



# Soil Remediation Project

**Community Open House – May 15, 2024**

Duchesnay Hall

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# Project Background

- A niobium ore processing mill operated for seven months in 1956 on Nova Beaucage Road in the community of Yellek.
- The land was returned to Nipissing First Nation after the lease expired in the early 1970s. Buildings were demolished in the 1980s; only the concrete foundation remains.
- Ore tailings from the processing mill were deposited at the mill site, and the former gravel borrow pit north of Highway 17 (next to the Anishinabek Nation head office), now owned by the MTO.
- Material was later removed from the sites to construct roadbeds, spread locally via grading activities around the site, and used as fill at private residences. All these residences were identified during the initial investigations and are part of the remediation plan.

# Project Background

- The niobium tailings are considered a Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM).
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission provides the following definition:

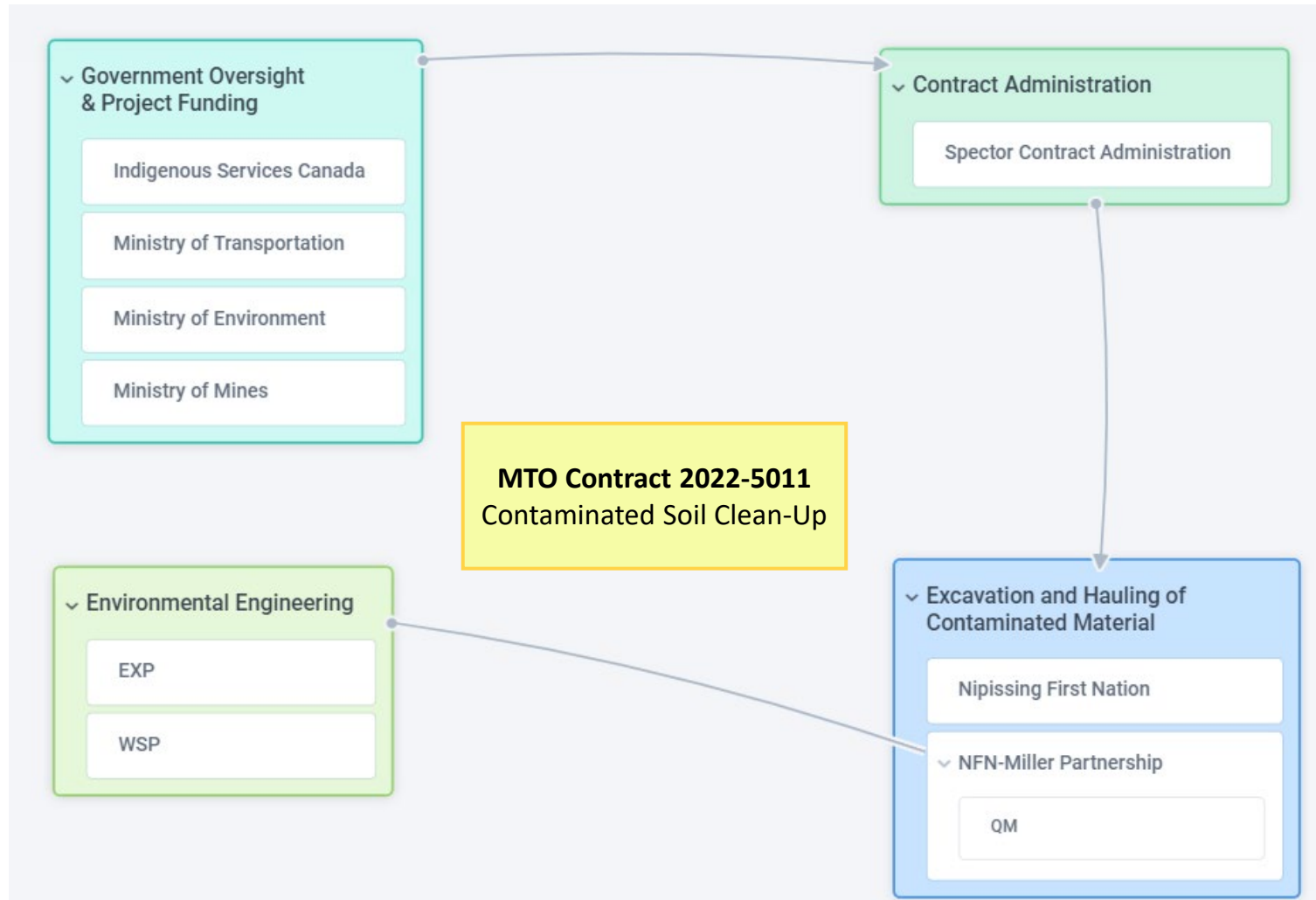
*NORM is material found in the environment that contains radioactive elements of natural origin. NORM primarily contains uranium and thorium (elements that also release radium and radon gas once they begin to decay) and potassium.*

