

July 2021, Issue #16

English Version





Valard Construction, was selected by Wataynikaneyap Power to provide engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) solutions for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project in Northwestern Ontario, Canada.

The scope of work on the project consists of EPC services for more than 1,600 kilometers of transmission and distribution infrastructure ranging in voltage from 25 kV to 230 kV and 22 substations. Valard created this newsletter to provide regular updates on construction activities for the 24 First Nation communities.



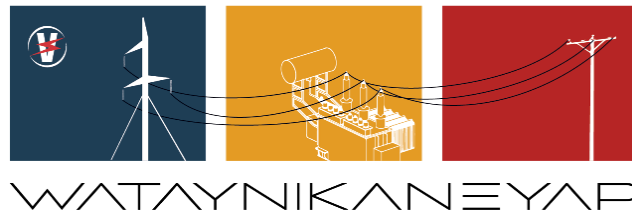
Three-Month Lookahead – Field Activities
Proposed schedule as of July 15, 2021
Period: July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021
Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.

Group 1 – Transmission Lines

Activity		Detail
 <p>Worker camp site.</p>	<p>Camp Mobilization and/or Installation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sioux Lookout operational as of June 1, 2020 Slate Falls Nation operational as of July 24, 2020, expected closure in September, 2021 Pickle Lake operational as of February 18, 2020 Cat Lake Camp on standby until Winter 2022
 <p>Tower construction site.</p>	<p>Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set survey control points (Starting activity of all survey operations) Flagging Right-of-Way (ROW) clearing limits Measure existing powerline heights Staking, as-building and support of construction activities Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake

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Group 1 – Transmission Lines

Activity

Detail



Cleared ROW (Right of Way) area.

Clearing and Access

- Clearing and Access development
 - * Access matting and trail building
 - * Installing/removing watercourse crossings
 - * Restoration of lands after completed construction activities
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake



Tower erection progress.

Construction

- Geotechnical (soil analysis) investigation by test pitting and drilling of boreholes
- Tower foundation/anchor installation
 - * Excavating, rock drilling
 - * Micropile, drilled pipe, pile, helical pile
- Assembly of steel towers, assembly yards and ROW
- Erection of assembled towers by crane and helicopter
- Stringing of wire conductor and fibre-optic wire
- Installing grounding rods and wires
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake



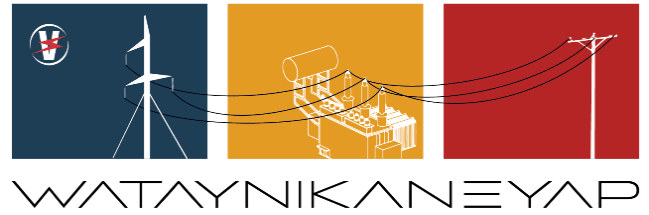
Watercourse.

Environment

- Watercourses and environmental sensitive areas are flagged and monitored; focused on erosion, sediment control and spill responses
- Environmental monitoring of foundation, assembly, erection and stringing crews to ensure commitments in environmental assessments are being followed
- First Nations Environmental Monitors have worked with the Project Manager and conducted several site visits
- Spill response and cleanup as needed
- Completion of Caribou Survey Plots by Giiwedini Environmental Services
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake

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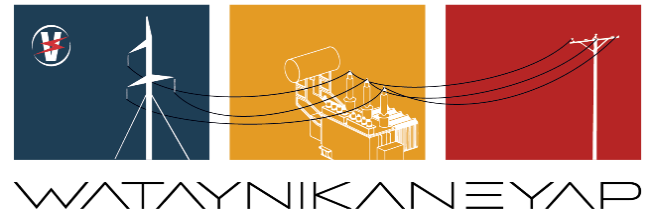
Group 1 – Substations

Activity		Detail
 <p>Cleared work area.</p>	Substation Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flagging and inserting stakes in the ground to outline work area• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none">* B (Pickle Lake)
 <p>Construction status of Substation B as of July 17, 2021</p>	Substation Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil and foundation construction• Ground Grid• Steel erection• Electrical Equipment Install• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none">* A (Dinorwic)* B (Pickle Lake)

For more activity details visit the website at www.valard-watay.com, or if you have any general inquiries about this newsletter, please contact Wataynikaneyap Power at WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca.

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BOOTS ON THE GROUND—Locally hired crew members tell us what working on the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project means to them!

IT'S NICE TO BE AROUND PEOPLE WHO ENCOURAGE AND MOTIVATE YOU TO LEARN AND TRY NEW THINGS

Brad Meekis, Deer Lake First Nation



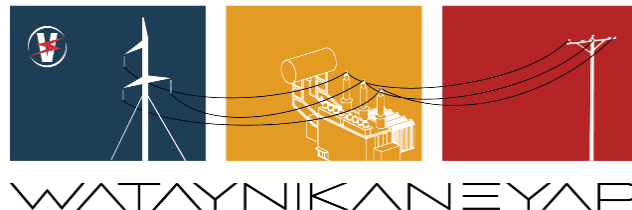
I am from Deer Lake. I've been with Valard now for nine months, working as an Assembler. At first I was too intimidated to apply but now I'm glad I took the leap.

