>The assessment of significance of residual effects of the Community Access Road was informed by the interaction between the residual effects characteristics, with magnitude, duration, and geographic extent being the most important factors, along with consideration of context.</p> <p>Consideration was also given to the concerns of Indigenous communities, interested agencies, groups and individuals raised during engagement.</p> <p>A graded scale (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high) was applied to magnitude, which refers to the amount of change in a parameter relative to the baseline condition of a Valued Component with</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	259

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>and without the Community Access Road in place or to other standards or guidelines.</p> <p>Although a graded scale was not used for the determination of significance in the Draft EA/IS, it was applied throughout the assessment process to inform the determination.</p> <p>The appended Technical Support Documents (Appendices F to V) contain detail information on how each valued component completed their assessment. The purpose of the Final EA/IS is to provide a summary of the technical information. Please refer to Appendix G (Fish and Fish Habitat) for additional information.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	71	<p>“Residual effects on the groundwater valued component were considered not significant as the residual effects were not assessed as high in magnitude, long-term or permanent duration, irreversible...”</p> <p>It is unreasonable that all residual effects criteria must be high or irreversible to allow for significance considerations. This is why the binary rating is problematic.</p>	<p>A conclusion on significance was made using the following characteristics: context, direction (i.e. positive, neutral, negative), magnitude (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high), geographic extent, duration (i.e. short term, medium term, long term), frequency (i.e. infrequent, frequent, continuous), reversibility (i.e. reversible, irreversible), likelihood (i.e. unlikely, possible, probably, certain) and uncertainty, as well as taking into consideration professional judgement.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	260

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>This requires further consideration by the proponent and direction from the regulator.</p>	<p>The assessment of significance of residual effects of the Community Access Road was informed by the interaction between the residual effects characteristics, with magnitude, duration, and geographic extent being the most important factors, along with consideration of context.</p> <p>Consideration was also given to the concerns of Indigenous communities, interested agencies, groups and individuals raised during engagement.</p> <p>A graded scale (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high) was applied to magnitude, which refers to the amount of change in a parameter relative to the baseline condition of a Valued Component with and without the Community Access Road in place or to other standards or guidelines.</p> <p>Although a graded scale was not used for the determination of significance in the Draft EA/IS, it was applied throughout the assessment process to inform the determination.</p> <p>The appended Technical Support Documents (Appendices F to V) contain</p>		

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>detail information on how each valued component completed their assessment. The purpose of the Final EA/IS was to provide a summary of the technical information. Please refer to Appendix H (Groundwater) for additional information.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	72	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, the peatland effects assessment information was not available to summarize. The full Peatlands Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix I. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of peatlands.</p>	<p>Final EA/IS Section 9.3.5</p>	263
Weenusk First Nation	73	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Vegetation VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.4.2 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment in Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document. Adverse effects on vegetation were assessed and mitigation measures are provided in Appendix J.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	265

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	74	<p>Magnitude: Low - 2,309.3 hectares or 2 percent of the upland ecosystems within the effects assessment Regional Study Area will be directly affected. Loss of functional area might reduce the ability of remaining areas to carry out ecosystem functions.</p> <p>The local study area marks the expected boundary of direct effects from the community access road. Thus, vegetation impacts should be described within this area.</p> <p>Please provide the total amount of upland ecosystem within the local study area. Please further identify the percent of upland ecosystems that will be directly affected.</p> <p>Finally, please update the predicted residual effects using local study area parameters.</p> <p>This must be applied in all instances where the regional study area has been used within Table 9-17.</p>	<p>The total amount of upland ecosystem within the local study area as well as the percent directly affected is provided in Table 7-1 of Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document. Table 9.4-7 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-17 of the Draft EA/IS) has been updated to include this information.</p> <p>The predicted residual effects are summarized based on the effects within the regional study area to put the effects of the road into context. The regional study area was used to provide context and characterize the residual effects that occur mainly in the local study area.</p>	Final EA/IS Table 9.4-7	266
Weenusk First Nation	75	Valued Component(s): Riparian Ecosystems Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effect: Changes to Riparian Ecosystems as a result of	The changes to Riparian Ecosystems, while discernable, are not anticipated to be of a higher magnitude than assessed due to the implementation of mitigation	Comment noted; see response for details	267

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>direct vegetation loss</p> <p>Please update the magnitude to reflect a higher-level magnitude, that appropriately fits descriptions and rationale as expressed in Table 9-16. Additionally, please update significance to align in a non-binary manner as per Impact Assessment Agency guidance documents.</p>	<p>measures and best management practices to limit the vegetation loss. No update to the magnitude assessment is warranted.</p> <p>Regarding your request to update significance, refer to our response to your comment #67.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	76	<p>Valued Component(s): Designated Areas Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effect: Changes to Designated Areas as a result of direct vegetation loss</p> <p>See ID #267</p>	<p>The changes to Designated Areas, while discernable, are not anticipated to be of a higher magnitude than assessed due to the implementation of mitigation measures and best management practices to limit the vegetation loss.</p> <p>Regarding the request to update significance, refer to our response to your comment #67.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	268
Weenusk First Nation	77	<p>Valued Component(s): Wetland Ecosystem Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effect: Changes to Wetland Ecosystems as a result of direct vegetation loss</p> <p>See ID #267</p>	<p>The changes to Wetland Ecosystems, while discernable, are not anticipated to be of a higher magnitude than assessed due to the implementation of mitigation measures and best management practices to limit the vegetation loss. No update to the magnitude assessment is warranted.</p> <p>Regarding your request to update</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	269

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			significance, refer to our response to your comment #67.		
Weenusk First Nation	78	<p>Valued Component(s): All Valued Components Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effects: Changes all vegetation valued components as a result of the introduction and spread of invasive plant species “Context: Limited existing human disturbance has resulted in limited potential for invasive species to be present in the Construction Disturbance Area. No invasive plant species were documented during field surveys.”</p> <p>The language of “limited existing human disturbance has resulted in limited potential for invasive species” is misleading to the purpose of Predicted Residual Effects. Once project activities commence, the area will no longer have limited existing human disturbance, and the rate of potential invasive species may increase. Invasive species and their seeds (such as grasses) can be carried in vehicle tires, on vehicle bodies and via vehicle waste. Please adjust this language and the overall consideration of effects to include more in-depth consideration of invasive species. This will ensure the assessment is</p>	<p>The statement about limited potential for invasive species is reflective of the current conditions, not future conditions. It is agreed that project activities will introduce disturbance and will have potential to introduce invasive plant species. The effects assessment considered the construction and operations phase (see Section 7.3.1.5 of Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document), with the expectation that a robust Environmental Protection Plan will be developed and implemented to minimize the potential for the introduction and spread of invasive plant species during Construction. Additional measures are recommended during the operations phase. While residual effects are predicted to occur, they were determined to be not significant.</p> <p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-7 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-17 of the Draft EA/IS) in the Final EA/IS is a</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	270

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		conservative in its findings.	high-level summary of the vegetation assessment in Appendix J. Refer to Appendix J for detailed vegetation assessment completed for the Community Access Road.		
Weenusk First Nation	79	<p>Valued Component(s): All Valued Components Project Phase: Operation and Maintenance Description of Potential Effects: Changes all vegetation valued components as a result of the introduction and spread of invasive plant species “Context: Limited existing human disturbance has resulted in limited potential for invasive species to be present in the Construction Disturbance Area. No invasive plant species were documented during field surveys.”</p> <p>See ID #270</p>	Refer to our response to comment #78.	Comment noted; see response for details	271
Weenusk First Nation	80	<p>Valued Component(s): All Valued Components Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effects: Changes all vegetation valued components as a result of fragmentation and edge effects “.... given that boreal forests are generally adapted to large-scale natural disturbances and are less influenced by fragmentation and edge effects than temperate and tropical forests.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-7 (formerly Table 9-17) in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment in Appendix J (Vegetation).</p> <p>A detailed assessment was completed</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	272

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Although boreal forests often undergo wildfires and other natural disturbances that can reduce the impact of human activities, it is still important to consider the resilience of this forest type and its effects on biodiversity. Please update the EA/IS to include detailed assessments of edge effects and management strategies for addressing these issues in the future.</p>	<p>for edge effects and mitigation measures are provided in Appendix J (Vegetation).</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	81	<p>“As per the Ministry of Transportation Ontario’s Weed Control Maintenance Best Practice (MBP-320), weeds in the Construction Disturbance Area will be controlled using a combination of biological, chemical, cultural, manual, and mechanical control methods during Operation and Maintenance (Ministry of Transportation, Ontario 2003).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note that mechanical removal is the preferred approach, with chemical herbicides being reserved for situations that cannot be managed any other way.</li> <li>• Herbicide use will be restricted around sensitive areas (for example, wetlands)”</li> </ul> <p>Herbicide application can impact vegetation, in particular, plants that Indigenous harvesters and wildlife consume – in turn impacting the health of those harvesters and/or wildlife. The</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS has been updated for clarity around use of herbicides. Herbicides use is not planned. Vegetation will be largely removed by mechanical means, except within 10 m of a watercourse or wetland. In these areas, vegetation will be removed manually, using chain saws and other hand-held equipment, while leaving the undergrowth and duff layer undisturbed to prevent erosion.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	273

