

Dempster Fibre Project

Newsletter – Spring 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



Mobilizing materials to site.

Project Activities

During the winter, plans for the 2022 construction season were refined to:

- enhance environmental protection; and
- optimize operations.

Initial field work has now begun in the Yukon with environmental monitoring and rock trenching. Materials and equipment are being mobilized to work sites and a work camp is being assembled.

The prime contractor Rohl is conducting local hiring and providing orientation and training to employees and sub-contractors.

Upcoming Activities

Additional work crews and equipment will mobilize in June. In the Yukon, fibre line will be installed by trenching and burying the cable or suspending it between utility poles. Work will occur between Dawson City and kilometre 400 of the Dempster Highway. In the NWT, horizontal directional boring will be used to cross under the Arctic Red, Peel and Mackenzie rivers.

Environmental work will include:

- water flow and wetland identification;
- animal monitoring;
- invasive vegetation and species-at-risk management; and
- heritage resources management.

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 issue monthly reports to the First Nations and Indigenous groups in whose Traditional Territory we are working. With the increase in planned work, there will be a corresponding increase in environmental monitoring.



Rock trenching crew, preparing for conduit installation.



Various equipment attachments for installing the conduit.

Current and Upcoming Activities

1. Crews working along Dempster Highway.
2. Additional crews mobilizing to the Yukon in June and to the Northwest Territories in July.

Contact Us

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Or Visit our Website:

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