- NORM material will be removed to rehabilitate the sites for future use, including placing topsoil and seeding to restore them to a natural state.

# Project Background

- When NFN's Land Code was being developed, the Land Office included the ore-containing sites in the Individual Agreement between NFN and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), which listed all outstanding legacy issues to be resolved, to ensure funding for the clean-up from ISC.
- When a former Environmental Officer with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) brought the contaminated land owned by the MTO to their attention, Ontario came to the table.
- NFN, ISC and the MTO worked together over the years to get the project to this point and will continue to do so until it is completed.

# Team Resources



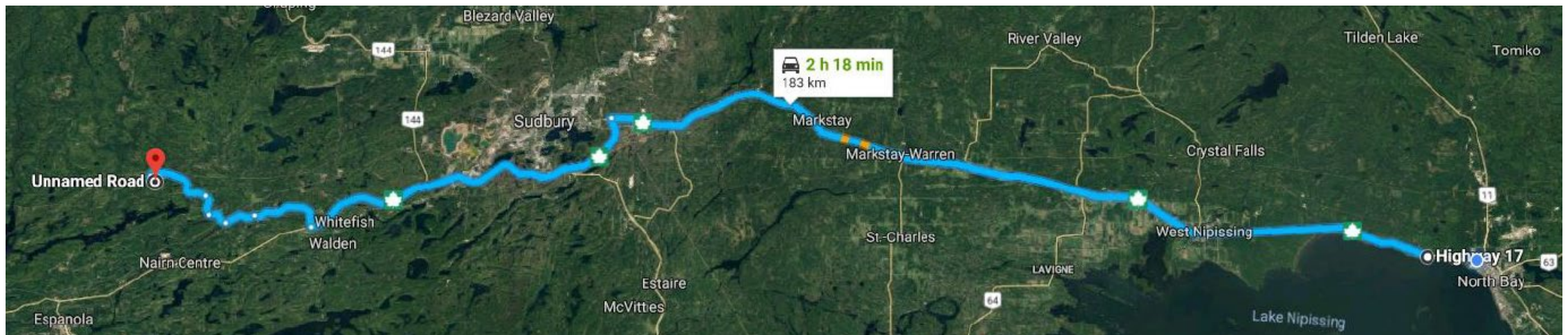
# Team Resources

- **Project Team**
  - NFN Lands, Environment, Infrastructure, Special Projects & Business Operations
  - Indigenous Services Canada
  - Ontario Ministry of Transportation
  - Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks
  - Ontario Ministry of Mines
- **Contract Administrator (Spector)**
- **Contractors**
  - Nipissing Miller (General Contractor)
    - Johnson Construction (Subcontractor)
    - First North Enterprise (Subcontractor)
    - Young Forestry Services (Subcontractor)
- **Support & Outside Services**
  - EXP, WSP & QM Environmental Engineering Firms



# Project Overview

- Contaminated soil will be removed from three work sites and the four identified private residences on NFN and hauled to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area, located approximately 180km from Yellek.
- This federally-regulated area is designed to receive radioactive material. The niobium material coming from NFN is less radioactive than the material currently stored at the Agnew Lake site and will be used as “clean cap” for uranium tailings currently on site. An additional 12-15cm of clean material and topsoil will be placed on top of the NORM and then revegetated.