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>impact of herbicide use must be explored in an expanded EA/IS section in the final EA/IS.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	82	<p>Valued Component(s): All Valued Components Project Phase: Construction Description of Potential Effects: Changes all vegetation valued components from the release of sediment during construction</p> <p>No predicted residual effects are listed. The project's activities, operation, and maintenance will increase exposure due to sediment release and dust deposition, which can accumulate on vegetation and affect the harvest of species used in traditional plant practices.</p> <p>Update the Predicted Residual Effects to include the impact of dust and sediment on traditional use plant species or add a separate Valued Component for this table.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-7 (formerly Table 9-17) in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment in Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix J for detailed vegetation assessment completed for the Community Access Road.</p> <p>Refer to Section 7.3.1.7 in Appendix J. With the implementation of the mitigation measures, residual effects from the release of sediment during construction were not anticipated to have a measurable effect on the availability, distribution, composition, and function of Vegetation Valued Components (including Traditional Use Plants), therefore this interaction was not carried forward to residual effects characterization.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	274

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>Refer to Section 7.3.1.10 in Appendix J for the changes to vegetation from fugitive dust emissions. Residual effects from dust emissions were carried forward into the residual effects characterization (See Section 7.3.2.7 of Appendix J).</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	83	<p>Valued Component(s): All Valued Components Project Phase: Operation and Maintenance Description of Potential Effects: Changes all vegetation valued components from the release of sediment during construction</p> <p>See ID #274</p>	<p>Refer to Section 7.3.1.7 in Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document. With the implementation of the mitigation measures, residual effects from the release of sediment during construction were not anticipated to have a measurable effect on the availability, distribution, composition, and function of Vegetation Valued Components (including Traditional Use Plants), therefore this interaction was not carried forward to residual effects characterization.</p> <p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-7 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-17 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment in Appendix J. Refer to Appendix J for</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	275

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			detailed vegetation assessment completed for the Community Access Road.		
Weenusk First Nation	84	<p>“Adherence to federal and provincial regulations and guidelines regarding fuel and residue, chemical product, petroleum product, and hazardous substance collection and storage, use and handling, and disposal and treatment, such as the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, Ontario Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and the Ontario Environment Act.”</p> <p>Mitigation measures are actions implemented to lessen the severity of impact. Compliance with established regulations is required and part of standard project design. Standard project design elements should not be considered mitigation measures.</p> <p>Please update the EA/IS to identify project design components, where applicable, and not as mitigation measures</p>	<p>Best management practices, as well as meeting standard guidelines and regulations are all part of the project design. Implementing project-specific mitigation measures, best management practices, and meeting standards and regulations have all influenced the assessment of residual effects.</p> <p>As standard road design primarily focuses on safety and functionality, how the Community Access Road is designed can serve as mitigation when it incorporates environmental design features. Inclusion of environmental design features in mitigation is a standard practice in environmental assessments. The design of the Community Access Road will be refined as it progresses to the next phase.</p> <p>Table 9.4-7 of the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment. Refer to Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document for detailed vegetation assessment. It follows the identification of potential effects, and explores technically and</p>	Final EA/IS Table 9.4-7	276

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>economically feasible mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or minimize the identified negative effects. These measures consisted of industry-standard practices, federal and provincial standard specifications, regulator-mandated measures, best management practices, Indigenous and community recommendations, and recommendations from environmental professionals based on expertise, scientific publications, experience, and professional judgement.</p> <p>The Final EA/IS distinguishes project design components (Section 7) from mitigation measures (Section 9). No changes were required in response to this comment.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	85	<p>Valued Component(s): All Valued Components Description of Potential Effect: Changes to all vegetation valued components as a result of increased access</p> <p>As there are no effects assessment details within this Section, it is impossible to evaluate whether there will be an impact to vegetation availability for traditional purposes due to increased accessibility to the area.</p>	<p>The construction of the Community Access Road will expand access to a broader range of individuals and groups. However, the region will remain relatively remote with the nearest urban centre (Thunder Bay) being over 430 km from Marten Falls. Therefore, a large influx of individuals or groups harvesting plants for traditional use is not expected. Furthermore, the plant species typically harvested for traditional uses (by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	277

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		See ID #155	<p>individuals) are common and abundant in the Project area. Given that impacts to the availability and distribution of Traditional Use Plant Species is unlikely affected to a measurable degree, this change may be viewed as a positive by increased access to these resources for local Indigenous communities. Increased public access is not predicted to result in a measurable negative effect on vegetation. Rather, increased access may result in a positive effect on local Indigenous communities with respect to increased access to harvest Traditional Use Plants.</p> <p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-7 of the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment in Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix J for detailed vegetation assessment completed for the Community Access Road.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	86	"Install access controls (for example, gates and boulders) to control public	Marten Falls First Nation continues to engage in discussions with the Province	Comment noted; see	278

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>vehicle travel on some temporary access routes and trails.”</p> <p>Access controls may affect the behavior of Indigenous harvesters, leading to increased avoidance of areas near gates on commonly used routes and trails.</p> <p>Within the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report it was noted that 88.5% of Respondents would not harvest in areas where gates are present.</p> <p>Additional detail is required on how the proponent has considered this unintended impact of implementing a gate.</p>	<p>regarding the ownership and future operations and maintenance of the Community Access Road. Access and ownership are not within the scope of the Final EA/IS, however it is a matter that will require further dialogue between the communities and the Province.</p>	<p>response for details.</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	87	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Wildlife VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.4.3 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the wildlife assessment in Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix K for detailed wildlife assessment including mitigation measures for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	279

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	88	<p>“A comprehensive list of mitigation measures ... is provided in the [name] Technical Support Document.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-9 of the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the wildlife assessment in Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix K for detailed wildlife assessment including mitigation measures for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	280
Weenusk First Nation	89	<p>Project Phase: Construction; Operation and Maintenance Description of Potential Effect: Increase in wildlife attractants-Attraction of wildlife to the Project site (for example, corvids to food waste or raptors to roadkill) may increase human-wildlife interactions and change predator-prey relationships, which can affect wildlife survival and reproduction</p> <p>The long-term duration, continuous frequency, irreversibility of these potential effects do not align with a not significant rating and negligible magnitude. Instead, the proponent must consider using a scale of significance that can better reflect conditions.</p>	<p>The effects of an increase in wildlife attractants on all wildlife Valued Components and the expected mitigation measures are described in detail Section 7.3.1.1.8 of Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document. The implementation of the mitigation measures, including effective waste management practices are expected to limit the attraction of wildlife and their predators to the Construction Disturbance Area. Mitigations to limit wildlife attractants are well understood and the methods have been demonstrated to be effective. Although, the predicted effects are continuous and irreversible, these effects were characterized as negligible in magnitude (after the implementation of</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	281

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>mitigation) and confined to the Construction Disturbance Area (i.e., limited in geographic extent). Effects from wildlife attractants and changes to predator-prey relationships on the ability of wildlife populations within the effects assessment Regional Study Area to remain self-sustaining and ecologically functional are anticipated to be negative but negligible in magnitude. A comprehensive description of the methods for characterizing residual effects, and the determination of significance is provided in Section 4.4.2 of Appendix K.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	90	<p>“Blasting will be suspended within 4 kilometres of known or potential wolverine denning areas during the denning period to minimize sensory disturbances (January 15 to May 31). If timing windows cannot be adhered to, follow environmental approval conditions, permits, or authorizations issued for the Project, including those issued from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.”</p> <p>Wolverines are sensitive to human</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that blasting and other disturbances within 4 kilometres of wolverine dens poses a threat to the species through sensory disturbance and potential degradation of air quality. Wolverine den surveys will be conducted ahead of all construction activities that may impact wolverines during the denning period. A detailed summary of wolverine den survey methods can be found in Section 7.3.1.3.4.2 of Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document. All survey methods for wolverine dens will be developed in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	288

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>disturbances and have denning periods from January to April.</p> <p>Blasting can affect denning, natal, and maternal periods due to noise and changes in air quality.</p> <p>Please indicate how wolverine denning areas will be identified to apply the 4-kilometre buffer.</p>	<p>Potential wolverine denning areas will be identified by reviewing plant communities and physical characteristics (i.e. any forested or partially forested communities). Targeted surveys will be undertaken in potential denning areas to look for features that may be indicative of maternal denning habitat (i.e. snow-covered fallen trees, snow caves, boulders, and snow-covered slash piles. All treed communities, eskers, watercourse banks, forestry cut blocks, and prominent terrain features have the potential to support maternal denning.</p> <p>If clearing, grubbing, or blasting is required during the denning period, surveys for the presence of wolverine dens will be conducted prior to work. Survey methods will be determined in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks. Surveys will be conducted from helicopters or drones and will cover all potentially suitable denning habitat within 4 km of the disturbance.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	91	<p>Valued Component: Bats (little brown myotis and northern myotis)</p> <p>Description of Potential Effect: Sensory disturbance – Sensory disturbance (for</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that both little brown myotis and northern myotis have a low tolerance to sensory disturbance during hibernation. No hibernacula were</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details.</p>	289

