

# Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Winter 2023 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 Nations governments, Indigenous groups, local businesses and communities to make the most of these opportunities.

### Route



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

- Communities across the North will directly benefit from the line.
- The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by NorthwesTel.

## Project updates



Camp 208 in the Yukon housed up to 50 ROHL personnel during construction. Camp 208 is now shut down for 2023 and is not expected to reopen for activities in 2024.

### Summer 2023

The Dempster Fibre Project had its busiest and most productive year to date! By the end of the production season, ROHL Global Networks installed over 405 kilometres of conduit and 702 kilometres of fibre through summer and fall 2023. In total, 783 kilometres of conduit and 785 kilometres of fiber on the project have been installed to date.

Major work activities began in late May 2023 and continued through to the end of October, due mainly to the warmer-than-normal weather this year. This summer, the project sometimes had up to 10 ROHL crews and over 100 people working in various locations in different capacities. This included crews for plowing, drilling, horizontal directional drilling, aerial installation and fibre splicing. This is the highest number of crews we've had working on the project at one time.

Over the summer, crews had to contend with a variety of issues, including highway closures due to road washouts in May, wildfires and heavy smoke in June and blizzards in October. By October, work activities focused on camp shut down and moving equipment off-site for the season.

## Winter activities

In December and January, ROHL will have a small splicing crew on site. Splicing is the act of fusing two fibre ends together in such a way that the area surrounding the splice is almost as strong as an intact fibre. The splice crew will be running tests at various NorthwTel and Yukon government sites along the highway.

Planning for next season will begin with reflecting on what went well and reviewing lessons learned from the 2023 season. Once this review period is complete, the project team will turn their focus to planning and preparing for the final year of construction and commissioning of the fibre line.



Road washout May 2023



Environmental monitor at work, October 2023

## Current and upcoming activities

1. Splicing team working on testing and splicing along the entire route.
2. Planning and lookahead for upcoming year.

## Contact us

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