

## **SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS EXPRESSED BY THE PUBLIC AT CONSULTATION MEETINGS AND THE HYDRO ONE RESPONSE**

Table H-1 provides a list of the key questions expressed by the public at Hydro One's public consultation meeting and Hydro One's response including a proposed method to address or mitigate the issue, as required.

Table H1- List of Comments received and Hydro One responses during public consultation activities

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Description of Issue</b>	<b>Mitigation / Hydro One Response</b>
Consultation process	There was criticism that some potentially affected residents were not informed nor received adequate information about the proposed TS.	<p>Hydro One presented the project to municipal officials at the onset. Hydro One received property owner addresses from the Municipality of West Elgin and used Teranet information for property owners within the Municipality of Chatham Kent. Hydro One also notified residents in the study area via Canada Post Ad Mail, and ran advertisements in local newspapers for a two week publishing cycle before the Public Information Centres (PIC) held in June 2007 and April 2009. Those who signed in at the June 2007 PIC, or expressed interest in being address to the mailing list were provided written notice of the April 2009 PIC through direct mail.</p> <p><u>Local Newspaper Ads</u></p> <p>PIC #1 (2007): Ridgetown Independent, The Dresden Bothwell Spirit Leader, Thamesville Herald (June 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13), West Lorne Elgin Chronicle (May 31 &amp; June 17)</p> <p>PIC #2 (2009): Ridgetown Independent, The Dresden Bothwell Spirit Leader (March 25 &amp; April 1), Thamesville Herald (April 1), West Lorne Elgin Chronicle (March 26 &amp; April 2)</p>

<p>Some residents expressed an interest in being involved in the site selection process.</p>	<p>Stakeholders have an opportunity to review and comment on the site identification process and selection process. Information regarding site selection criteria were provided at PIC #1 and #2, and will be documented in the ESR. The proposed project was announced publicly via newspaper ads and at the first PIC, held in June 2007. Stakeholders were provided with a designated contact person, a project website, project email address and a toll-free project hotline.</p>
<p>Some residents indicated they did not receive notification of PIC#2.</p>	<p>Hydro One informed the municipal staff and agencies about PIC#2. As well, Hydro One arranged for Canada Post Ad mail distribution throughout the study area and ran advertisements in local newspapers for a two week publishing cycle before PIC #2 (See above for dates). Those residents on the mailing list were sent written notice of the April 2009 PIC through direct mail.</p>
<p>One resident expressed that there were 14 HONI staff in attendance but no one with the answers to questions, and they would like to see documentation to back up HONI statements and claims.</p>	<p>Hydro One staff with expertise in various disciplines typically attends our PICs to ensure a wide range of questions can be answered. Specific questions submitted on comment forms will be documented and addressed in this table and in the ESR.</p>

	One resident indicated they preferred a town hall style public meeting on the project as opposed to an open PIC approach.	The PIC approach has been identified by the Ministry of the Environment as an appropriate and interactive method of public consultation that engages two way communication. Hydro One uses PIC's (or open house format) for all EA studies, as do many other proponents who do EA studies for infrastructure development.
	Some PIC #2 attendees asked how they could be informed or participate in the project as it moves forward.	After the PIC #2, a draft Environmental Study Report will become available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days. Details regarding how they can participate in the public review period would be made available via newspaper ads and the project website.
Project timelines	Attendees were interested in the project timelines and "next steps" moving forward.	Next steps include Environmental Study Report (ESR) review period, as indicated above. As part of the site assessment, Geotechnical and Topographical surveys of the site are required. These surveys will take place in the late June- early July 2009 time frame. The scheduled start of construction of the proposed station is April 2010, with an in service date of June 30, 2011.
Future plans	A few residents indicated concerns that the proposed TS is meant to service future wind power generation and is not meant to supply power to local residents.	The proposed station would relieve supply problems between St. Thomas and Kent TS. These issues include voltage problems causing an inability to transfer loads between the two stations. In addition, St. Thomas TS is reaching its end of life, and Kent TS is currently operating at capacity. Hydro One is not in any position to speculate future wind generation in the area, but the station will assist with connecting potential renewable generation projects in the area to the grid