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>example, lights, smells, noise, human activity) can alter bat habitat availability, use and connectivity (movement and behaviour), which can lead to changes in habitat availability and distribution and adversely affect survival and reproduction “Context: Generally tolerant to human disturbance such as noise associated with construction activities.”</p> <p>Little Brown Myotis are not tolerant to human disturbance. This is especially true during hibernation periods.</p> <p>Additionally, Northern Myotis are not highly tolerant of human disturbance and are more associated with natural, undisturbed habitats.</p> <p>Please update the context within this entry and the associated predicted residual effect as a result.</p>	<p>identified in the construction disturbance footprint, nor the LSA. Therefore, there is no predicted residual effect from sensory disturbance on hibernating bats. Both little brown myotis and northern myotis are known to roost in buildings and urban forests, which indicates some level of tolerance to anthropogenic sensory disturbance during the active season.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	92	<p>Valued Component: Furbearers (wolverine)                      Project Phase: Operation and Maintenance                      Description of Potential Effect: Increase in predator access – Increased access for predators (for example, coyote, wolf and black bear) may increase competition for prey and may increase</p>	<p>Considering that the Community Access Road will result in a very small increase in linear feature density in the wolverine effects assessment Regional Study Area, and linear corridors will remain absent or limited in most of the wolverine effects assessment Regional Study Area, effects from increased predator access on the ability of the wolverine population to</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	290

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>predation risk and decrease survival and reproduction for wolverine</p> <p>The permanent duration, continuous frequency, irreversibility of these potential effects does not align with the rating of “not significant” and negligible magnitude. The impact to wildlife species from increased predator/competitive interactions can compound over time. Please consider the magnitude and significance and consider applying a range of significance extents to more accurately reflect the variability of parameters.</p>	<p>remain self-sustaining and ecologically functional are anticipated to be negative and negligible in magnitude.</p> <p>Although the analysis determined that the predicted residual effect of an increase in predator access on wolverine is negligible and not significant, an overall determination of significance of the combined interactions (including an increase in predator access) was assessed as significant.</p> <p>Refer to Sections 7.3.1.3.3 and 7.3.3.3.3 of Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document for additional analysis of the predicted effects of an increase in predator access on wolverine habitat availability, distribution, and survival and reproduction.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	93	<p>“Herbicides will not be used during Operation and Maintenance.”</p> <p>This mitigation and enhancement measure specifies that herbicides will not be used during operation and maintenance however, in the fish and fish habitat effects assessment it specifies that “As per the Ministry of Transportation Ontario’s Weed Control Maintenance Best Practice (MBP-320),</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS has been updated for clarity around use of herbicides. Herbicide use is not planned. Vegetation will be largely removed by mechanical means, except within 10 m of a watercourse or wetland. In these areas, vegetation will be removed manually, using chain saws and other hand-held equipment, while leaving the undergrowth and duff layer undisturbed to prevent erosion.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	291

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>weeds in the Construction Disturbance Area will be controlled using a combination of biological, chemical, cultural, manual, and mechanical control methods during Operation and Maintenance”.</p> <p>Clarify the approach and adjust the mitigation and enhancement measures accordingly. This is necessary for all of Table 9-22, where herbicide is repeatedly noted as not used during operations and maintenance.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	94	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Birds VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-12 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the birds assessment in Appendix L Birds Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix L Birds Technical Support Document for detailed birds assessment including mitigation measures for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	292
Weenusk First Nation	95	<p>Mitigation and Enhancement Measures: “See [Section Name] mitigation measures for [Potential Effect] ...”</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for</p>	293

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Much of this table references various other sections of the EA for Mitigation and Enhancement Measures.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Table 9.4-12 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-25 of the Draft EA/IS) is a high-level summary of the birds assessment in Appendix L Birds Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix L for detailed birds assessment including mitigation measures for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>details</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	96	<p>Magnitude Levels</p> <p>The table includes descriptions and rationales for the magnitude of each Valued Component, Project Activity, and Project Phase. No magnitude levels (e.g., low, moderate, high) are provided. Please give provide magnitude levels for each row in Table 9-25 that align with Table 9-24: Bird Magnitude Definition.</p>	<p>Magnitude under “All Bird VC” categories were assessed to have negligible magnitude designations, given that there are standard mitigations for these impacts and the effect is not anticipated to have a measurable change on the bird population in the effects assessment RSA.</p> <p>Table 9.4-12 of the Final EA/IS (formerly Table 9-25 of the Draft EA/IS) of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include this information.</p>	<p>Final EA/IS Table 9.4-12</p>	294
Weenusk First Nation	97	<p>“No predicted residual effect.”</p> <p>For many Valued Component, Project Activity, Project Phase, etc. in this table, no predicted residual effects are listed. Please update to include the predicted</p>	<p>The criteria used to assess the predicted residual effects for caribou are described in Section 6.7.3 (Assessing Residual Effects) of the Final EA/IS and in Section 4.4. (Effects Assessment) of Appendix M Ungulates Technical Support Document.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details.</p>	295

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>residual effects criteria used to reach this conclusion for evaluation.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	98	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done.</p> <p>Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Ungulates VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.4.5 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the ungulates assessment in Appendix M Ungulates Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix M for detailed ungulates assessment completed for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	296
Weenusk First Nation	99	<p>Valued Component: Woodland Caribou Project Phase: Construction, Operation and Maintenance</p> <p>Description of Potential Effect: Sensory disturbance – (for example, lights, smells, noise, human activity) can later ungulate habitat availability, use and connectivity (movement and behaviour), which can lead to changes in abundance and distribution and adversely affect survival and reproduction</p> <p>Significance: Not Significant</p>	<p>Significance for caribou effects is determined using a binary approach (significant or not significant), as described in Section 4.4.2.6 of Appendix M Ungulates Technical Support Document. This framework does not apply ordinal categories such as low, moderate, or high significance. Refer to response to comment #67 for information on significance.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	297

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>As previously stated in the Construction Phase for the same Valued Component and within the Description of Potential Effect,” The Nipigon range already exceeds the disturbance threshold established by Environment and Climate Change Canada, so any additional habitat loss is considered significant.”</p> <p>The description of this Predicted Residual Effect outlines the extent to which the Construction Disturbance Area will no longer be regarded as functional habitat.</p> <p>Weenusk understands non-functional habitat to be areas that are unsuitable or no longer provide the necessary resources and conditions for caribou to thrive.</p> <p>Due to the addition of non-functional habitat (e.g., 27,020 hectares from ambient noise, smells and light spill) to the already noted Construction Disturbance Area, the significance for this Predicted Residual Effect should be reevaluated and have a low to moderate significance applied.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	100	“Increased predator access—increased access for predators (for example, wolf	The statement was not intended for that row and is an error. Mitigations for	Final EA/IS Table 9.4-14	298

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>and black bear) and prey may increase predation risk and decrease survival and reproduction for moose and caribou.”</p> <p>This is not a mitigation measure, rather a statement of an indirect project effect which may occur. Please provide a relevant mitigation measure to address increased predator access.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>predator access are described in the following row. Table 9.4-14 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to correct this.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	101	<p>The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has advised that significance should be assessed using a graded scale (e.g., negligible, low, moderate, high). Kindly provide a rationale for not adopting this graded scale of significance and opting instead for a binary classification.</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation feels that the binary approach does not allow for a reasonable weighing of all evidence and rationales of effect.</p> <p>Further, due to the lack of narrative within the EA/IS it is hard for Weenusk to evaluate the determination in a meaningful way.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>A conclusion on significance was made using the following characteristics: context, direction (i.e. positive, neutral, negative), magnitude (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high), geographic extent, duration (i.e. short term, medium term, long term), frequency (i.e. infrequent, frequent, continuous), reversibility (i.e. reversible, irreversible), likelihood (i.e. unlikely, possible, probably, certain) and uncertainty, as well as taking into consideration professional judgement. The assessment of significance of residual effects of the Community Access Road was informed by the interaction between the residual effects characteristics, with magnitude, duration, and geographic extent being the most important factors, along with consideration of context.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details.</p>	299