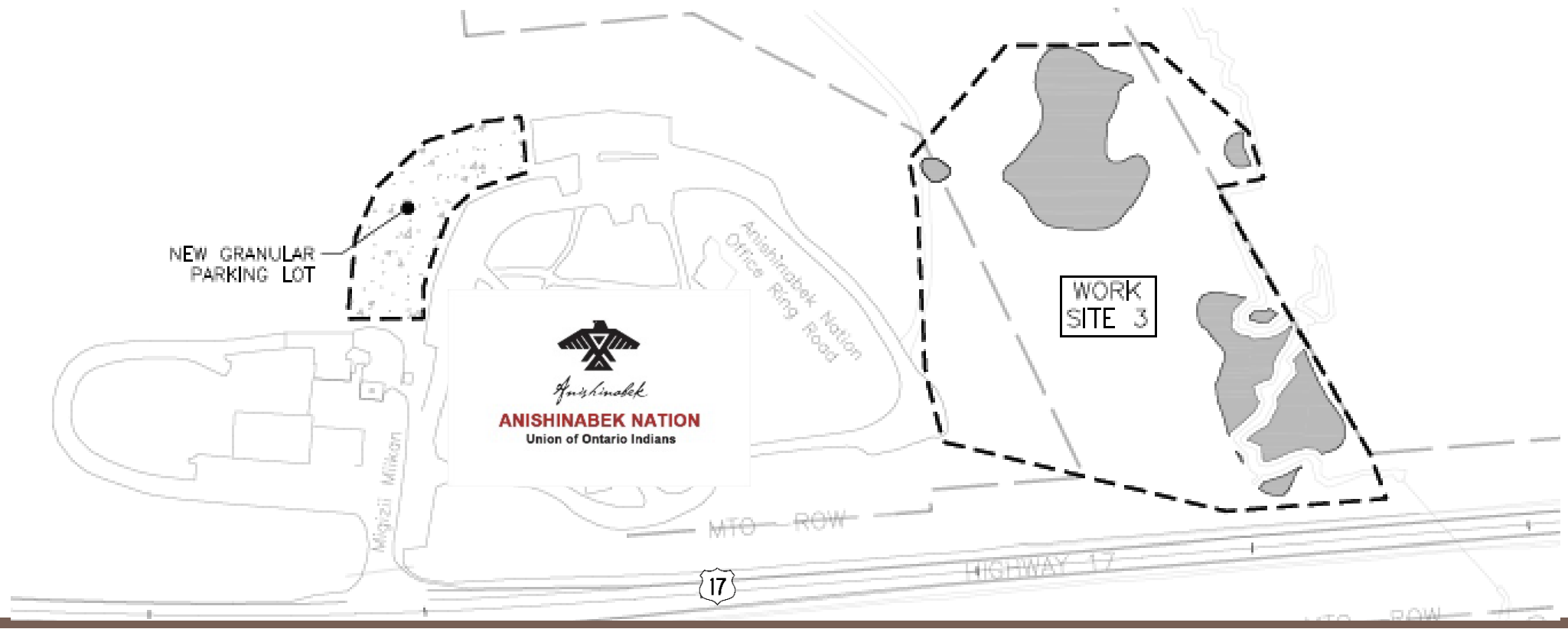
# NFN Work Sites

- **Site #1**: Former Nova Beaucage Mine Site – 15,539 tonnes of material to be removed, along with concrete pad foundation.
- **Site #2**: Section of Nova Beaucage Road at the corner of Ernest Avenue (18 tonnes) and the old Nova Beaucage Road allowance (7,080 tonnes).



