

Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Summer 2022 Edition



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

About the Project

The Government of Yukon is currently building an 800-kilometre fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon, to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

This project, known as the Dempster Fibre Project, will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik. The new line will create a 4,000-kilometre network, offering communities along this loop a backup line in the event of a service disruption and ensuring they have more reliable internet and cell phone services.

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

Route

- Communities across 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



Horizontal directional boring that crosses under the Mackenzie River. The drill exit point on the north bank is pictured on the right.

Project Activities

In the spring, contractors assembled work camps and mobilized equipment and materials. Rohl conducted local hiring and provided orientation and training to employees and sub-contractors. Initial field and environmental work took place in the Yukon.

During the summer, five crews continued brushing and conduit installation at several locations along the Dempster and Klondike highways. Additionally, successful horizontal directional boring was completed under all three major rivers (Peel, Mackenzie, and Arctic Red) in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The distances for each drill shot are: just over 500 metres (Peel River), 1,300 metres (Mackenzie River), and 350 metres (Arctic Red River). To date, over 350 kilometres of conduit has been installed.

Safety Highlight

In late June, the value of a safety plan and proper training was proven as crews working on the Dempster Fibre Project responded to a nearby vehicle rollover (not project-related). Crews provided medical attention and safely transported an injured individual to emergency personnel traveling from Dawson City, reducing critical response times.

Engagement Activities

The Dempster Fibre Project team remains committed to continued engagement with partners, stakeholders, contractors and businesses.

During this year's construction season, we will continue to issue monthly reports to the First Nations and Indigenous groups in whose Traditional Territory we are working.



A Rolligon plow vehicle is used to install conduit through tundra habitat. This method minimizes disturbance to the delicate landscape by using low-pressure, balloon-like tires. The pressure of the tires is 15 times less than the pressure a human foot exerts.



Final result of laying conduit with the Rolligon plow.

Current and Upcoming Activities

1. Continued work on Dempster Highway and end of season clean-up.
2. Successful horizontal directional boring of the Peel, Mackenzie, and Arctic Red rivers.

Contact Us

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Or Visit our Website:

<http://www.Yukon.ca/DempsterFibreProject>