



APR 21 2011



Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council  
127 Mine Road  
PO Box 340  
Balmerton, ON  
P0V 1C0

Subject: Remote Northern Ontario Broadband Expansion Project – Angling Lake, Musselwhite Mine and Cat Lake

Dear Mr. Kakepetum,

I would like to inform you that Bell Aliant Regional Communications Inc. (Bell Aliant) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) (which represents 49 First Nation communities within the territory of James Bay Treaty No. 9 and the Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5.), are proposing to install 404 km of new fibre optic cable from Pickle Lake to Musselwhite Mine, Pickle Lake to Cat Lake and onto Slate Falls, and Big Trout Lake to Angling Lake (please see map included with this letter). This new cable will provide broadband internet services to three First Nation communities (Cat Lake, Wapekeka, Slate Falls and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations) and is part of a broader, five phase initiative to install approximately 2,000 km of cable across Northwestern Ontario over the next few years, starting as early as April 2011.

Bell Aliant has informed the Government of Canada that their intent is to use existing infrastructure corridors (winter and all season roads, transmission lines) for line construction where possible; however there will be some areas where new or expanded corridors may be required. A variety of installation techniques are proposed including: 1) aerial cable on poles, 2) submarine cables laid on the beds of lakes and rivers, and 3) covered cables laid alongside existing roadways and covered with soil from the surrounding area.

In addition to the cable installation, two new buildings will be constructed to house electronic equipment in the community of Slate Falls and at the Musselwhite Mine site. The existing tower and ancillary building at Badesdawa Lake will remain on site, though the existing diesel generator will be removed off site and power to the site will be provided through a new power line.

The Environmental Assessment process was initiated by the federal government on February 9, 2011. It has been determined by the Responsible Authorities (RAs) that a screening level Environmental Assessment is appropriate for this project. More information about this project can be found on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry website (<http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=60622>, copy attached).

The following Federal Departments are involved in the Environmental Assessment:

Department	Involvement	Trigger
Industry Canada	Responsible Authority	CEAA s. 5.(1)(b)
Health Canada – First Nations Inuit Health Branch	Responsible Authority	CEAA s. 5.(1)(b)
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	Responsible Authority	CEAA s. 5.(1)(d) – <i>Indian Act</i> s. 28(2)
Transport Canada	Federal Review Team Member	NWPA approvals are required for the project but are <b>not</b> CEAA 5(1)(d) triggers.
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Expert Federal Authority	CEAA s. 12(3)
Environment Canada	Expert Federal Authority	CEAA s. 12(3)
Health Canada	Possible Federal Authority	CEAA s. 12(3)

Although the Ontario Provincial Government has advised that they will not be conducting an Environmental Assessment for this project, they will be reviewing the proposed project in their role as a permitting agency. Consultation activities associated with the federal EA and with the provincial review may be coordinated and stream-lined, to the extent possible, to minimize duplication efforts by government agencies and giving consideration to consultation actions already conducted by the project proponent. Bell Aliant is preparing a draft consultation plan which will be provided for your review/input at a future date.

If you have questions or comments regarding this proposal, or if you would like to receive a copy of the Environmental Assessment, please contact Julie Dupuis, Project Officer with Industry Canada, at [Julie.Dupuis@ic.gc.ca](mailto:Julie.Dupuis@ic.gc.ca) or 613-991-1176.

Sincerely,



Mesmin Pierre, Director  
Broadband Canada

cc:

Lee Cranton, A/Director, Population Health, Ontario Region, First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada

Glenn Gilbert, Regional Manager, Environment, Ontario, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Rob Dobos, Manager, Environmental Assessment Section, Environment Canada

Devon Smith, Aboriginal Consultation Officer, Transport Canada

Neville Ward, Senior Habitat Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Attachments:

Map of project area

Notice of Commencement

Canadian Environmental  
Assessment AgencyAgence canadienne  
d'évaluation environnementale

Canada

[Home](#) > [Registry](#) > 11-01-60622

## Angling Lake, Musselwhite Mine and Cat Lake - Remote Northern Ontario Broadband Expansion Project

### NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT of an Environmental Assessment

#### **Angling Lake, Musselwhite Mine and Cat Lake - Remote Northern Ontario Broadband Expansion Project**

[Angling Lake](#); [Badesdawa Lake](#); [Big Trout Lake](#); [Cat Lake](#); [Pickle Lake](#);  
[Slate Falls](#) (ON)

**February 22, 2011** -- Industry Canada, Health Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada are required to ensure that a screening is conducted commencing on February 9, 2011 in relation to the development proposal: [Angling Lake, Musselwhite Mine and Cat Lake - Remote Northern Ontario Broadband Expansion Project](#).