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>Consideration was also given to the concerns of Indigenous communities, interested agencies, groups and individuals raised during engagement. A graded scale (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high) was applied to magnitude, which refers to the amount of change in a parameter relative to the baseline condition of a Valued Component with and without the Community Access Road in place or to other standards or guidelines.</p> <p>Although a graded scale was not used for the determination of significance in the Draft EA/IS, it was applied throughout the assessment process to inform the determination.</p> <p>The appended Technical Support Documents (Appendices F to V) contain detail information on how each valued component completed their assessment. The purpose of the Final EA/IS was to provide a summary of the technical information. Please refer to the Technical Support Documents for additional information.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	102	Due to the high level of uncertainty (in other words, low prediction confidence) about how wolverines will respond to the Community Access Road once constructed and in the ability to avoid or	Monitoring is described in Section 9 of Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document of the Final EA/IS. The final monitoring programs will be developed through engagement and consultation	Comment noted; see response for details	300

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>mitigate the magnitude of these effects on the regional wolverine population, a precautionary approach was applied, and it is anticipated that the Project effects may be significant to the sustainability of the population in the effect assessment Regional Study Area.</p> <p>It is recommended that the proponent implement robust monitoring of wolverine to ensure any population effects are tracked and can be managed adaptively.</p>	<p>with Indigenous communities and federal and provincial regulators.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	103	<p>Please ensure the Study Areas for Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests is available and included in the final EA/IS to allow for fulsome consideration.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS does not include each Indigenous community's Area of Interest (study area) due to the confidential nature of the data provided by Indigenous communities. Areas of Interest (study area) are where traditional practices, land use, or cultural activities occur. This approach protects sensitive information provided by Indigenous communities and respects the privacy and protocols of each Indigenous community involved.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	301
Weenusk First Nation	104	<p>“As described in Section 8.3.4, each of the 23 Indigenous communities listed in Section 11.2 will be issued a Preliminary Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Existing Conditions and Impact Assessment Report. Marten Falls First</p>	<p>The Draft EA / IS, in its entirety, was available at the time of the release of the Preliminary Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Existing Conditions and Impact Assessment Reports to Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	302

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Nation’s intention is for Indigenous communities to first review this Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement. The feedback will be included as a summary in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement while keeping information confidential and will be developed based on dialogue with Indigenous communities and a literature review of publicly available documents.”</p> <p>While the intention to review the draft ATRI report is noted, the draft EA/IS has many aspects that are incomplete. This means review is difficult, requires cross reference, or the necessary details are not present.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>To support meaningful engagement and thorough review, an additional 90-day review period was provided to Indigenous Communities to review the community-specific ATRI: Draft Impact Assessment Reports. This extended timeline was designed to accommodate the need for cross-referencing and to allow communities sufficient time to provide feedback. The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of ATRI, however the community-specific ATRI Impact Assessment Reports remains confidential.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	105	<p>See ID #155</p> <p>The EA/IS should detail the adverse effects on valued components for evaluating mitigation measures. This has not been done. Please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines Page 86 - 88 for full requirements of information required to assess effects to the Acoustic Environment VC.</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 9.5.3 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the acoustic and vibration assessment in Appendix P Acoustic and Vibration Environment Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix P for detailed acoustic and vibration</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	303

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			assessment completed for the Community Access Road.		
Weenusk First Nation	106	<p>Valued Component: Noise Significance: Not significant</p> <p>As previously stated in the EA/IS, there is relatively little human disturbance in the Project Area; existing day and night noise levels are lower than that of populated areas (Table 9-33) for much of the Project Area. As such, any alteration to existing conditions (with a high magnitude, as depicted), could have a significant residual effect on the area. Additional consideration and discussion of this significance rating must be undertaken.</p>	<p>As described in Section 7.3.2.1 of Appendix P Acoustic and Vibration Environment Technical Support Document, taking into account the implementation of the mitigation measures, the magnitude of the net effects from the increased noise during Construction has the potential to range from low to high, depending on the distance between the points of reception and the construction activities. Therefore, for a conservative assessment, the net effects were assessed to be high. The net effects were assessed to be local in geographic extent, short term and reversible. Due to the expected intermittent use of specific point of reception locations and the infrequent nature of construction activities in the proximity of a given point of reception, the frequency was assessed to be infrequent.</p> <p>As the net effects from the increased noise during Construction are not predicted to be long-term in duration or frequent, the net effects during Construction are assessed as not significant.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	304

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	107	<p>Valued Component: Noise Reversibility: Reversible</p> <p>Considering the length of construction and the lifespan of the project, noise will be ongoing (even if intermittent). It is not possible to reverse the long-term effects of sound with a permanent project lifespan. Please provide additional rationale for this residual effect rating.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>Refer to Section 6.7.3 of the Final EA/IS for definitions of residual effects characteristics. The project-wide definition of reversible is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reversible: the effect is not permanent</li> <li>- Irreversible: the effect is permanent</li> </ul> <p>Noise is considered to be reversible as if the noise source stops, the effects of the noise will cease.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	305
Weenusk First Nation	108	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, Community Well-Being was not available to summarize.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of community well-being.	Final EA/IS Section 9.5.6	306
Weenusk First Nation	109	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, information from visual was not available to summarize.”</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of visual.	Final EA/IS Section 9.5.8	307
Weenusk First Nation	110	<p>“The Impact Assessment Act (Government of Canada, 2024a) requires that each environmental assessment of a project consider any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to</p>	The Impact Assessment Act (Government of Canada, 2017a) was used in the development of the cumulative effects assessment of the Marten Falls Community Access Road	Comment noted; see response for details.	308

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>result from the project in combination with the environmental effects of other physical activities that have been or will be carried out in the region.”</p> <p>“The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (Government of Canada, 2017b) requires that each Environmental Assessment of a project take into account any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with the environmental effects of other physical activities that have been or will be carried out.”</p> <p>Could you please specify whether the Impact Assessment Act or the Canada Environmental Assessment Act was used as the standard for guiding the assessment of cumulative effects?</p>	<p>for it to meet their requirements. Additionally, the cumulative effects assessment was prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference Approval and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, that include requirements specific for the Community Access Road.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	111	<p>This section describes three components of a cumulative effects assessment. One of these components is “temporal overlap”, described as: “When one activity happens at the same time as another activity...”</p> <p>Cumulative effects assessments must consider interactions between the residual effects of this Project and past</p>	<p>Section 10 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include further detail on the interactions of residual effects and the projects/activities on the Project Inclusions List. The cumulative effects assessment builds on the results of the effects assessment described in Section 9 of the Final EA/IS, and considers the incremental changes that are predicted to have a likely residual adverse effect on</p>	Final EA/IS Section 10	309

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>projects.</p> <p>It is inadequate to presume that the residual effects of previous projects are encapsulated within the current conditions. This assumption leads to a sliding baseline effect, resulting in inaccurate predictions of impacts and cumulative effects.</p> <p>Please update this section with additional details. See ID #155</p>	<p>a Valued Component.</p> <p>Within a cumulative effects assessment, there is inherently a level of uncertainty due to the lack of information available regarding other potential projects, including reasonably foreseeable developments. However, each discipline cumulative effects assessment included a prediction of confidence and uncertainty about the anticipated cumulative effects of the Community Access Road on Valued Components. Where necessary, conservative assumptions were implemented to increase confidence that the effects were not underestimated.</p> <p>A conclusion on significance was then made using the following characteristics: context, direction (i.e. positive, neutral, negative), magnitude (i.e. negligible, low, medium, high), geographic extent, duration (i.e. short term, medium term, long term), frequency (i.e. infrequent, frequent, continuous), reversibility (i.e. reversible, irreversible), likelihood (i.e. unlikely, possible, probably, certain) and uncertainty, as well as taking into consideration professional judgement.</p>		
Weenusk First	112	Temporal boundaries are defined by	The cumulative effects assessment was	Final EA/IS	310

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Nation		<p>Project phase and used to determine temporal boundary overlap with other projects.</p> <p>While scoping the three factors for cumulative effects assessments is helpful for assessing Project interactions with other projects in the area; limiting temporal boundaries to Project phases can create inaccuracies in predictions for temporal overlap between project residual effects.</p> <p>Please update to evaluate a more comprehensive timescale.</p>	<p>prepared in accordance with the Impact Assessment Act (Government of Canada, 2017a) and the approved Terms of Reference for the Community Access Road. Activities were included on the Project Inclusions List where spatial and temporal overlap with local and regional study areas were identified for each of the valued components carried forward from the regional effects assessment; and where information was publicly available from online sources at the time the cumulative effects assessment was completed. Section 10 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to provide further detail and context about cumulative effects during construction and operations of the Community Access Road, where applicable.</p>	Section 10	
Weenusk First Nation	113	<p>“Two residual effects were carried forward to the cumulative effects assessment... Overall, the Valued Component fish populations are expected to remain self-sustaining and ecologically effective.”</p> <p>“Overall, the Valued Component fish populations are expected to remain to be self-sustaining and ecologically effective; therefore, the predicted cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat are assessed as not significant.”</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 10.2.3 of the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the cumulative effects assessment for fish and fish habitat. Refer to Section 8 of Appendix G Fish and Fish Habitat Technical Support Document for more information on the</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	311