# NFN Work Sites

- **Site #3:** MTO Lands east of Anishinabek Nation head office (11,409 tonnes).



# Haul Route

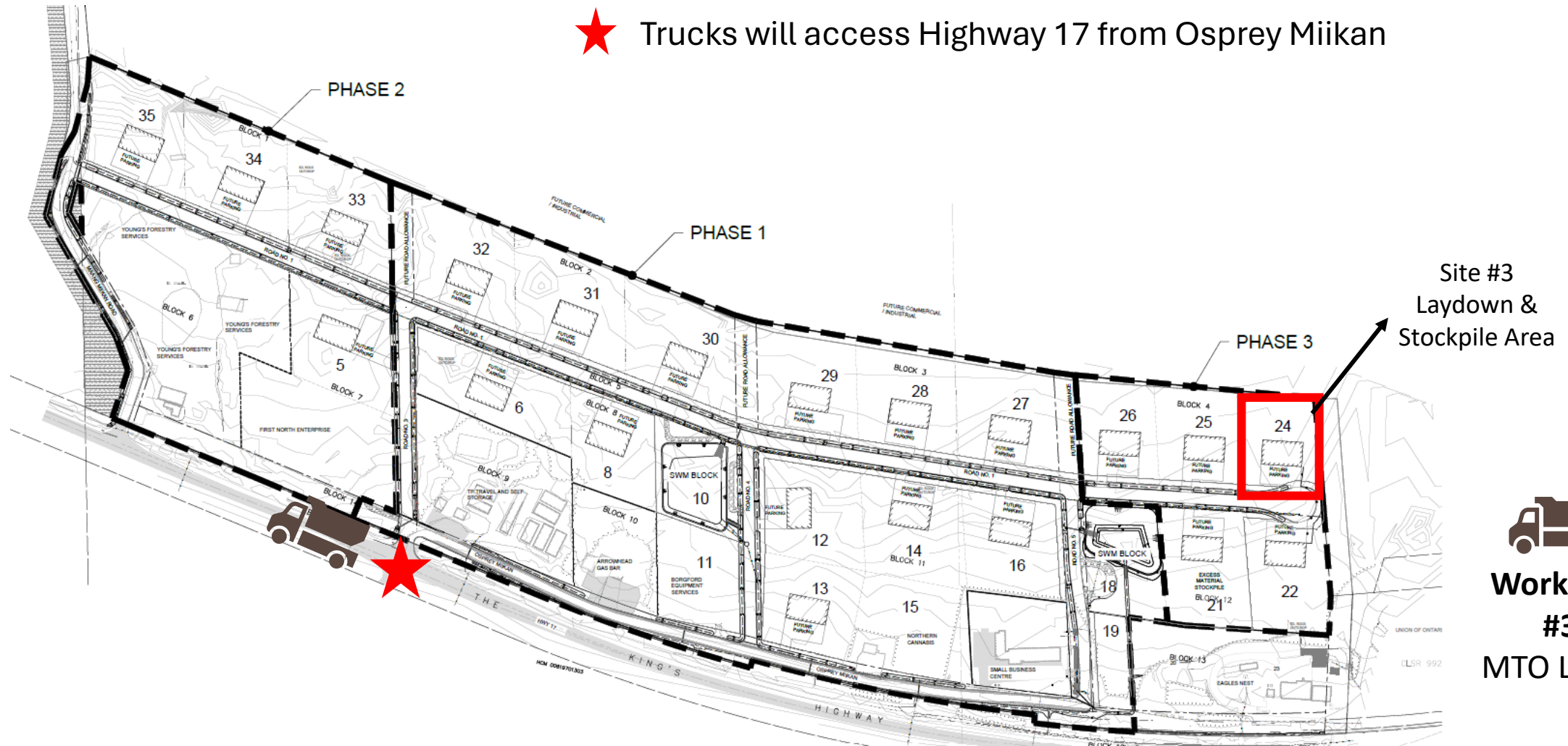


- Nipissing Miller is creating a haul route that circles north of the most northern parking lot at the Anishinabek Nation Office and ties into the newly constructed “Road 1” along the back of the Bineshii Business Park expansion area.
- Prior to material being hauled from Site #3, a joint review will be undertaken by Nipissing Miller, the MTO and Spector CAS to confirm what, if any, additional traffic measures may be necessary to ensure the efficient and safe movement of material to highway 17.