Alternative sites	<p>Some residents wanted more information on the evaluation of alternative sites and the selection of a preferred site.</p> <p>They wondered why the station could not be built in another area (ie. south of the 401). One expressed that they understood that HONI has 3 original options, and that HONI would be constructing this new station plus upgrading the St. Thomas station.</p> <p>One resident inquired about the land available. Questions were raised about other local easements, and wondered if different land might be available at a higher price.</p>	The rationale of the Study Area and Site Selection Process were outlined at each PIC and are outlined in the Draft ESR Sections 2.1 and 5.2.
Opposition to proposed TS	Some residents wondered why the station could not be built in another area (ie south of the 401).	Must be accessible to the existing 230 kv corridor located on the north side, south of the 401 is outside the study area.

Tingle Voltage	Some residents expressed concern about the possibility of “tingle voltage” from the proposed TS in the immediate vicinity of dairy farm operations.	Hydro One does not anticipate any problems with tingle voltage as a result of the TS. Tingle voltage is an issue specific to large animal farming operations. Tingle voltage depends largely on two factors: 1) On-farm electrical problems such as improper grounding of troughs and other equipment, improper wiring, etc; and 2) The low voltage electricity service of the farm (e.g., distance from the DS, types of customer connected to the same feeder, etc.. The construction of a TS does not normally affect existing local service. If tingle voltage problems are suspected, Hydro One has a clear procedure to investigate the issue, which includes carrying out measurements to ascertain if there is indeed a problem, implementing mitigating measures if the source of the problem is the Hydro One distribution network, and assist the customer in the identification of the problem if the cause is due to on-farm problems. Please see website link.
Land use planning	Some residents indicated the proposed TS will be incompatible with the current agricultural landscape, and it will negatively impact property values.	<p>The primary use of the land surrounding the transformer station would still remain agricultural. The station would not be staffed as a work station, and would result in minimal traffic and disruption to area residents.</p> <p>Hydro One will undertake landscaping at selected locations to mitigate the potential visual impact to area residents.</p> <p>In Hydro One’s experience, transformer stations do not affect property value. Typically impacts are during the construction phase of the TS. Once this phase is complete, there is no evidence of decrease in property value.</p>

	Some residents asked why Hydro One is exempt from the <i>Planning Act</i> .	Hydro One is exempt from the Planning Act for projects subject to EA approval. This avoids unnecessary duplication in requirements of the legislation.
	Some residents were concerned that the preferred site was too close to existing houses. They felt this would impact their quality of life.	The closest residence to the preferred site is approximately 280 m away. Hydro One will develop a landscape plan for the station to minimize visual impacts in the surrounding area.
	One resident questioned the size of the land purchased.	MTO policies require building separations from its property limits. Note the subject property neighbors the highway. HONI's station will have live apparatus exposed and also requires separation from the travel portion of the highway, to limit exposure to airborne contaminants. The south east property line forms an irregular shape leaving a sterilized ruminant parcel included in the HONI purchase. HONI in addition acquired the existing transmission line easement strip.  These conditions resulted in an increase purchase area. It may be noted the excesses about the highway and the existing transmission line.
Property owner of preferred site	A few comments about an absentee land owner selling the land to Hydro One.  Residents expressed concern over the he does not live on property and is not affected by project	When purchasing property for a new station facility, it is Hydro One's preference to deal with a willing seller and enter into a fair market, commercial negotiation. In this case, the site meets a number of natural, socio-economic and technical criteria in addition to having a willing seller.  The vendor holdings in the area are significant and currently marketed. HONI solicited the neighborhood for availability and made 3 other offers.