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Significance determinations throughout the cumulative effects section are made with little to no assessment present for consideration. There must be a description or demonstration of how the residual effects from this Project on fish and fish habitat will interact from the residual effects of other projects on fish and fish habitat in the area.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>cumulative effects for fish and fish habitat.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of the Northern Road Link, Anaconda and Painter Lake forestry access road upgrades, and Rapid Lynx Broadband projects along with the Project to cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat is not expected to change the determination of significance (Section 7.3.3 of Appendix G). Based on the cumulative effects assessment (Section 8.2 of Appendix G), the characterization of cumulative effects was considered to be the same as the residual effects characterization for both interactions carried forward; the magnitude of the predicted cumulative effects remained low for changes to fish habitat quantity and quality through physical alteration from work below the high-water mark and medium for changes to fish survival and reproduction from improved public access to recreational angling areas.</p> <p>Cumulative effects on the fish Valued Component were considered not significant as the residual effects were assessed low to medium in magnitude and they do not represent a substantial management concern. Similar to Section</p>		

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>7.3.3 of Appendix G, there is the potential for management concerns through an increased public access leading to changes in angler pressure and fish harvest; however, the resources are expected to continue to be managed through Ministry of Natural Resources and local communities for recreational and Indigenous harvest, respectively. Overall, the Valued Component fish populations are expected to remain to be self-sustaining and ecologically effective, and therefore, the predicted cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat are assessed as not significant.</p> <p>The cumulative effects assessment is presented in Section 8.2 of Appendix G; this section provides context for the characterization of predicted cumulative effects and the significance determination.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	114	This section presents an extensive and thorough cumulative effects assessment, which should be incorporated into the remainder of the Valued Components analysis.	Section 10 of the Final EA/IS has been revised to maintain a consistent level of detail across all Valued Components.	Final EA/IS Section 10	312
Weenusk First Nation	115	“At the junction between the Project and the Northern Road Link it could be possible for slightly increased cumulative	Based on the similar work scopes of the Northern Road Link compared to the Community Access Road, the residual	Comment noted; see response for	313

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>effects to occur locally since three road segments would be joining however these effects would still be characterized the same as the residual effects and managed with the same monitoring and mitigation plans.”</p> <p>Please provide a justification for this finding as impacts could interact at a local level and compound to create a cumulative impact.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>effects were assumed to be similar per road segment for each project. Due to the relationship of the road building projects being continuations of a road corridor, the cumulative impacts from any two projects combined were generally assessed to have the same characteristics as the residual effects of each project per road segment. At the junction between the Community Access Road and the Northern Road Link, it could be possible for slightly increased cumulative effects to occur locally since two road segments would be joining, however these effects would still be characterized the same as the residual effects and managed with the same monitoring and mitigation plans.</p> <p>Further details of this assessment and the proposed mitigations are provided in Section 8 of the Appendix H Groundwater and Geochemistry Technical Support Document.</p>	<p>details</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	116	<p>“Due to temporal separation of the construction phase of each project, the cumulative impacts from the two projects combined were generally assessed to have the same characteristics as the residual effects of each project.”</p>	<p>Residual groundwater effects from the Community Access Road are expected during both construction and operations. Construction phase effects (e.g., excavation and dewatering) will be short to medium term, occurring only while work is active in the area (typically</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	314

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Impacts occurring within the construction phase of a project can persist into the operations and maintenance phase.</p> <p>Please elaborate on the predicted duration of these effects (from both the MFCAR Project and assumed from the Rapid Lynx Broadband project) to support this justification.</p> <p>The same should be carried forward for each Valued Component and residual effect.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>months to a few years). Operational effects (e.g., minor changes to groundwater flow from the road footprint and drainage features) will be long term, persisting for the life of the road.</p> <p>For the Rapid Lynx Broadband Project, groundwater interactions are expected to be short term and limited to construction, with shallow trenching causing temporary disturbance for weeks to months at any location. The project is not expected to generate any long term operational groundwater effects due to the passive nature of buried fibre infrastructure.</p> <p>Given these durations, the only meaningful temporal overlap between the two projects occurs during their respective construction periods. No long term cumulative operational effects are expected. Section 10 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to reflect this.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	117	<p>“Overall, the vegetation ecosystems and plant populations are expected to remain self-sustaining and ecologically effective within the effects assessment Regional Study Area.”</p> <p>There must be a description or demonstration of how the residual effects</p>	<p>The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. Section 10.3.2 in the Final EA/IS is a high-level summary of the vegetation assessment</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	315

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>from this Project on vegetation will interact from the residual effects of other projects on vegetation in the area. It is not sufficient to only state no significant changes will occur and that vegetation ecosystems will remain self-sustaining.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>in Appendix J Vegetation Technical Support Document. Refer to Appendix J for detailed vegetation assessment completed for the Community Access Road.</p> <p>A residual effects assessment was conducted to determine the potential Project effects on vegetation. After mitigation measures were considered, some of the potential pathways from the Project to the environment were removed or had effects that were predicted to be of a negligible level. Four residual effects were carried forward to the cumulative effects assessments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. direct vegetation loss</li> <li>2. changes to groundwater</li> <li>3. fragmentation and edge effects</li> <li>4. fugitive dust emissions</li> </ol> <p>Residual cumulative effects on vegetation were considered not significant as the residual effects were assessed to be negligible, low or medium in magnitude and within the resilience limits and adaptive capacity of the existing vegetation.</p> <p>A description of how the residual effects from the Community Access Road on vegetation will interact from the residual</p>		

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			effects of other projects on vegetation in the area can be found in Section 8 of Appendix J.		
Weenusk First Nation	118	<p>“The addition of the Project and past, present and reasonably foreseeable developments is expected to result in effects on little brown myotis and northern myotis...”</p> <p>Previous sections note that cumulative effects assessments only considered current and foreseeable developments. Are past projects included in the cumulative effects assessment or only in the effects assessment?</p>	Developments that overlap temporarily with the construction and operation of the Community Access Road are included in the cumulative effects assessment. For example, the De Beers Victor Mine was developed in 2008 and operated until 2019. Ongoing rehabilitation of the De Beers Victor Mine is expected to overlap temporarily with the construction and operation of the Community Access Road. The methods for identifying projects for inclusion in the cumulative effects assessment are described in Section 4.4.3 of Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document.	Comment noted; see response for details	316
Weenusk First Nation	119	<p>“...the weight of evidence from the analysis predicts that the changes to little brown myotis and northern myotis habitat availability, distribution, and population survival and reproduction are expected to remain within the resilience and adaptability limits of the regional populations...”</p> <p>Were resilience and adaptability limits or other such thresholds identified for other indicator species or Valued</p>	Context for wildlife Valued Components considers species sensitivity, resilience, and adaptive capacity, current status and trends, and applicable legislation and best management practices. The current and future sensitivity and resilience of wildlife Valued Components to change caused by the Project are considered and includes Indigenous Knowledge, where available. Consideration of ecological context includes timing, such as when the effect could occur during a	Comment noted; see response for details	317

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Components?</p> <p>If included, incorporate this in the cumulative effects assessment. If not, explain the impact on uncertainty and prediction confidence.</p>	<p>critical life cycle of the Valued Component. Context also informs whether the residual effect would alter the ability of the Valued Component populations to be self-sustaining and ecologically effective (i.e., the determination of significance).</p> <p>Resilience and adaptability limits were identified for wildlife, including Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis, and considered in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document for more details.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	120	Weenusk identified a caribou migration route and that herds near the Project area can travel up to and through Weenusk’s traditional territory. Was the potential for impacts or residual impacts to Weenusk’s caribou hunting assessed?	<p>Based on input received from Indigenous communities regarding the potential for the Community Access Road to influence Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests, a Caribou Regional Study Area was established. This study area was identified in recognition of the ranges and movements of caribou, which extend outside the immediate Project footprint and into traditional territories.</p> <p>The inclusion of the Caribou Regional Study Area enables a more comprehensive assessment of potential indirect impacts on Aboriginal and/or</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	318

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>Treaty Rights and Interests, specifically those related to caribou. This approach allows the assessment considers not only direct Project effects but also potential residual effects on caribou populations and associated harvesting activities.</p> <p>The results of this assessment are outlined in the Weenusk First Nation Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests: Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road Project Impact Assessment Report, which was shared with Weenusk First Nation on July 11, 2025.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	121	<p>Table states that Weenusk was uptake in the Community Coordinator Program and did not respond to the offer.</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation has recently accepted the Community Coordinator Program offer. Please update this for the final EA/IS.</p>	<p>Please note that the Community Coordinator Program is no longer active and transitioned into the Capacity Funding Program in November 2024. Section 11 and Table 11-2 of the Final EA / IS (formerly Table 11-3 of the Draft EA/IS) has been updated to reflect Weenusk First Nation's participation in the Capacity Funding Program.</p>	Final EA/IS Table 11-2	319
Weenusk First Nation	122	<p>Please separate the information provided by Indigenous communities regarding these milestones, if possible.</p>	<p>A Community-specific breakdown of input received from Indigenous communities and its influence on Milestones 1 (Notice of Commencement), 2 (Effects Assessment Methods), and 3</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	320