I've learned and gained many new skills such as operating machinery, reading prints, communication and how to work safely and effectively with others. I've met a lot of new people, making new friends in all fields of construction. **It's nice to be around people who encourage and motivate you to learn and try new things.**

All the training that comes with the job does open a lot of doors for my future. The hospitality is awesome and the food is great. A lot of good laughs, good times and I'm learning.

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Valard is engaging with Participating First Nations to:

- * Work with the communities for open lines of communication for COVID-19 updates with regards to travel and quarantine directives
- * Engage with Indigenous Relations and Group Project Management to work with community and working groups to identify camp locations and services available to support work camps
- * Facilitate and coordinate Indigenous participations in community businesses, equipment, services, work force, and existing or potential joint ventures
- * Provide notification of encounters with sensitive wildlife such as Caribou sightings to communities near the encounter
- * Provide notification of Caribou Plot Surveys within the Communities
- * Work with Communities during the fires to ensure they are safe and their employees get to a safe location (in the case of evacuation)
- * Provide the Chief and Council of any additional temporary work packages with Homeland area maps included: Permit to Take Water, Helicopter Pads and any additional camp locations if required
- * Hosting Virtual Job Fairs for the Communities

Valard Group 1 Construction Liaisons:

- ◇ Mishkeegogamang First Nation— Michaela Bottle
- ◇ Slate Falls Nation—Clarence Auger
- ◇ Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation—Tanisha Carrier
- ◇ Lac Seul First Nation—Carrie Quoquat
- ◇ Cat Lake First Nation—Star Quequish
- ◇ Ojibway Nation of Saugeen—Jonah Belmore
- ◇ Lac des Mille Lac First Nation—Sabrina Boucher



Brennan Wassaykessic, from Mishkeegogamang Ojibway First Nation.

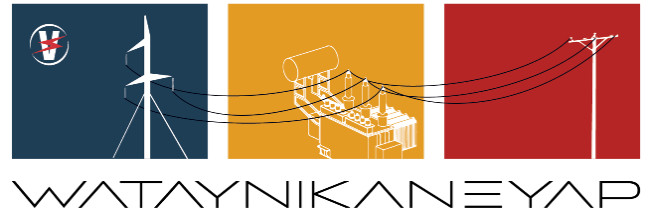
Valard Indigenous Relations Team:

The Valard Indigenous Relations Team consists of the following members for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project and can be contacted at: IndigenousRelations@valard.com:

- * **Blaine Collett**—Sr. Director Indigenous Relations
- * **Terrance Bob**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- * **Randal Courchene**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- * **Sherice Paizen**—Indigenous Relations Project Assistant

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Health and Safety

- * **Valard is following the most up to date medical advice provided by federal and provincial government in its own measures to help limit the spread of Covid-19.**
- * Ongoing Covid-19 screening program, camp inspections, program audits and response drills
- * Hazard analysis and control planning every day
- * Development, implementation and monitoring of safe work procedures including preparation for upcoming helicopter work activities
- * Project onboarding, orientation and training/development of workers
- * Emergency preparedness and planning, mock emergency drills completed
- * Joint Health and Safety Committee Involvement
- * Promotion of project's Alcohol & Drug policy, Maintenance Support Security Program and Employee Assistance Program.
- * Security Protocols implementation and monitoring
- * Fall Protection and Rescue Planning for tower climbing Best Practices
- * Subcontractor safety support, onboarding, compliance observations, and audits
- * Valard COVID-19 Vaccination program for eligible employees



Employment Opportunities

- * Valard Construction invites members of the Participating First Nations to apply for the following positions.

Administrative Assistant

Assemblers

Class A Driver

Community Support Partner

Drafting Technician

Emergency Medical Responder

Environmental Monitor

Excavator Operator

Foundations Labourer

Fuel Truck Driver

General Foreperson/Construction Supervisor

Heavy Duty Technician

Journeyman Automotive Service Technician

Prep/Ground Work Subforeperson

Primary Care Paramedic

Project Assistant

Project Field QC

Project Safety Admin

Please forward resumes to: watay-resumes@valard.com and projectjobs@oslp.ca

For more updates please visit the Valard project website (www.valard-watay.com) or:

Call: 807-345-2395

<https://www.facebook.com/watayproject>

<https://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP>

<https://www.facebook.com/Wataynikaneyap-Power>

<https://www.oslp.ca>—Please visit OSLPs site for a full list of available positions

**If you have any general inquiries about this newsletter, please contact
Wataynikaneyap Power at WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca.**