Loss of farm income	Some residents asked if they will be compensated for loss of income during the construction phase.	There should not be any loss of income or impacts on others during construction; HONI has acquired enough land to accommodate construction. Hydro One will compensate farmers for loss of income directly resulting from construction activities for the proposed TS.
Visual impacts	Hydro One should include visual screening or other mitigation measures for local residents to compensate for visual impacts due to the proposed TS.	Hydro One will undertake landscaping at the selected locations to mitigate the potential for visual effects. See section 7.2.4 of the ESR for details and sketches of landscaping plans.
Noise pollution	Some residents asked about noise levels generated by the proposed TS during operation and its impacts on the day-to-day life of local residents.	The TS will produce a humming sound during operation, however, the noise would be subject to the regulatory approval under the Environmental Protection Act, and will meet the Provincial Standards. A noise study would be conducted and subject to the outcome of the study. Appropriate noise mitigation measures would be implemented such as noise barriers.
Light pollution	Some residents asked about light pollution that might be created during the operation of the proposed TS.	The TS is not a manned work station, and permanent lightings will not be installed. There are no emissions from the station.
Lightening strikes	One question related to the potential for increased local lightening strikes.	The number of thunder storm days will not change due to the presence or absence of a TS. If there is a thunder storm, lightning is more likely to hit a tall object. A TS typically has a lightning mast to protect equipment within the station and a sophisticated grounding system to drain the energy of a lightning strike. If such lightning mast is the tallest object around, it would likely decrease the probability of lightning strikes to nearby structures such as barns.

Emergency preparedness	Some residents asked about Hydro One's contingency plan in case of emergency e.g. oil spill or fire.	In the event of a fire or spill, transformer oil would be contained by a spill containment system. An Emergency Response Plan would be initiated to ensure that environmental impact is minimized. Every TS is equipped with an emergency response plan to ensure timely and effective response to various emergencies including spills, fires and injuries.
EMF	Residents expressed concern regarding EMF exposure from the proposed TS.	Hydro One looks to Health Canada for information for guidelines on Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). Research shows that the strongest EMF around a TS comes from the lines (within the ROW), not the TS itself. This strength decreases rapidly with distance. At > 100m away from the station, EMF levels are undistinguishable from background levels in a normal home: Please refer to our website: <a href="http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/environment/emf">http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/environment/emf</a> for links to Health Canada, the World Health Organization, and other sources of information on this subject.
	EMF impacts on children living in close proximity of the proposed TS site.	See response above.
Stray voltage	Some residents asked if stray voltage will occur due to the proposed TS and if it will have any impact.	Stray voltage is another name for tingle voltage. See response for tingle voltage above. The name is misleading, but it has become commonly used.

Wildlife and climate change concerns	Concern was expressed over the potential impacts the proposed project may have on the Monarch butterfly's flight path, feeding area, and health. As well, an overall concern was raised if the project may have impact on pollution and climate change.	Hydro One owns and operates almost 400 transformer stations in rural and urban locations across Ontario. Stations are built to meet all environmental requirements, including minimal effects to wildlife that reside within the study area. In regards to concerns on the Monarch Butterfly's migration route, research indicates that there is no evidence that transmission facilities have any effect on the migration path, feeding or health. The greatest impacts on monarch butterflies in south western Ontario are abandoned farms being put into production, succession of abandoned farmlands into wooded and brushy habitats, and active programs to eliminate milkweed. The proposed transformer station will have no effect on other wildlife. Because construction disturbance will be local, little displacement of wildlife will occur, and any displaced animals will likely return after construction.  In terms of climate change, the TS does not emit any gases that contribute to climate change
	Would the proposed project impact wildlife, specifically birds in the vicinity of the proposed site.	See above response.
Impacts on Livestock	Impacts on livestock including pigs, poultry, cattle, horses, dairy.	A new TS would not affect livestock any more than the existing high voltage transmission circuit would. Farming operations use right of way land routinely with out any documented adverse effects.
Dimensions and location of station	Questions related to the dimensions and basic layout of the station.	See Figure 6.1 for details of the proposed station.