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			<p>(Identification of Preferred Alternatives) is available online at <a href="https://eais.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/progress-reports/">https://eais.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/progress-reports/</a>. The Final Record of Consultation and Engagement for indigenous Communities will include an additional Milestone report (Milestone Report 4 - Draft EA / IS) that summarizes all consultation activities undertaken from October 29, 2021 to September 5, 2025, and will also include a breakdown of input received from Indigenous communities from August 1, 2024 to September 5, 2025.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	123	<p>“The following 15 communities were offered the capacity funding...”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation has recently accepted the Community Coordinator Program offer. Please update this for the final EA/IS.</p>	<p>Please note that the Community Coordinator Program is no longer offered. This program transitioned into the Community Capacity Funding Program in November 2024. In Section 11 of the Draft EA / IS, Weenusk First Nation is included in the list of Communities who were offered capacity funding. The Final EA / IS has been updated to reflect that Weenusk First Nation accepted this funding.</p>	Final EA/IS Section 11.3.4	322
Weenusk First Nation	124	<p>“Marten Falls First Nation has engaged with 22 Indigenous communities throughout the environmental assessment process. Five of these communities provided feedback on the</p>	<p>Appendix Y Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Technical Support Document and Section 12.1.4 of the Final EA/IS have been updated to incorporate information provided by Weenusk First</p>	Appendix Y Final EA/IS Section 12.1.4	323

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>climate change study...”</p> <p>While Weenusk First Nation did not provide direct feedback on the climate change study, Weenusk did submit a “Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report” which outlined observations and concerns related to climate change.</p> <p>This should be integrated and described within this section with reference to Weenusk First Nation where this information is used.</p>	<p>Nation.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	125	<p>Illumination Challenges During Storms Adaptation Measures: “Utilize high-intensity or LED lighting systems”</p> <p>Please describe how Marten Falls plans to balance the use of high-intensity or LED lighting systems during storms while considering the potential impacts on Indigenous harvesters due to increased light emission near the road.</p> <p>Increased light can affect the activities of harvesters and land users on the land. It is important to balance their safety with their rights.</p>	<p>The statement in Table 12-3 of the Draft EA/IS pertains to illumination challenges during storms specifically for construction related project components. During the construction phase illumination will be restricted to construction sites and as noted in Table 12-3 is needed for safety reasons. Illumination throughout the Community Access Road once operations commence will be further examined during detail design. It should be clarified that there are currently no plans to provide lighting along the Community Access Road when it commences operations. Illumination during the operations phase will be present at aggregate sites needed for</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details.</p>	325

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			maintenance work.		
Weenusk First Nation	126	<p>“The Community Access Road will require consideration of the following safety and traffic management protocols: ...”</p> <p>Please outline how Marten Falls will ensure the road owner follows the specified safety and traffic management protocols, considering that the ownership of the Community Access Road has not yet been decided.</p>	<p>The Community Access Road will be designed and signed in accordance with Provincial Highway Standards. Road users will follow protocols similar to other provincial road networks. These requirements will be incorporated into design, construction, and operations of the Community Access Road, making them binding regardless of final ownership.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details.</p>	326
Weenusk First Nation	127	<p>“The Assessment Process is a tool to ensure the sustainability of projects. The three principles of sustainability are environmental sustainability, social sustainability and economic sustainability. As part of the analysis, potential mitigation measures are used to attempt to balance environmental impacts against development / social gains.”</p> <p>This section lacks discussion on how the roads could spur regional development and affect environmental and social sustainability.</p> <p>This project may enhance the sustainability of the Marten Falls</p>	<p>The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) issued the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road on February 24, 2020. On June 20, 2024, the Budget Implementation Act, 2024, No. 1, received Royal Assent and brought into force amendments to the Impact Assessment Act.</p> <p>The Agency sent a letter to Marten Falls First Nation on June 11, 2025 outlining the next steps in the Community Access Road Impact Statement Phase due to the amendments made to the Impact Assessment Act. As stated in the letter, the Agency will focus their technical review of the Community Access Road</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	336

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		community, but it is important to consider the road's effects on the broader regional environmental context.	<p>Impact Statement on key issues under federal jurisdiction, which are relevant for decision making, specifically federal effects and the positive benefits of the Community Access Road. The Agency will also concentrate on leveraging federal mechanisms outside of the Impact Assessment Act as well as provincial legislative frameworks and instruments, to address the key issues. Key issues the Agency will focus on are with respect to fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, potential impacts to Indigenous Peoples and public interest factors.</p> <p>The Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement was prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference and the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Considering the Community Access Road's effects on the broader regional environmental context is not a regulatory requirement and as such was not developed as part of the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	128	“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. The full Peatlands Technical Support Document	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of peatlands in Section 14.1.1.4.	Final EA/IS Section 14.1.1.4	337

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>can be found in Appendix I. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	129	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. Please refer to Section 8.3.4 for further information. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests.	Final EA/IS Section 14.1.3.1	338
Weenusk First Nation	130	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of Community Well-Being in Section 14.1.3.6.	Final EA/IS Section 14.1.3.6	339

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>available to summarize. Please refer to Section 8.3.8 for further information. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	131	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. The full Visual Environment Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix V. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of visual in Section 14.1.3.8.	Final EA/IS Section 14.1.3.8	340
Weenusk First Nation	132	“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not	The Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of peatlands in Section 14.2.1.4.	Final EA/IS Section 14.2.1.4	341

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>available to summarize. The full Peatlands Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix I. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	133	<p>“If activity restrictions cannot be followed for construction activities, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks will be engaged to determine alternative approaches. This may include daily monitoring of caribou locations with collars and only commencing construction activities if collar data indicates that there are no caribou within pre-defined “cautionary zones” (pre-defined spatial buffer areas)”</p> <p>If activity restrictions cannot be followed for construction activities, Weenusk should be informed of any alternate approaches considered by Marten Falls.</p>	Section 14.2.2.4 has been updated to include Indigenous communities, in addition to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if activity restrictions cannot be followed for construction activities.	Final EA/IS Section 14.2.2.4 Appendix M	342
Weenusk First	134	“During Construction, Operation and	Final decisions about ongoing monitoring	Comment	344

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Nation		<p>Monitoring, the following Before-After Control-Impact monitoring programs are potential approaches that could be discussed and evaluated during engagement and consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploying and maintaining Global Positioning System collars on adult female caribou...</li> </ul> <p>As caribou are a species of importance to Weenusk and may migrate to and from Weenusk traditional areas, Weenusk First Nation requires Marten Falls to commit to the deployment of GPS collars on adult female caribou. This will ensure sufficient information is collected on residences, seasonal movements, movement corridors, habitat requirements, and key habitat areas.</p>	<p>programs for caribou during construction and operations of the Community Access Road will be determined during the permitting phase, through engagement with Indigenous communities (including Weenusk First Nation) and regulators.</p>	<p>noted; see response for details</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	135	<p>“During Construction, Operation and Monitoring, the following Before-After Control-Impact monitoring programs are potential approaches that could be discussed and evaluated during engagement and consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote camera monitoring at selected reference sites...”</li> </ul> <p>As caribou are a species of importance to Weenusk and may migrate to and from Weenusk traditional areas, Weenusk</p>	<p>If remote camera monitoring is confirmed as a mitigation measure during the next phase of the Community Access Road, it will be the responsibility of the owner/operator of the Community Access Road. Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding the ownership and operations for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	345

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>First Nation requires Marten Falls to commit to the deployment and ongoing monitoring of remote cameras at selected reference sites as this can provide crucial data on predation risk and changes to movement over time.</p> <p>Additionally, please confirm how selected reference sites will be identified and how Weenusk information provided in the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report will be considered.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	136	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. Please refer to Section 8.3.4 for further information. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 14.2.3.1 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of Aboriginal and/or Treat Rights and Interests.	Final EA/IS Section 14.2.3.1	346
Weenusk First Nation	137	“A noise monitoring program is not recommended for the Project.”	The result of the noise residual effects assessment is that there are no significant residual effects and the	Comment noted; see response for	347

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>The road will introduce traffic to a remote or rural area, potentially affecting wildlife and land users. Please specify why a noise monitoring program is not deemed necessary to ensure that noise levels do not exceed the predicted levels.</p>	<p>uncertainty is not considered to be high. Therefore, regular noise monitoring is not recommended.</p> <p>However, as stated in Table 9.5-13 (formerly Table 9-36) of the Final EA/IS, during construction of the Community Access Road "a complaint resolution mechanism will be developed by the contractor whereby persons can contact the Project team if there are perceived noise issues." Noise monitoring of perceived noise issues may be carried out as needed as part of the investigation.</p>	<p>details</p>	
Weenusk First Nation	138	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement, Community Well-Being information was not available to summarize. This discipline includes information related to social, economics and human health. The full Community Well Being Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix T. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact</p>	<p>Section 14.2.3.6 has been updated in the Final EA/IS to include a summary of Community Well-Being.</p>	<p>Final EA/IS Section 14.2.3.6</p>	349

