

Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – summer 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

- A large number of 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 has progressed to the final stages of review with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB).

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

Planning and design

The project's engineering design is now complete. In the next month, the Government of Yukon will issue a tender for clearing and brushing work alongside the highway. This tender will cover various areas of the Dempster Highway that require substantial vegetation

removal. In addition to that, a negotiated request for proposals will be issued to the three shortlisted contractors to bid on the project.

Engagement activities

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

The project team is in the process of setting up regular engagement meetings with the affected First Nation governments in Yukon and the Gwich'in Tribal Council in NWT.

Wildlife and Environmental Monitoring courses, offered by Aurora College, have been postponed due to COVID-19. The college will communicate new dates once conditions are safe to offer the courses.

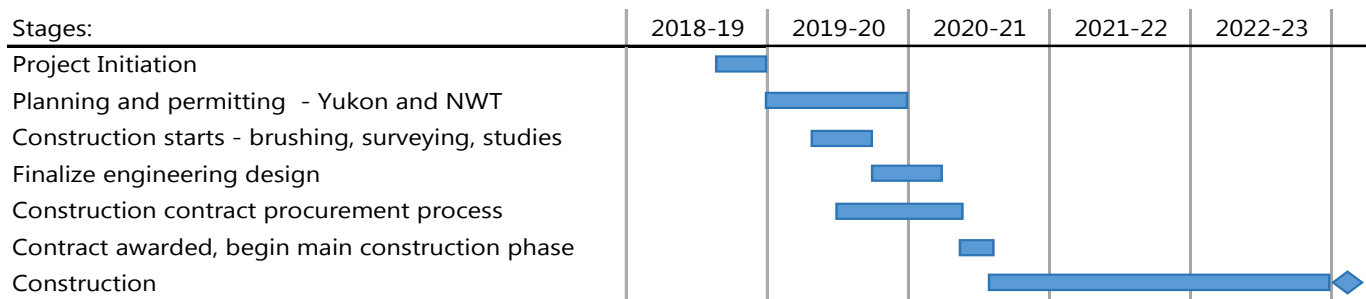


Figure 1 - Timeline of project events by fiscal year

Upcoming activities

1. Completion of reviews by YESAB and MVLWB.
2. Continue engagement sessions with partners.
3. Release of procurement documents.

Contact us

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Or visit our website: Yukon.ca/DempsterFibreProject