# Haul Route

★ Trucks will access Highway 17 from Osprey Miikan



  
**Work Site #3**  
MTO Lands

# Haul Route

**Site #3 Laydown Area (Lot 24 – Bineshii)**

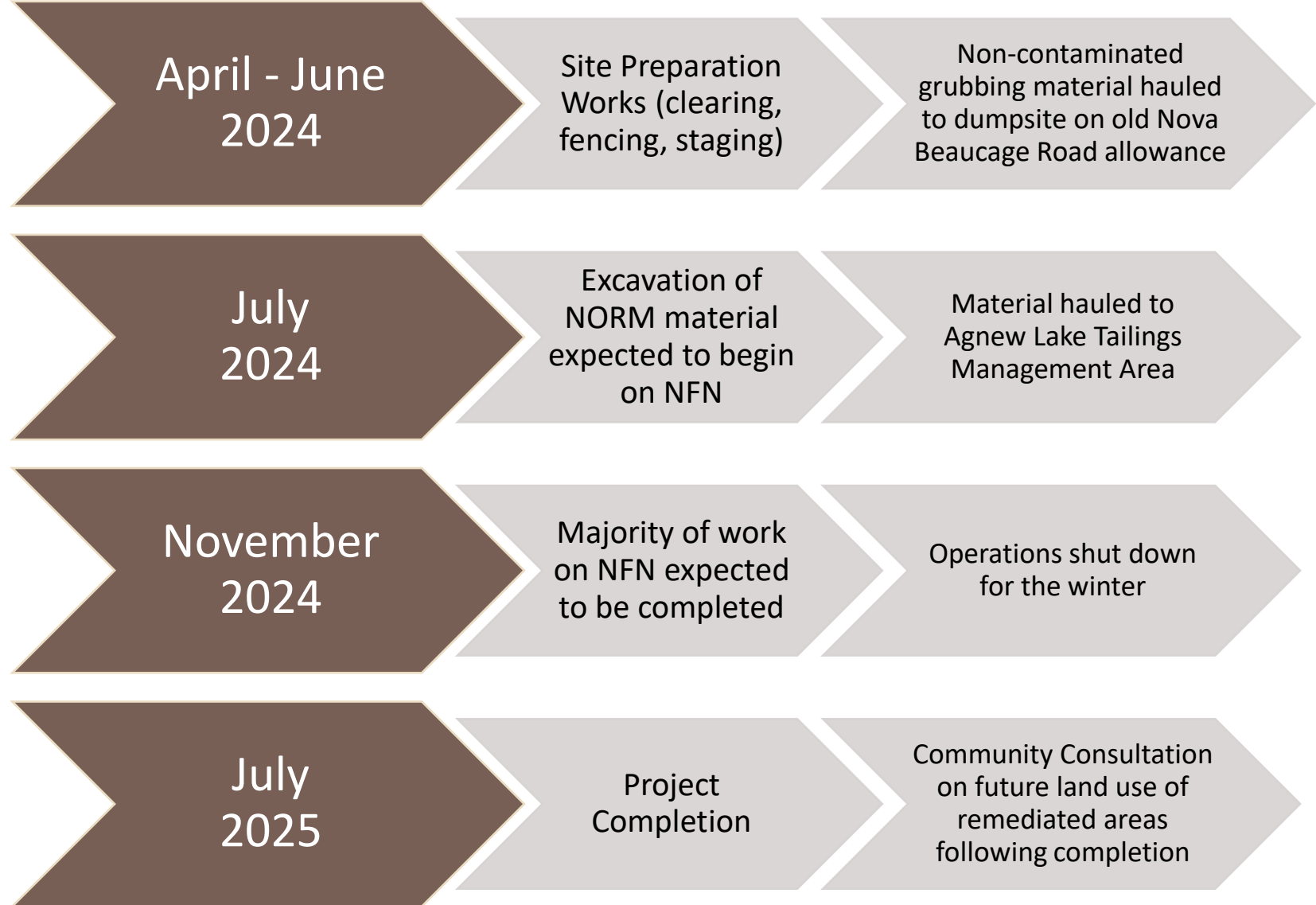


**Route Behind Anishinabek Nation Office**





# Schedule



# Current Status

- Preliminary work began in the fall of 2023 and included site clearing operations, preparation of staging areas, and a new parking area for the Anishinabek Nation office to provide a clear haul route.
- In April 2024, Nipissing Miller began grubbing non-contaminated areas of Sites 1 and 3 and installed fencing.
- The Health and Safety Plan (HASP) has been reviewed by all parties and Nipissing Miller can commence excavation following other preparatory works. There is a HASP for the three work sites and four private residences on NFN, and a separate HASP for the disposal site.



# Current Status

- Excavation of contaminated material is not expected to begin until July 2024.
- Nipissing Miller plans to focus on excavation at private residences first and this work could start in early July.
- We will keep the community updated on the current project status by posting updates via our website ([nfn.ca](http://nfn.ca)), social media, and in our monthly newsletter *Enkamgak*.

# Health and Safety Plan (HASP)

- The project team will include a Health & Safety manager, a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), and a Radiation Protection Technician (RPT).
- All employees working on the sites will be familiar with the HASP and undertake training prior to accessing the site.
- The HASP was developed to ensure strict adherence to all applicable government regulations (related to radiation safety and radiation protection).
- In conjunction with the HASP, Nipissing Miller will employ a dust management plan and soil management plan to prevent the migration of impacted soils during construction.

# Health and Safety Plan (HASP)

- Airborne monitoring will be conducted throughout the lifespan of the contract. Wind direction will be monitored and activities will be stopped if required.