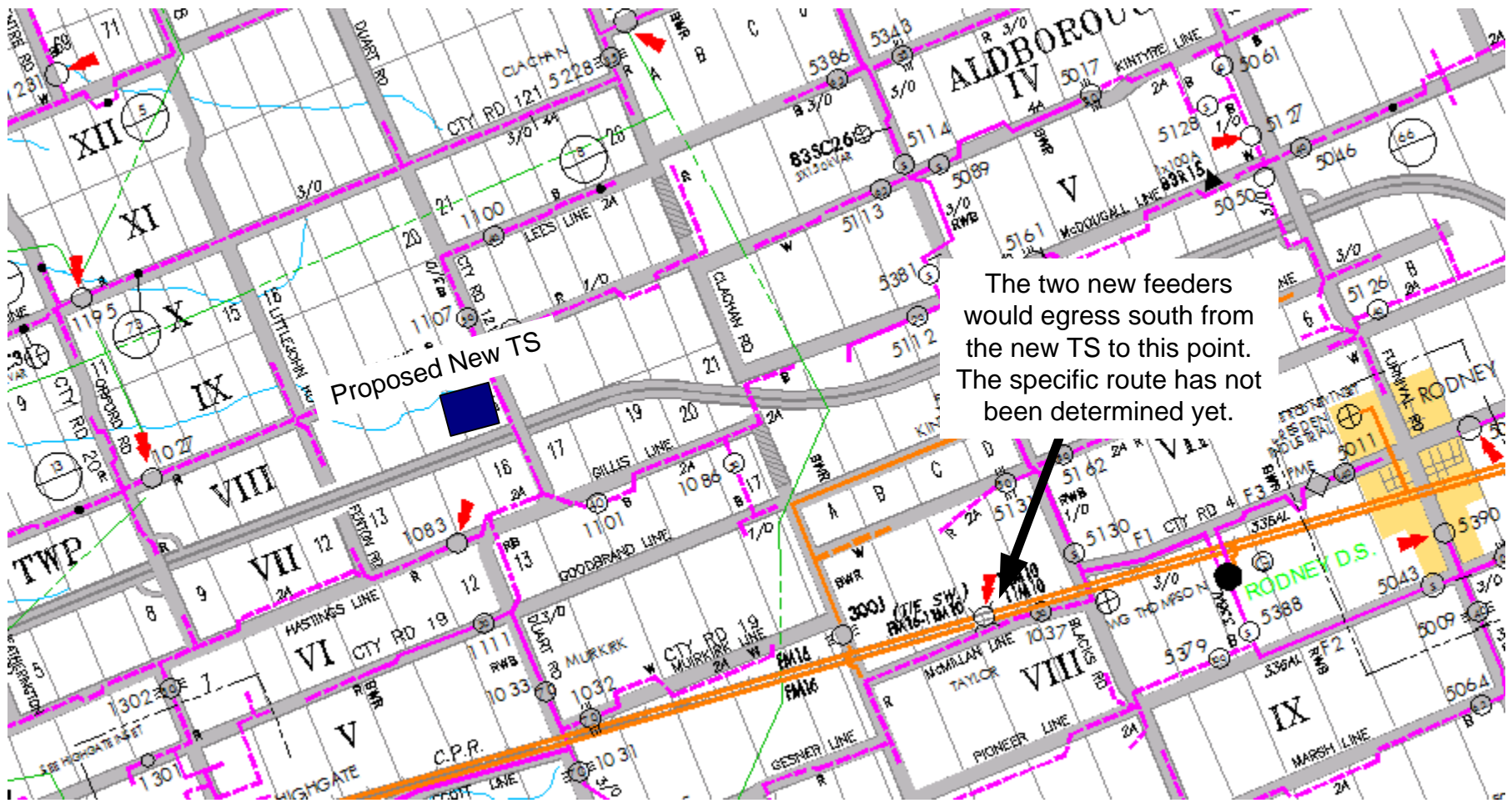
<p>Questions regarding height of the station and could it impact the private registered aerodrome located just north of the preferred Duart Rd. TS site. (A resident indicated the proposed TS should be lower than the wires or towers at this location.)</p>	<p>The construction of the new station will not produce any structure higher than the tower located at the site. Transport Canada has no requirements or issues with the proposed Duart TS project and does not require Hydro One to follow any specific process. The proposed Duart TS will not introduce any structures higher than the existing towers from the 230 kV east-west line which parallels Highway 401 in the vicinity of the site. Transport Canada has suggested that Hydro One work with the owner of the aerodrome directly regarding any specific issues with the station.</p> <p>The approximate height of the lightning mast is 27.45 m, and is the tallest structure in the DS. This is well below the height of the towers.</p>
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Construction impacts	<p>Question relating to potential damage to septic beds, wells, tile drains, and other infrastructure and compaction of soils on agricultural properties.</p> <p>Concerns relating to the timing of construction due to crop planting/harvesting and regarding adequate notification prior to the commencement of work.</p>	<p>Hydro One construction activities will be restricted to the site. If private property use is required Hydro One will consult with affected property owners for permission and identify underground and essential infrastructure. Prior notification will be given of any requirement to access private property. Hydro one will inform surrounding owners of its construction schedule. Hydro One will make its best efforts to accommodate timing of construction activities so they do not to interfere with farm operations.</p> <p>Hydro One will repair at its expense any damage attributed to its construction use to an owner’s infrastructure or property, and when construction is complete will remediate any soil compaction that has occurred. Standard best practices will be followed to ensure typical construction disturbances (e.g. dust and noise) are minimized. See section 7 of the ESR for details on potential effects and mitigation measures.</p>
	Construction impacts on wildlife.	Stations are built to meet all environmental requirements, including minimal effects to wildlife that reside within the study area. The proposed transformer station will have no effect on other wildlife. Because construction disturbance will be local, little displacement of wildlife will occur, and any displaced animals will likely return after construction.
Distribution	Location of distribution lines and layout from the proposed TS.	See attached map

