

## 9.0 Conclusions

Hydro One is proposing to construct Duart TS, a new 230-27.6 kV TS in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent near the Town of Highgate. The existing St Thomas TS would be decommissioned in the future as part of this project.

The proposed new TS falls within the definition of the projects covered by the Class EA document for Minor Transmission Projects approved under the *EA Act*.

This Draft ESR has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the *EA Act* and it describes the Class EA process that has been carried out for this project. Contingent on the successful completion of the EA process, detailed engineering will be completed and construction will commence in April 2010. The new Duart TS needs to be in-service by June 30, 2011 in order to maintain reliable service in the Municipalities of Chatham-Kent, West Elgin and surrounding areas.

Environmental, socio-economic and technical criteria were established to identify and evaluate alternative sites. Based on the analysis undertaken, Site 5 was selected as the preferred site. This is to be known as Duart TS and it is situated on the west side of Duart Road, just north of the existing transmission corridor, and north of Highway 401. This site is available for purchase and can be developed and placed in-service by June 30, 2011.

Potential short term and long term environmental effects were identified and corresponding mitigation measures were suggested for the preferred TS site.

Hydro One has conducted extensive public and government agency consultations since May 2007 to inform stakeholders about the project and to identify issues and concerns and to resolve or propose appropriate measures to mitigate concerns. Provincial ministries, agencies, county and local municipalities, Conservation Authorities and property owners were consulted by way of meetings, telephone conversations and mailing of project information.

Two PICs were held for this project in June 2007 and April 2009. The local community and key interest groups were notified about the project and the PICs by way of newspaper advertisements and direct mail outs. A dedicated project contact was made available and a project web page was also created on Hydro One's corporate website. A toll-free inquiry line also provided the public with the ability to speak with a Hydro One representative at any time to provide comments or obtain further information on the project.

This Draft ESR is being made available for public and government agency review and comment from June 25 to August 25, 2009. During the review period, comments and issues received regarding the proposed project will be reviewed and addressed. The issues raised and Hydro One responses will be documented in the Final ESR. Any request to elevate or "bump-up" this Class EA to an Individual EA will also be included in the Final ESR. After the review period, the ESR will be finalized and filed with the MOE for a decision. At this time, the project would be considered acceptable and would proceed as outlined in the ESR.