

Provided by Valard



March 2022, Issue #24

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 kilometres 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 March 15, 2022 Period: March 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022 Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.

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Group 1 - Transmission Lines						
Activity	Detail					
Worker camp site in Pickle Lake	Camp Operation	All camps locations finalized, active camps currently open— Pickle Lake and Cat Lake				
	Survey	 Set survey control points (Starting activity of all survey operations) 				
Surveyor checking Foundation		 Flag Right-of-Way (ROW) clearing boundaries 				
		 Measure existing transmission line heights 				
		Staking, as-building (drawings that record what the final product looks like) and support of construction activities				
Surveyor checking roundation		Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake				

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Group 1 - Transmission Lines					
Activity		Detail			
Cleared Right of Way between Dinorwic and Pickle Lake	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 			
Setting the final Tower	Construction	 Tower foundation/anchor installation complete Assembly of steel towers complete Erection of assembled towers complete Stringing of wire conductor and fibre-optic wire Installing grounding rods and wires and testing Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake 			
Lake view North G1	Environment	 In advance of and during construction activities, watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas are flagged and monitored; focusing on erosion, sediment control and spill response Environmental incident reporting, spill response and associated cleanup, as needed 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 Caribou Plot Surveys conducted with Giiwedin Environmental Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake 			

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Group 1 – Substations						
Activity	Detail					
Construction status of Substation A (Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation)	Substation Survey	 Substation wiring Interconnection work between HONI and Watay Commissioning Substations Work Area: * A (Dinorwic) 				
Construction status of Substation B (Pickle Lake)	Substation Construction	 Substation wiring Commissioning Substations Work Area: * 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!

THIS PROJECT IS HUGE FOR THE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE BEING CONNECTED Valarie King, Pikangikum First Nation



I'm from the Pikangikum First Nation. I started working on the Wataynikaneyap Project on a tower assembly crew but now I'm a Runner for Group Three.

It's a great experience to drive around the North. It doesn't feel any different than driving around at home in Pikangikum and on the ice roads. I feel very fortunate to be part of something this huge for the communities that are being connected to the power grid. I am proud of myself for providing for my children at home, and I know my family is also proud of me.

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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
- * Work with communities to identify services available to support work camps
- * Facilitate and coordinate opportunities for employment and procurement of goods and services with communities and working groups
- Provide notification of encounters with sensitive wildlife such as caribou sightings to communities near the encounter
- * Provide notification of field work associated with monitoring caribou permanent survey plots throughout the project area
- 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
- * Provided Power Mobile Equipment (PME) training for employees

Valard erected the last tower for Group 1 on the project during the month of March 2022!







A piece of heavy machinery used on the project

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
- * Blaine Paul—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- * Amber McGrandle—Indigenous Relations

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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, 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
- Project onboarding, orientation and training/development of workers and subcontractors
- * 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



Employment Opportunities

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

Administrative Assistant
Assemblers
Burn Crews
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

Journeyperson 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/careers—Please visit OSLP's 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.