

February 2023, Issue #35

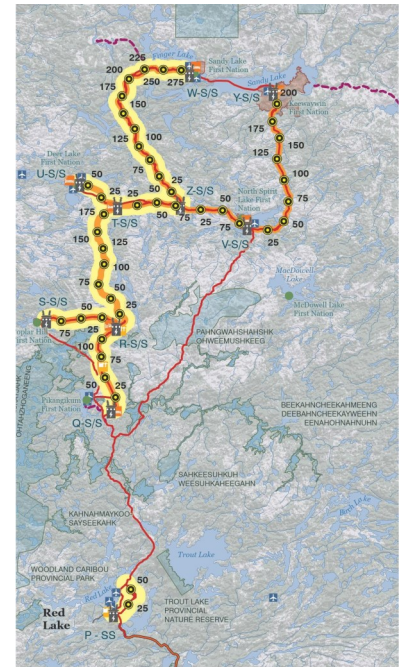
English Version



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.



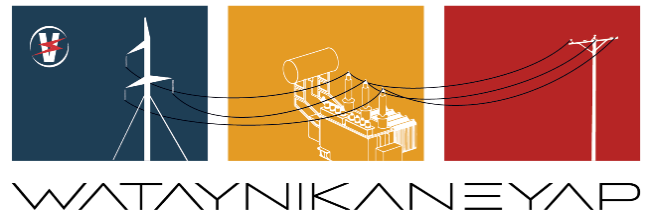
Three-Month Lookahead – Field Activities
Proposed schedule as of February 15, 2023
Period: February 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023
Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.

Group 3 – Transmission Lines

Activity		Detail
 Knox Camp	Camp Mobilization and/or Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction Camp operational as of January 2021 • North Spirit Lake and Deer Lake Camp open mid Oct 2021 to support substations • Knox Lake Camp and Poplar Hill Camp active • Sandy Lake Camp closed
 Survey worker	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set survey control points (Starting activity of all survey operations) • Measure existing transmission line heights • Locate existing underground utilities • Work area * Red Lake, Deer Lake First Nation to North Spirit Lake First Nation and North Spirit Lake First Nation to Sandy Lake First Nation

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Group 3 – Transmission Lines

Activity

Detail



Cleared Right of Way near Knox Camp

Clearing and Access

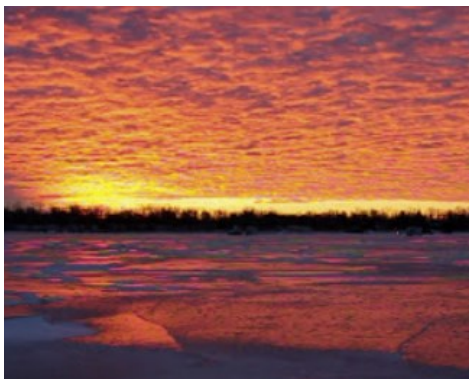
- Clearing and Access development.
 - * Falling, raking, and piling of trees.
 - * Maintenance of roads.



Excavating Work.

Construction

- Tower foundation and anchor installation.
 - * Excavating.
 - * Rock drilling.
- Assembly of steel towers in assembly yards and on Right-of-Way (ROW).
- Work area
 - * Deer Lake First Nation.
 - * North Spirit Lake First Nation.



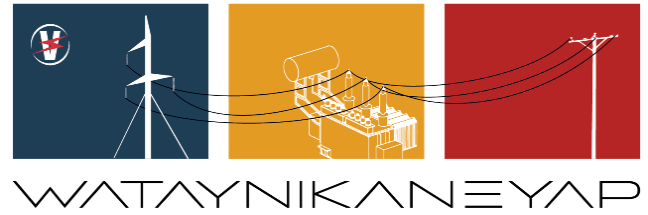
Lake near Knox

Environment

- In advance of and during construction activities watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas are flagged and monitored; focusing on erosion, sediment control and spill responses.
- Environmental monitoring of foundation, access, assembly, erection and stringing crews to ensure Project and Regulatory commitments are being followed.
- Environmental Incident reporting, spill response and associated cleanup.
- Permanent Wildlife Survey Plot program with Giiwedin Environmental was conducted between February 18th and February 21st and will be conducted in March 2023.
- Work area
 - * Red Lake, Deer Lake First Nation to North Spirit Lake First Nation and North Spirit Lake First Nation to Sandy Lake First Nation.

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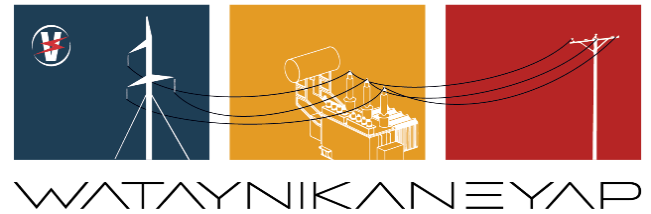
Group 3 – Substations

Activity		Detail
	Substation Civil Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil and foundation construction.• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Substation R (Poplar Hill SS).* Substation S (Poplar Hill TS).
	Substation Structural Steel and Electrical Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structural and Electrical construction.• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Substation T (Deer Lake SS).* Substation U (Deer Lake TS).* Substation V (North Spirit 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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WILDLIFE AT THE WATAYNIKANEYAP PROJECT!



Various animal sightings on the Wataynikaneyap Project:

Left: Moose

Top Right: Pine Marten

Bottom Right: Fox

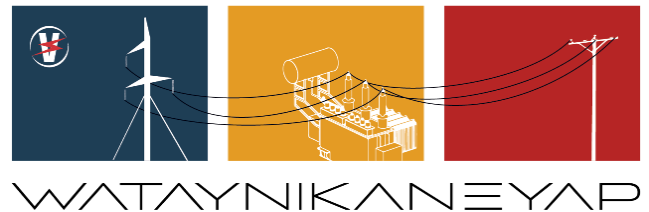


One of the important aspects of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line is managing wildlife in and around the project. Valard's environmental team has a dedicated Wildlife Management Plan in place to care for and respect the local flora and fauna. There are various important points to remember when it 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 accompanied representatives from Wataynikaneyap Power and OSLP on February 14 to complete a blessing at the Valard Poplar Hill camp. Elders from the Community were present to provide prayers during the blessing. A land offering was presented to the Elders. During this visit representatives from each company spoke with employees that were present and grateful for the experience. Smudging was completed in the facilities kitchen areas, offices, dorm rooms and rec rooms.

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
- * **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.

Construction Liaison—Deer Lake

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.valard-watay.com/upcoming-project-opportunities/>

<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.**