



# Monthly Project Newsletter

Provided by Valard



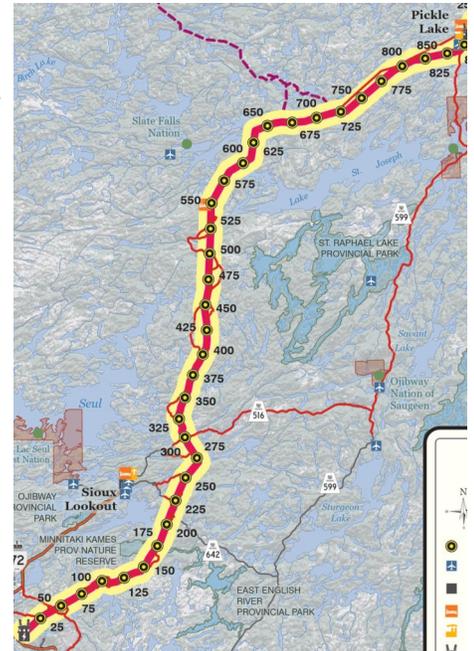
August 2021, Issue #17

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 owner communities.



**Three-Month Lookahead – Field Activities Proposed schedule as of August 15, 2021**  
**Period: August 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021**  
**Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.**

## Group 1 – Transmission Lines

Activity		Detail
 <p>Worker camp site.</p>	<p><b>Camp Operation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sioux Lookout operational as of June 1, 2020</li> <li>• Slate Falls Nation operational as of July 24, 2020, expected closure in September, 2021</li> <li>• Pickle Lake operational as of February 18, 2020</li> <li>• Cat Lake Camp on standby until Winter 2022</li> <li>• Camps were shutdown during the Ontario wildfires of Summer, 201</li> </ul>
 <p>Tower construction site.</p>	<p><b>Survey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set survey control points (Starting activity of all survey operations)</li> <li>• Measure existing powerline heights</li> <li>• Staking, as-building and support of construction activities</li> <li>• Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake</li> </ul>

## 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 (Right-of-Way)
- 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 Giiwedín Environmental Services
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake

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## Group 1 – Substations

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

**For more activity details visit the website at [www.valard-watay.com](http://www.valard-watay.com), or if you have any general inquiries about this newsletter, please contact Wataynikaneyap Power at [WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**

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

*I AM HAVING FUN AND ENJOYING MY TIME HERE EVERY DAY*

**Darcy Meekis**, Deer Lake First Nation



I have been with Valard since September of 2020. Throughout the months, I have realized that the work we do is very important.

As an Assembler, I am having fun and enjoying my time here every day, building towers. We also get the opportunity to operate different machinery, which I wasn't expecting to do. Every day we learn and, most of all, meet new friends and get to travel to different places.

Despite the hard work, safety plays a very important role and the hospitality is always excellent, making sure we are well taken care of. I am glad to be part of the team.



## Valard is engaging with Participating First Nations to:

- \* Work with community and working groups for open lines of communication for COVID-19 updates with regards to travel and Community access 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 opportunities for employment and procurement of goods and services
- \* Provide notification of encounters with sensitive wildlife such as caribou sightings to communities near the encounter
- \* Provide notification of Caribou Permanent Survey Plots 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 with any additional work packages and maps in their Homeland area, includes: Permit to Take Water, Helicopter Pads and any additional camp locations if required

## Valard would like to Congratulate the following new Apprentices! We look forward to working with you and wish you all the best on this exciting new journey!

**Camron Caouette** from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, indentured into the Powerline Technician trade

**Dylan Biedrzycki** from Mishkeegogamang First Nation, indentured into the Powerline Technician trade

**Brennan Wassaykeesic** from Mishkeegogamang First Nation, indentured into the Powerline Technician trade.

**Evan Suggashie** from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, indentured into the Powerline Technician trade.

## 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](mailto: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 Coordinator

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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 and Valard COVID-19 Vaccination program for eligible employees
- \* 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



## 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](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com) and [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca)

For more updates please visit the Valard project website ([www.valard-watay.com](http://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](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**