Bell Aliant Regional Communications Inc. (Bell Aliant) is working in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) (which represents 49 First Nation communities within the territory of James Bay Treaty No. 9 and the Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5.) to expand the broadband network in northwestern Ontario. The proposed project involves installing 404 km of new fibre optic cable from Pickle Lake to Musselwhite Mine, Pickle Lake to Cat Lake and onto Slate Falls, and Big Trout Lake to Angling Lake providing broadband internet services to four First Nation communities (Cat Lake, Wapekeka, Slate Falls and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nations) The project will use existing infrastructure corridors (winter and all season roads, transmission lines) for line construction, which will require the removal of a 6 m width of trees along the majority of this corridor (a total of 334 km). In areas where existing corridors do not exist, new or expanded corridors may be required. A variety of installation techniques will be used for the cables including: aerial cable on poles (92 km); submarine cables laid on the beds of lakes and rivers (4 km); and covered cables laid alongside existing roadways and covered with soil from the surrounding area (308 km). In addition to the cable installation, two new buildings will be constructed to house electronic equipment in the community of Slate Falls and at the Musselwhite Mine site. The existing tower and ancillary building at Badesdawa Lake will remain on site, though the existing diesel generator will be removed off site and power to the site will be provided through a new power line.

Under section 5 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, an environmental assessment is required because, for the purpose of enabling the project to be carried out in whole or in part, Industry Canada may provide financial assistance to the proponent; Health Canada may provide financial assistance to the proponent and Indian

and Northern Affairs Canada may take action in relation to subsection 28(2) of the *Indian Act*.

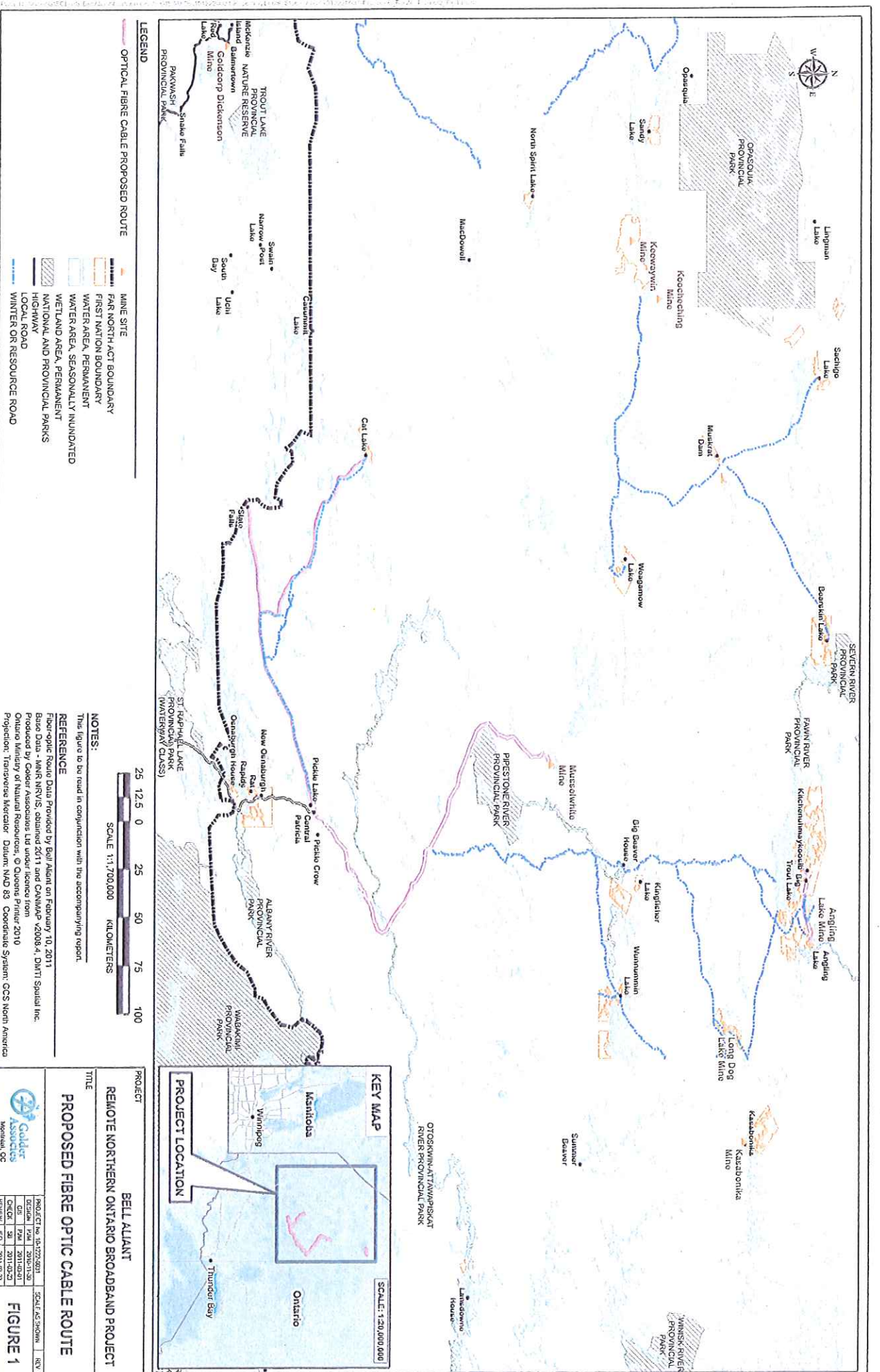
Industry Canada will act as the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator for this environmental assessment.