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	139	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. The full Visual Environment Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix V. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 14.2.3.8 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of visual.	Final EA/IS Section 14.2.3.8	350
Weenusk First Nation	140	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. The full Peatlands Technical Support Document can be found in Appendix I. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on</p>	Section 14.3.1.4 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of peatlands.	Final EA/IS Section 14.3.1.4	351

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	141	<p>“The post-construction monitoring will occur within one full growing season after the completion of construction, but timing may be extended if needed.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation requests a review of post-construction monitoring results for physiography, terrain, and soils due to the potential impact of erosion and sediment control on surface water, which is a matter of concern for the Nation.</p>	<p>Post-construction monitoring results for these disciplines will be provided to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and/or other relevant regulators. Weenusk First Nation will have the opportunity to request the results through environmental advisory committees.</p> <p>As outlined in Weenusk First Nation Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests: Draft Impact Assessment Report, proposed mitigation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with local environmental advisory committees to support the development and implementation of environmental monitoring programs; and</li> <li>- Promoting the inclusion of Indigenous interests and perspectives, particularly with respect to resources utilized for rights-based purposes.</li> </ul> <p>In the absence of an existing advisory committee with an aligned mandate to Marten Falls First Nation, work with</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	352

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			relevant agencies and Indigenous Peoples to establish a Terms of Reference for one.		
Weenusk First Nation	142	<p>“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement this information was not available to summarize. Please refer to Section 8.3.4 for further information. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Section 14.3.3.1 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests.	Final EA/IS Section 14.3.3.1	353
Weenusk First Nation	143	<p>“No operational monitoring for acoustic is recommended at this time.”</p> <p>See ID #347</p>	The result of the noise residual effects assessment is that there are no significant residual effects and the uncertainty is not considered to be high. Therefore, noise monitoring is not recommended. The magnitude of the net effects from the increased noise from the operation of the road was assessed to be low.	Comment noted; see response for details	354
Weenusk First Nation	144	“At the time of writing the Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact	Section 14.3.3.6 of the Final EA/IS has been updated to include a summary of	Final EA/IS Section	355

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Statement this information was not available to summarize. Please refer to Section 8.3.8 for further information. A summary will be provided in the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation will comment on this summary section upon receiving the final Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Community Well-Being.	14.3.3.6	
Weenusk First Nation	145	<p>Predicted Residual Effects</p> <p>When predicted residual effects are identified, the descriptions of key factors such as Direction, Magnitude, Geographic Extent, Duration, Frequency, Reversibility, Probability, Significance, and Uncertainty are missing. This omission hinders a full understanding and assessment of these effects. Please update accordingly.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	Table 7-5 of Appendix I Peatlands Technical Support Document provides a summary of the characterization of predicted residual effects and the determination of significance for peatland ecosystems.	Comment noted; see response for details	356
Weenusk First Nation	146	<p>Appendix O – Aboriginal &amp; Treaty Rights &amp; Interests 9.6 Residual Effects Page 40 (PDF 50) Residual Effects Assessment</p>	A residual effects assessment for Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) was completed and included in the draft ATRI report, which	Final EA/IS all ATRI sections Appendix O	357

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>No residual effects assessment has been completed for Aboriginal and Treaty rights and interests – this prevents a fulsome assessment. Please update with a detailed residual effects assessment.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>was shared with Weenusk First Nation on July 11, 2025. The Final EA/IS and Appendix O Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Technical Support Document have been updated to include a summary of the ATRI assessment.</p> <p>Due to the need to protect Indigenous Knowledge and maintain confidentiality, the summary included in the Final EA/IS and Appendix O provides an overview of the assessment without disclosing community-specific information.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	147	<p>“Location 2 is a campsite on exposed bedrock adjacent to a fishing location...the campsite retains cultural heritage value or interest. Location 2 has been registered with the MHSTCI as the Caviar (Elip-1) site...it is not yet evident that the level of cultural heritage value or interest may result in a recommendation to proceed to Stage 4 mitigation.”</p> <p>Being that there was an archaeological site of potential Indigenous cultural heritage value or interest, avoidance and protection or Stage 4 mitigation is warranted.</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation seeks input on Stage 4 mitigation if the site cannot be</p>	<p>Resulting reports from further archaeological assessments will be shared with Indigenous communities, consistent with the approach taken for previous Stage 2 assessments for the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	358

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		avoided or protected, and requests to review the Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, subject to our capacity.			
Weenusk First Nation	148	<p>“Enhancement measures focused on improving the regional economy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor should prioritize hiring Marten Falls First Nation and Aroland First Nation members, as well as other Indigenous community members...”</li> </ul> <p>Prioritized hiring methodologies do not provide a measurable way to assess achievement. It is recommended to establish specific targets for hiring Nation members from the Project Area. Additionally, are there objectives for how neighbouring Nations will be involved in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project? Please clarify.</p>	<p>Neighbouring Nations will be involved in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project through targeted hiring, training partnerships, and workforce development initiatives.</p> <p>Specific hiring targets will be established during the next phase of the Community Access Road, once labour needs and workforce availability are better understood.</p> <p>The Final EA/IS outlines foundational measures that are needed to do that target-setting. These include prioritized hiring approaches, capacity-building programs, and exploration of funding opportunities to enable meaningful participation by Indigenous communities throughout the project lifecycle.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details	362
Weenusk First Nation	149	When predicted residual effects are identified, descriptions of Direction, Magnitude, Geographic Extent, Duration, Frequency, Reversibility, Probability, Significance and Uncertainty are not listed. This makes it difficult to fully understand and assess residual effects.	Appendix T Community Wellbeing Technical Support Document has been updated to include consistent descriptions of Direction, Magnitude, Geographic Extent, Duration, Frequency, Reversibility, Probability, Significance, and Uncertainty.	Appendix T	364

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Please update.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	150	<p>Draft Surface Water Technical Support Document: Existing Conditions and Effects Assessment, because deposition of fugitive dust could result in changes to surface water quality due to increased concentrations of chemical constituents and suspended solids in the receiving waterbodies.</p> <p>Further information is needed on how the proponent will reduce dust-generating activities. Adhering to provincial guidelines and regulations is considered a minimum standard and does not qualify as additional mitigation to lessen the level of impact.</p>	<p>Best management practices recommended by Environment Canada as part of planning for dust control measures will be reviewed during the next phase of the Community Access Road. This will include applying dust suppressants, scheduling activities to reduce exposure during dry or windy conditions, etc. Specific measures will be finalized during detail design.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	365
Weenusk First Nation	151	<p>“Chemical vegetation maintenance, including the use of pesticides and herbicides during construction of the Project will be in accordance with the Ministry of Transportation requirements...”</p> <p>Chemical vegetation maintenance is noted within the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report as a key concern with 88.5% of respondents</p>	<p>The Final EA/IS has been updated for clarity around use of herbicides. Herbicide use is not planned.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	366

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>indicating they would not harvest in areas where this has been undertaken. Additional engagement is required in the event of chemical vegetation maintenance usage.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	152	<p>“It is conservatively assumed that the entire effects assessment Construction Disturbance Area will be cleared, resulting in the following direct loss of peatland ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,150.6 of peatland ecosystems, which equates to 3% of the peatland ecosystems within the effects assessment Local Study Area and &lt;1% of peatlands within the effects Assessment Regional Study Area.”</li> </ul> <p>The removal of any peatland has a significant implication to climate change, biodiversity loss, water quality issues. Etc. Within the Weenusk First Nation Existing Conditions Report, a respondent noted that the peatlands clean out the air for the whole world.</p> <p>They act as carbon sinks, storing more carbon than any other land ecosystem. Additional detail is required on how the direct loss of peatland has been considered for climate change and</p>	<p>The assessment of carbon storage and flux is documented in Attachment C of Appendix I Peatlands Technical Support Document. The results of that assessment are also summarized in Section 7.1.5 of Appendix I. Climate change related to peatlands is also discussed in Section 8.2.5 of Appendix I.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details.</p>	367

