



# Monthly Project Newsletter

Provided by Valard



January 2021, Issue #11

English Version





Valard Construction, was selected by Wataynikaneyap Power to provide engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) solutions for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project in Northwestern Ontario, Canada.

The scope of work on the project consists of EPC services for more than 1,600 kilometers of transmission and distribution infrastructure ranging in voltage from 25 kV to 230 kV and 22 substations. Valard created this newsletter to provide regular updates on construction activities for the 24 First Nation communities.

**Three-Month Lookahead – Field Activities  
Proposed schedule as of January 15, 2021  
Period: January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021  
Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.**

**Group 1 – Transmission Lines**

Activity	Detail
 <p><b>Camp Mobilization and/or Installation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sioux Lookout operational as of June 1, 2020</li> <li>• Slate Falls Nation operational as of July 24, 2020</li> <li>• Pickle Lake operational as of February 18, 2020</li> <li>• Cat Lake Camp operational end of February 2021</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Survey</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set survey control points (Starting activity of all survey operations)</li> <li>• Flagging Right-of-Way (ROW) clearing limits</li> <li>• Measure existing powerline heights</li> <li>• Staking, as-building and support of construction activities</li> <li>• Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake</li> </ul>

## Group 1 – Transmission Lines

### Activity

### Detail



### Clearing and Access

- Clearing and Access development
  - \* Falling, raking, piling of trees
  - \* Burning of felled brush
  - \* Installing/removing watercourse crossings
  - \* Access matting and trail building
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake



### Construction



- Geotechnical (soil analysis) investigation by test pitting and drilling of boreholes
- Tower foundation/anchor installation
  - \* Excavating, rock drilling
  - \* Micropile, drilled pipe, pile, helical pile
- Assembly of steel towers, assembly yards and ROW
- Erection of assembled towers by crane and helicopter
- Stringing of wire conductor
- Installing grounding rods and wires that equipment will connect to
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake



### Environment

- Watercourses and environmental sensitive areas are flagged and monitored; focused on erosion, sediment control and spill responses
- Environmental monitoring of foundation, assembly, erection and stringing crews to ensure commitments in environmental assessments are being followed
- First Nations Environmental Monitors have worked with the Project Manager and conducted several site visits
- Caribou plot surveys completed for the month of January with the aid of First Nation Monitors
- Work area Dinorwic to Pickle Lake

## Group 1 – Substations

Activity		Detail
	<p><b>Substation Survey/ Clearing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flagging and inserting stakes in the ground to outline work area</li><li>• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* B (Pickle Lake)</li></ul></li></ul>
	<p><b>Substation Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil and foundation construction</li><li>• Ground Grid</li><li>• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* B (Pickle Lake)</li></ul></li></ul>

**For more activity details visit the website at [www.valard-watay.com](http://www.valard-watay.com), or if you have any general inquiries about this newsletter, please contact Wataynikaneyap Power at [WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**

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## Valard is engaging with Participating First Nations to:

- \* To learn more about community expectations and interests; as well as identify training, employment, and procurement and business opportunities.
- \* Identify camp locations and services available to support work camps.
- \* Continuing to provide notification of the restart of engagement activities, which had been on hold due to limitations with COVID-19 safety measures, to understand each community's position regarding employment opportunities and associated travel.
- \* Review Valard community-specific protocols such as Covid-19 protocols with Participating First Nations and sign off after alignment with community.
- \* Continue to keep open lines of communication with Participating First Nations for community COVID -19 updates with regards to travel and quarantine directives.
- \* Participate in face to face meetings with communities while ensuring that all attendees are following Valard, Community, and Ontario Health Service guidelines/protocols.
- \* Continue to meet with Participating First Nation communities to advance engagement, contract, and employment discussions.
- \* Facilitate and coordinate Indigenous participations in community businesses, equipment, services, work force, existing or potential joint ventures.
- \* Provide notification of upcoming work activities near each community.
- \* Provide notification of encounters with sensitive wildlife, such as Caribou sightings, to communities near the encounter.
- \* Provide notification of required permits such as: a Permit to Take Water, which is required for 2020/2021 winter road construction, to communities near the planned activities.
- \* Shared additional temporary work space packages for review and sign off.
- \* Request teleconference meetings to pick up the engagement and contract discussions with each of the communities, to share the return to the "bubble" testing program with each community directly.
- \* Actively looking to fill, hire and onboard Indigenous Relations Advisors to aid in Participating First Nations engagement and communications.
- \* Facilitate communication with communities regarding timber offerings and requirements.
- \* Utilize Construction Liaisons to coordinate ongoing communication between Project Management Team and Community Leadership and other duties such as: setting up job fairs, social media upkeep, coordinating employment and business opportunities and acting as a direct link to the Chief and Council of various communities.

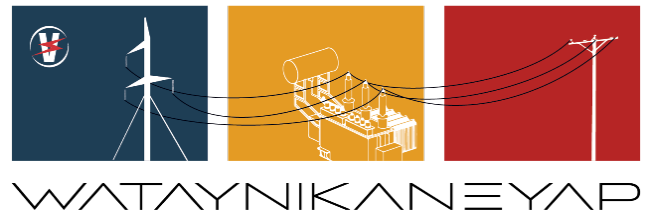
## Valard Indigenous Relations Team Introduction:

The Valard Indigenous Relations Team consists of the following members for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project and can be contacted at [Watay-IndigenousRelations@valard.com](mailto:Watay-IndigenousRelations@valard.com):

- \* **Marc Ouimet** - Director Indigenous Relations
- \* **Darrell Wawia** - Indigenous Relations Manager
- \* **Terrance Bob** - Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- \* **Maureen Budzinski** - Manager Indigenous Training & Apprenticeship
- \* **Randal Courchene** - Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison

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## Health and Safety

- \* **Valard is following the most up to date medical advice provided by federal and provincial government in its own measures to help limit the spread of Covid-19.**
- \* Ongoing Covid-19 screening program, camp inspections, program audits and response drills
- \* Hazard analysis and control planning every day
- \* Development, implementation and monitoring of safe work procedures including preparation for upcoming helicopter work activities
- \* Project onboarding, orientation and training/development of workers
- \* Emergency preparedness and planning, mock emergency drills completed
- \* Joint Health and Safety Committee Involvement
- \* Promotion of project's Alcohol & Drug policy, Maintenance Support Security Program and Employee Assistance Program.
- \* Security Protocols implementation and monitoring
- \* Fall Protection and Rescue Planning for tower climbing Best Practices
- \* Subcontractor safety support, onboarding, compliance observations, and audits



## Employment Opportunities

- \* Valard Construction invites members of the Participating First Nations to apply for the following positions.

**Administrative Assistant**

**Assemblers**

**Class A Driver**

**Community Support Partner**

**Drafting Technician**

**Emergency Medical Responder**

**Environmental Monitor**

**Excavator Operator**

**Foundations Labourer**

**Fuel Truck Driver**

**General Foreperson/Construction Supervisor**

**Heavy Duty Technician**

**Journeyman Automotive Service Technician**

**Prep/Ground Work Subforeperson**

**Primary Care Paramedic**

**Project Assistant**

**Project Field QC**

**Project Safety Admin**

Please forward resumes to: [watay-resumes@valard.com](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com) and [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca)

For more updates please visit the Valard project website ([www.valard-watay.com](http://www.valard-watay.com)) or:

<https://www.facebook.com/watayproject>

<https://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP>

<https://www.facebook.com/Wataynikaneyap-Power>

<https://www.oslp.ca>—Please visit OSLP's site for a full list of all available positions

Or call: 807-345-2395

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Wataynikaneyap Power at [WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**