**For further information on this environmental assessment, please contact:**

Julie Dupuis  
Project Officer  
Electronic Commerce Branch | Spectrum, Information Technologies  
and Telecommunications Sector  
300 Slater Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0C8  
Telephone: 613-991-1176  
Fax: 613-949-1586  
Email: [Julie.Dupuis@ic.gc.ca](mailto:Julie.Dupuis@ic.gc.ca)

and refer to CEAR reference number **11-01-60622**

Date Modified: 2011-02-22

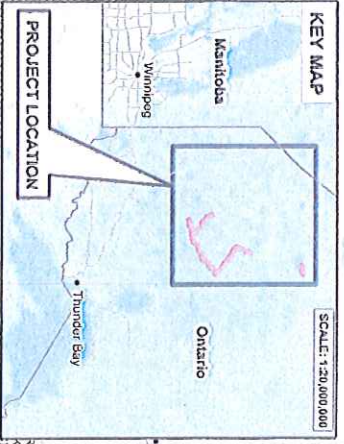


- LEGEND**
- OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE PROPOSED ROUTE
  - MINE SITE
  - PAR NORTH ACT BOUNDARY
  - FIRST NATION BOUNDARY
  - WATER AREA, PERMANENT
  - WATER AREA, SEASONALLY INUNDATED
  - WETLAND AREA, PERMANENT
  - NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARKS
  - HIGHWAY
  - LOCAL ROAD
  - WINTER OR RESOURCE ROAD



**NOTES:**  
 This figure to be read in conjunction with the accompanying report.

**REFERENCE**  
 Fiber-optic Route Data Provided by Bell Alliant on February 10, 2011  
 Base Data - NMR, NRVIS, obtained 2011 and CANMAP v2008.4, DATI Spatial Inc.  
 Produced by Collier Associates Ltd under license from  
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, © Queen's Printer 2010  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator Datum: NAD 83 Coordinate System: CCS North America



PROJECT		BELL ALLIANT	
TITLE		REMOTE NORTHERN ONTARIO BROADBAND PROJECT	
<b>PROPOSED FIBRE OPTIC CABLE ROUTE</b>			
PROJECT No. 10-2225-0001		SCALE: AS SHOWN	
DESIGN	DATE	DATE	REV.
PKM	2010/07/30		1
CHKD	2010/09/01		
REVISED	2010/09/23		
REVIEW	2011/02/23		
Collier Associates Aurora, ON			
FIGURE 1			