

February 2023, Issue #35

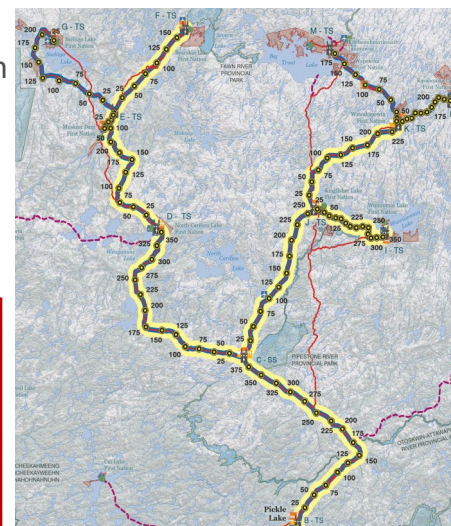
English Version



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.

\* Yellow outline indicates work areas.



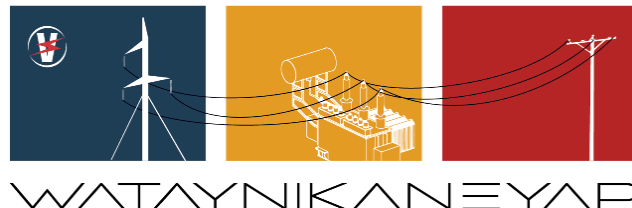
**Three-Month Lookahead – Field Activities**  
**Proposed schedule as of February 15, 2023**  
**Period: February 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023**  
**Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.**

## Group 2 – Transmission Lines

Activity	Detail
 Materials to construct camps being moved by heavy machinery	<b>Camp Mobilization and/or Installation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pickle Lake, Pipestone, North Caribou Lake, Muskrat Dam, Sachigo Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wunnumin Lake, Wapekeka and Wawakapewin camps all operational</li> </ul>
 Heavy machinery for geotechnical investigations	<b>Survey</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure existing transmission line heights</li> <li>Locate existing underground utilities</li> <li>Set survey control points (starting activity of all survey operations)</li> <li>Work area               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pipestone, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Wunnumin Lake First Nation, Wawakapewin First Nation, Kasabonika Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation, Muskrat Dam First Nation, Bearskin Lake First Nation &amp; Sachigo Lake First Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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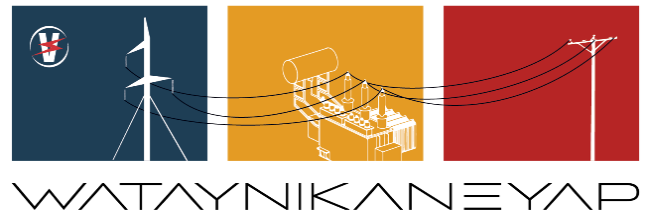
## Group 2 – Transmission Lines

Activity		Detail
 <p>Cleared Right of Way near Pipestone</p>	<p><b>Clearing and Access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearing and Access development.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falling, raking and piling of trees.</li> <li>Installing/removing watercourse crossings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Work area                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pickle Lake to Pipestone, Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation to Muskrat Dam First Nation, and Muskrat Dam First Nation to Bearskin Lake First Nation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p>Helicopter pulling rope near North Caribou Lake on the CD line</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geotechnical (soil analysis) investigation by test pitting and drilling of boreholes.</li> <li>Tower foundation installation ongoing in unenergized segments.</li> <li>Assembly of steel towers in assembly yards and on ROW (Right-of-Way).</li> <li>Erection of assembled towers by crane and helicopter.</li> <li>Installing grounding rods and wires that equipment will connect to.</li> <li>Work area                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pickle Lake to Pipestone, Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation to Muskrat Dam First Nation, Muskrat Dam First Nation to Bearskin Lake First Nation &amp; Kingfisher Lake First Nation to Wawakapewin First Nation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stringing of wire conductor and fibre-optic wire between towers.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Area: North Caribou First Lake First Nation to Muskrat Dam First Nation &amp; Kingfisher First Lake Nation to Wawakapewin First Nation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p>Pipestone River</p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In advance of and during construction activities, watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas are flagged and monitored; focusing on erosion, sediment control and spill responses.</li> <li>Environmental monitoring of foundation, access, assembly, erection and stringing crews to ensure Project and Regulatory commitments are being followed.</li> <li>Environmental incident reporting, spill response and associated cleanup as needed.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EIN 444 was a spill of approximately 150L of Jet A Fuel at North Caribou Yard. Additional excavation and sampling was completed in February 2023. The stockpile of material will remain on site until samples are confirmed. The soil will be hauled to an approved facility. Further excavation and sampling will be completed in March 2023. Ontario Spill Action Center Reference #1-2AR91Z.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Permanent Wildlife Survey Plot program with Giiwedini Environmental was conducted between February 18th and February 21st and will be conducted in March 2023.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pickle Lake to Pipestone, Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation to Muskrat Dam First Nation, Muskrat Dam First Nation to Bearskin Lake First Nation &amp; Kingfisher Lake First Nation to Wawakapewin First Nation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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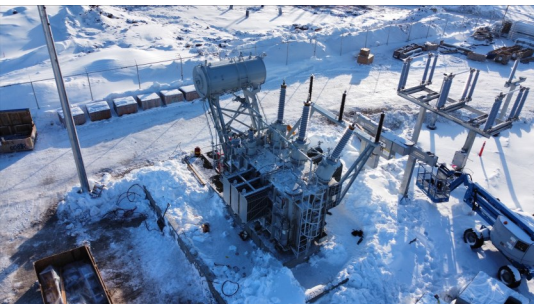
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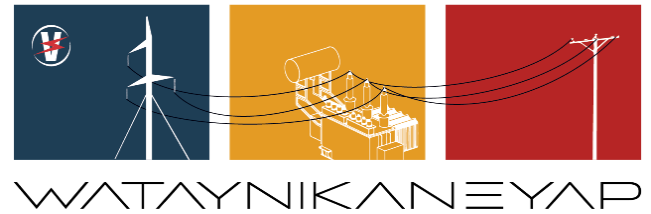
## Group 2 – Substations

