

Dempster Fibre Project

Monthly Newsletter - July Edition



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

About the Project

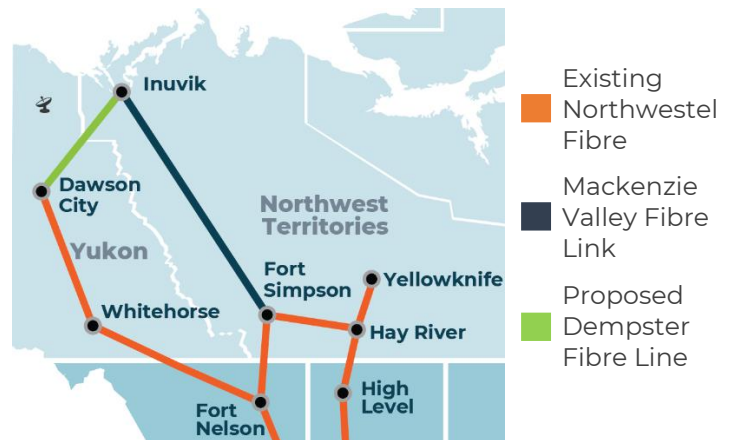
The Dempster Fibre Project is a proposed 800-kilometer fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

The Dempster Fibre Line 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 interested in working with First Nations, Indigenous groups, local businesses, and communities to make the most of the opportunities.

Route

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



Funding

- The project budget is \$79 million.

Funding Sources

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Government of Canada | \$59 million |
| 2. Government of Yukon | \$5 million |
| 3. Northwestel | \$15 million |

Project Updates

Regulatory Items

This month, drafts of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) (required for the Northwest Territories) submissions have been circulated to the affected First Nations and Indigenous groups. The project team is awaiting their review in Yukon and Northwest Territories before making final submissions.

Both of these submissions are territorial requirements which ensure that proper levels of engagement, planning, and environmental protection are taking place before, during and after project completion. Once approved, land use permits can be issued for the construction of the main fibre line.

Engagement Activities

One request that came from some groups during early engagement activities was that they be given the opportunity to review the

YESAB and the MVLWB submission documents prior to submittal to the regulatory boards. Yukon Government welcomes early feedback, and has provided all groups with draft copies of these submission this month.

To ensure the project team meets its objective to promote local procurement opportunities for First Nations and local businesses, planning is currently underway for the team’s next round of community visits. These visits are to be held in the coming months, and will be used to present the procurement and business opportunities which will be upcoming.

Planning and Design

As of July, the conceptual design phase has been completed, and the project will be progressing into the schematic design phase. This coming month the engineering team will be travelling along the entire Dempster Highway to investigate some of the higher risk areas. Additionally, the project team is planning a geophysics study of the Arctic Red River.

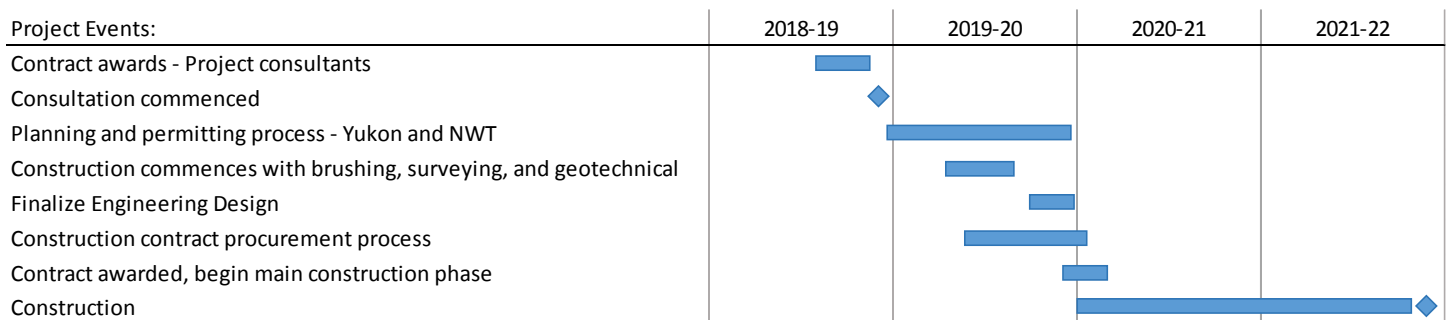


Figure 1 - Timeline of project events by fiscal year.

Upcoming Activities

1. Engineering field visit to Dempster Highway.
2. Finalization of Procurement Plan.
3. Procure geophysics study of the Arctic Red River.
4. Ongoing Consultation and Engagement.

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