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		potential release of stored carbon as greenhouse gas?			
Weenusk First Nation	153	<p>“Prepare and Implement a Vegetation Restoration Plan that includes measures specific to peatland communities and peatland, restoration, including peat stockpile management.”</p> <p>To ensure the effectiveness of peatland restoration, it is essential to conduct long-term monitoring. This process will provide insights into the outcomes of restoration efforts and inform future initiatives.</p> <p>How will Marten Falls ensure the future operator of the road will be committed to the necessary monitoring.</p> <p>In peatland restoration, vascular plants often recover faster than bryophytes. How will Marten Falls ensure recovery to pre-disturbance conditions for all plant types?</p> <p>Additionally, two road segments have been proposed: the Northern Road Link and Webequie Supply Road. Coordination is needed for peatland recovery to ensure a comprehensive conservation approach.</p>	<p>A Vegetation Restoration Plan will be developed by the Owner/Operator during detail design. The Vegetation Restoration Plan will include long-term monitoring and reporting on restoration success measures that will be included as part of the plan. Marten Falls First Nation has made the commitment to develop the Vegetation Restoration Plan and conduct subsequent monitoring.</p> <p>We acknowledge the Northern Road Link and Webequie Supply Road would benefit from a coordinated approach for peatland recovery. Coordination for peatland recovery will be at the direction of the Province.</p>	Comment noted; see response for details.	369

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
Weenusk First Nation	154	<p>“After implementation of the mitigation measures, the effects of direct peatland ecosystem loss on the availability and distribution of peatland ecosystems will be permanent (irreversible) and long term in duration. The effects are certain to occur, and the changes are negative; however, because the loss will be relatively small in extent, the magnitude if considered low. As a result, the residual effects of direct peatland loss on the availability and distribution of peatland ecosystems are determined to be not significant.”</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation disagrees with the characterization of the residual effect to peatland as not significant based solely on a low magnitude. because the loss will be relatively small in extent, the magnitude if considered low. As a result, the residual effects of direct peatland loss on the availability and distribution of peatland ecosystems are determined to be not significant.”</p> <p>While the effect to Peatlands may be negligible on its own, of which NATION does not agree, it could be amplified with other physical activities impacting the same valued component (i.e., the Northern Road Link and Webequie</p>	<p>The approach for the assessment of significance is described in Section 4.4.2.6 of Appendix I Peatlands Technical Support Document, and the assessment of significance was informed by magnitude, duration, and geographic extent as the most important factors, along with consideration of context. The amplification of the potential effects with other physical activities was considered in the cumulative effects assessment section, Section 8 of Appendix I.</p> <p>The Northern Road Link and Webequie Supply Road were considered as part of the cumulative effects assessment in Section 8 of Appendix I which acknowledges that residual effects from the three road projects may overlap temporally and spatially within the Local and Regional Study Areas.</p>	Appendix I	371

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Supply Road). This must be further explored with Webequie First Nation and reassessed within the final EA/IS to identify significance along a scale that allows for consideration of environmental and social conditions.</p> <p>This must be further explored with Webequie First Nation and reassessed within the final EA/IS to identify significance along a scale that allows for consideration of environmental and social conditions.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	155	See ID #371	<p>The approach for the assessment of significance is described in Section 4.4.2.6 of Appendix I Peatlands Technical Support Document, and the assessment of significance was informed by magnitude, duration, and geographic extent as the most important factors, along with consideration of context. The amplification of the potential effects with other physical activities was considered in the cumulative effects assessment section, Section 8 of Appendix I.</p> <p>The Northern Road Link and Webequie Supply Road were considered as part of the cumulative effects assessment in Section 8 of Appendix I which acknowledges that residual effects from</p>	Appendix I	374

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
			the three road projects may overlap temporally and spatially within the Local and Regional Study Areas.		
Weenusk First Nation	156	<p>Construction of the Community Access Road through peatlands also has the potential to alter groundwater quantity and flow, altering the availability of peatlands. Mitigation measures, namely construction of the road using the “floating road” construction methodology and implementation of a monitoring program, are expected to limit residual changes. However, there is uncertainty about the effectiveness of this mitigation and measurable changes to groundwater levels near the road are possible. Changes to peatland ecosystems resulting from changes in groundwater that may alter drainage patterns and increase or decrease groundwater levels are expected to be negative in direction, medium in magnitude, local in geographic extent, long term, continuous, irreversible, and probable. As a result, the residual effects as a result of changes to groundwater on peatland ecosystems are determined to be not significant.”</p> <p>The IAAC Practitioner’s Guide includes suggested criteria for characterizing</p>	We have reconsidered the significance of changes to peatland ecosystems resulting from changes to groundwater and agree with the comment that the effect should be characterized as ‘significant’, particularly given the high uncertainty in the magnitude of effect on peatlands from this pathway and the primary mitigation approach (i.e. the floating road). Appendix I Peatlands Technical Support Document and the Final EA/IS have been updated with the revised significance rating.	Appendix I Sections 7.3.4 and 8.2.7 Final EA/IS Section 9.3.6	375

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>significance along quantitative or qualitative (descriptive) scales.</p> <p>Moderate significance are effects that are moderate in magnitude (this effect includes this rating); moderate duration (this effect is long term and continuous); partially reversible (this effect is irreversible and probable); and has high levels of impact in a social and ecological context.</p> <p>Therefore, this effect should not be categorized as “not significant” rather, of moderate significance with the requirement for additional robust monitoring and coordination with other project partners.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	157	<p>“As the Project’s Terrestrial Biodiversity Offsetting Plan is developed, it is anticipated that restoration and offsetting measures will contribute to minimizing the long-term residual effects of direct peatland loss on peatland ecosystems. It is assumed that the Northern Road Link project will implement a Terrestrial Biodiversity Offsetting Plan similar to the one that will be developed for the Project, as offsetting is a required of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Northern Road Link project...”</p>	<p>The Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement has been updated to include Appendix AB Preliminary Biodiversity Offset Plan. The Preliminary Biodiversity Offset Plan will be finalized during detail design. The plan will be developed following engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities (including Webequie First Nation), Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Ontario Ministry of Environment and Parks.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	376

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>Marten Falls should confirm and connect the Offsetting Plans between itself and Webequie First Nation and identify that a coordinated approach will be taken to ensure a regional approach to restoration and management of peatlands. Please confirm this coordinated approach within the final EA/IS or through engagement with Weenusk First Nation.</p>			
Weenusk First Nation	158	<p>“Implement watering or application of Ontario Ministry of Transportation approved dust suppressants that are environmentally friendly.”</p> <p>Dust suppressants are of concern to Nation as they can potentially impact subsistence vegetation and, potentially, surface water.</p> <p>Additional consideration is required by Marten Falls to ensure proper protocols/situations for usage/deployment.</p>	<p>Best management practices recommended by Environment Canada as part of planning for dust control measures will be reviewed during the next phase of the Community Access Road.</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	377
Weenusk First Nation	159	<p>“Due to the importance of beavers to Indigenous Communities and the uncertainty with respect to the effect of the Project on populations of furbearers and the fact that there are gaps in the existing conditions data, an additional</p>	<p>The wildlife assessment completed for the Community Access Road provides an adequate basis for characterizing the effects of the road on beavers.</p> <p>A description of how the habitat suitability</p>	<p>Comment noted; see response for details</p>	378

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>aerial survey for active beaver lodges will be completed throughout the effects assessment Local Study Area to complement existing conditions data and refine the baseline characterization of beaver distribution.”</p> <p>The referenced additional aerial surveys must be completed, assessed, and included in the final EA/IS to allow Weenusk to adequately consider potential project effects.</p> <p>See ID #155</p>	<p>model was developed is provided in Attachment C (Wildlife Modelling Report) of Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document. The incidental observations of beaver lodges were used in the validation of the model. The assessment of Community Access Road impacts on beaver would not be influenced by additional observations from the aerial beaver lodge surveys as there are no gaps in the assessment and the uncertainty for the effects of habitat loss and alteration is low.</p> <p>The intent of the additional beaver aerial survey data is not to update the effects assessment, but to inform monitoring requirements required by the TSIG.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the results of the additional aerial survey for beaver lodges will be circulated to Indigenous Communities, government agencies, and stakeholders for review.</p>		
Weenusk First Nation	160	<p>“Progressive restoration and revegetation will be implemented as non-permanent features will be decommissioned and restored or left to revegetate naturally.”</p> <p>More information is needed regarding the expected timeline for restoration</p>	<p>Additional information about the expected timeline for restoration activities has been provided in Section 9.4.5.5 of the Final EA/IS.</p> <p>The time interval between commencement and completion of any</p>	Final EA/IS Section 9.4.5.5 Appendix M	379

**Table: Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action – Weenusk First Nation**

Group Name	Comment ID from source	Comment Raised	Response	Addressed in the EA / IS	Internal ID
		<p>activities, as a delay in these efforts could lead to caribou species adapting to alternative habitats and areas.</p>	<p>work that disturbs earth surfaces shall be a maximum of 20 calendar days. Commencement of such work shall be considered to have occurred when the original stabilizing ground cover has been removed, including grubbing, or has been covered with fill material. Completion of such work shall be considered to have occurred when the cover material (seed and mulch, seed and erosion control blanket, sod, rip-rap, etc.) has been applied.</p> <p>Where the timing of the operation results in a conflict with the application requirements of the specified cover, the Contractor shall determine appropriate interim measures that afford temporary protection until such a time as final cover can be applied.</p>		