

Dempster Fibre Project

Monthly Newsletter – May 2020 Edition



Dempster Fibre Project will ensure reliable internet service for Yukon and the North.

About the Project

The Dempster Fibre Project is an 800-kilometer fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

The Dempster Fibre Project will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik. Together, the new line will complete a 4,000-km network that will provide communities along the loop with a backup line in the event of a service disruption, ensuring they have more reliable internet and cell phone service.

There will be local employment and business opportunities for communities along the route during construction. The Government of Yukon is working with First Nations Governments, Indigenous groups, local businesses and communities to make the most of these opportunities.

Route

- 70 different communities in the North will directly benefit from the line.
- The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by NorthwesTel



- Dempster Fibre Line
- Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link
- Existing NorthwesTel Fibre

Project Updates

Regulatory Items

The project's regulatory submission is currently with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for review. Public comments have been received and the project is now in the recommendation and decision stage.

These submission requirements ensure proper levels of engagement, planning and environmental protection are being met before and during project construction, as well as after project completion. Once approved, land use permits can be issued for construction of the fibre line.

Planning and Design

The project design continues to progress through the design review phase and is 95% complete. LTS Infrastructure Services (Ledcor), ROHL Global Networks, and Valard

Construction have all be pre-qualified to participate in the final step of the procurement process, which will be a Negotiated Request For Proposals.

Engagement Activities

The project has progressed to the current stage thanks to regular input from partners, stakeholders, contractors, and businesses. Information was gathered at several engagement sessions and meetings. This input is very valuable and has helped shape the design.

Applications for the upcoming Wildlife Monitoring and Environmental Monitoring courses, provided by YG and Aurora College, were also received. Aurora College has had to postpone delivery of these courses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The college will determine the new course delivery dates and notify YG, FN Governments, and Designated Gwich'in Organization offices.

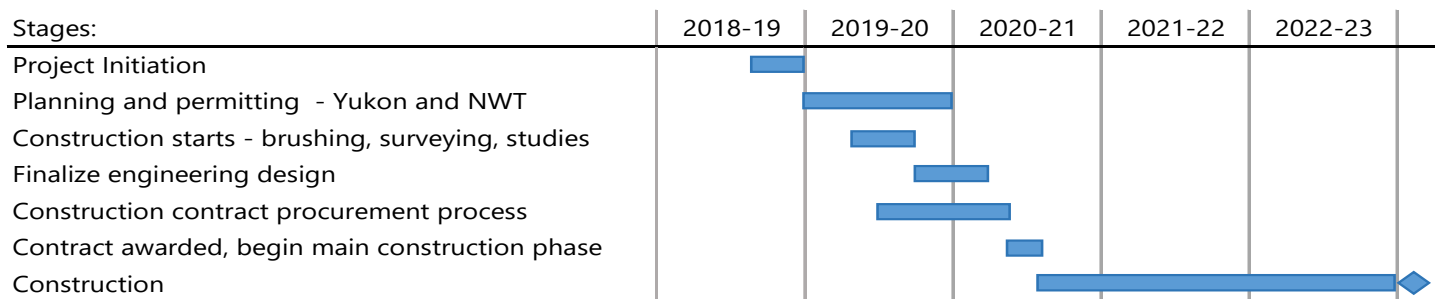


Figure 1 - Timeline of project events by fiscal year

Upcoming Activities

1. Completion of reviews by YESAB and MVLWB.
2. Continue project design and engineering work.
3. Continue to work towards final construction design and development of tender documents.

Contact Us:

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Or visit our website: Yukon.ca/DempsterFibreProject