Activity		Detail
 <p>Transformer delivery &amp; assembly Substation K (Wawakapewin First Nation)</p>	<b>Substation Civil Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil and foundation construction.</li><li>• Substations work area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* E (Muskrat Dam First Nation).</li><li>* F (Bearskin Lake First Nation).</li><li>* G (Sachigo Lake First Nation).</li><li>* K (Wawakapewin First Nation).</li><li>* L (Kasabonika Lake First Nation).</li><li>* M (KI-Wapekeka First Nation).</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p>Substation E (Muskrat Dam First Nation)</p>	<b>Substation Structural and Electrical Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structural and Electrical construction.</li><li>• Substations work area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* E (Muskrat Dam First Nation).</li><li>* F (Bearskin Lake First Nation).</li><li>* K (Wawakapewin First Nation).</li><li>* L (Kasabonika Lake First Nation).</li><li>* M (KI-Wapekeka First Nation).</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p>Substation K (Wawakapewin First Nation)</p>	<b>Substation Commissioning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commissioning.</li><li>• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* E (Muskrat Dam First Nation).</li><li>* K (Wawakapewin First Nation).</li><li>* L (Kasabonika Lake First Nation).</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).**

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## WILDLIFE AT THE WATAYNIKANEYAP PROJECT!



Various animal sightings on the Wataynikaneyap Project:

Left: Moose

Top Right: Pine Marten

Bottom Right: Fox



One of the important aspects of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line is managing wildlife in and around the project. Valard's environmental team has a dedicated Wildlife Management Plan in place to care for and respect the local flora and fauna. There are various important points to remember when it comes to wildlife, such as: using existing access roads and trails where possible, practice selective mechanical clearing in environmentally sensitive areas, not using herbicides, policies that prohibit feeding animals, managing attractants, use of bird deterrents, warning signs of high wildlife areas, communicating large mammal sightings and much more.

Animal sightings can happen anywhere and each employee is responsible for avoiding and minimizing potential project effects on wildlife. Valard also engages in additional reporting when it comes to specific Species at Risk as part of the Project's Endangered Species Permit- caribou, wolverine and 2 species of bats.



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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 camp locations and 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, Including: Permit to Take Water, Helicopter Pads and any additional camp locations if required
- \* Provided Power Mobile Equipment (PME) training for employees



Project employees during a work presentation



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](mailto:IndigenousRelations@valard.com):

- \* **Blaine Collett**—Sr. Director Indigenous Relations
- \* **Terrance Bob**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- \* **Randal Courchene**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- \* **Amber McGrandle**—Indigenous Relations 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.**
- \* Continuing to monitor and comply with individual Community Covid-19 protocols, as applicable.
- \* 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.

**Please forward resumes to: [watay-resumes@valard.com](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com) and [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca)**

**Construction Liaison—Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig**

**Construction Liaison—Kingfisher Lake**

**Construction Liaison—Muskrat Dam**

**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/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](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**