	<p>Two neighbours to the south wanted to know if the station is going to improve their power restoration time when experiencing outages.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The new station would provide the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced distribution feeder length and the risk of outages due to shorter feeder exposure.</li> </ul> <p>Improved ability to transfer load formerly supplied by St-Thomas TS, between</p>
<p>Distribution Area Study for St. Thomas TS to Kent TS</p>	<p>Concerns that the technical study contradicts the decision to select the Duart Rd. site.</p>	<p>The study recommended Rodney area. A study area was defined to meet transmission, distribution, real estate and environmental requirements.</p>

<p>Some residents commented that they are currently not experiencing power outages or brownouts, and therefore do not see the “need” for the project</p>	<p>The need for the project is based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St-Thomas TS is at end of life</li> <li>• The present configuration has limitations and issues due to long distribution feeders (45km): voltage issues, degraded reliability due to long exposure, and inability to transfer loads from Kent TS to St-Thomas Thomas (since St-Thomas is a 3-wire and Kent is a 4-wire system)</li> <li>• The 115kV circuit which currently supplies St-Thomas requires relief. The new station would allow to transfer the load from the 115kV to 230kV circuits.</li> <li>• Reduce distribution losses.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the strong technical need for a new TS to serve the community now and in the future, The Green Energy Act, which was recently passed by the Ontario Government, seeks to help ensure Ontario’s green economic future. A major component of this Act requires Hydro One to facilitate the connection of renewable energy projects. The proposed Duart TS would provide an additional connection point on Hydro One’s Transmission grid.</p>
<p>Some residents indicated that upgrading the existing St. Thomas and Kent TSs is most practical course of action, as opposed to building a new TS near the Town of Rodney.</p>	<p>Upgrading St-Thomas TS was considered but is not the preferred option since:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It does not address reliability and voltage issues</li> <li>• St-Thomas is at a distant location from the load pockets</li> <li>• St-Thomas does not address the transmission supply issues</li> <li>• St-Thomas does not reduce losses.</li> </ul> <p>St-Thomas is not the least cost alternative.</p>

Project name	A few comments were made about the "name" chosen for the project. The proposed site is away from the Town of Rodney and thus it does not make sense to name the proposed TS site as the "Rodney TS".	The name of the proposed station has been changed to "Duart TS".
Other	Interference with personal and business electronic communication equipment affecting reliability	Transformer stations do not typically cause interference with personal and business electronic communications equipment, such as cell phones, computers, internet connections, etc.
	Soil characteristics that do not ground circuits and equipment well.	A soil resistivity test was conducted for the Duart TS site, and the results are acceptable and in accordance with the <i>Ontario Hydro Transmission and Distribution Grounding Guide</i> for building the proper grounding equipment and



The two new feeders would egress south from the new TS to this point. The specific route has not been determined yet.