- Security fencing is being installed around all active construction sites. Signage will be installed around fencing.
- Trucks hauling excavated NORM to the ALTMA disposal site will only travel on designated haul roads.
- Trucks transporting unpackaged soils will be inspected to ensure the truck box is tightly closed, gate locks are engaged, and tarps are in place.
- No vehicle shall be released until it is deemed to meet acceptable limits.

# Health and Safety Plan (HASP)

- A 5-meter clear zone from Lake Nipissing will be maintained to avoid environmental issues, and silt fencing will be used on all work sites.
- An Environmental Qualified Person (QP) hired by the MTO will be on-site to conduct tests to ensure that all impacted soil is removed.
- NFN's Environment Manager will also be monitoring operations.
- For safety reasons, residents are asked to avoid all work areas and haul routes, and to respect fenced areas and posted signage.

# What to Expect



**Workers** wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): likely including coveralls and masks. The Health & Safety plan will be strictly followed to ensure worker safety when handling the impacted material.



**Truck traffic:** to transport the NORM material from the NFN excavation sites to the disposal area. Trucks will be securely tarped during transport. To ensure the trucks are clean prior to leaving the excavation area, all trucks will be scanned, cleaned via washing stations, and cleared to transport before leaving the site.



**Washing/Decontamination Stations:** located at each excavation site, these stations will have a containment system in place to control and then dispose of all contaminated materials, including water.

*Water used within the decontamination process will be contained, tested, then treated for safe release with any contaminated materials being trucked away to a safe disposal site.*

# Contacts

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