

## 8. Monitoring Program

Monitoring helps to confirm that predictions of effects are accurate and mitigation measures are effective. Monitoring also confirms that the commitments, conditions of approval, where applicable, and compliance with other environmental legislation, e.g. the *Environmental Protection Act*, are met. An Environmental Specialist will be assigned to the project for the duration of construction to monitor construction activities and provide guidance on needed field changes.

As previously noted in **Chapter 7**, a project-specific Environmental Specification will be prepared to guide construction activities. The specification will be based on the commitments, requirements of all relevant environmental legislation, terms and conditions of approval (if any) and good environmental construction practices, e.g. as set out in Hydro One's *Environmental Guidelines for Construction and Maintenance of Transmission Facilities* (Hydro One 1993).

At the end of construction, an as-constructed plan will be prepared to guide ongoing operation and maintenance activities. The plan will document as constructed conditions as well as any ongoing monitoring requirements. The plan will be put in place to ensure that the project is constructed in compliance with the:

- Commitment made in the Class EA;
- Terms and conditions of OEB approval and other permits, licenses and approvals;  
and
- Other legislated requirements.

Some issues monitored during construction will include:

- Noise, vibration and dust levels;
- Water drainage, runoff, silt and spills;
- Waste materials management;
- Protection of cultural and heritage features;

- Storm water management measures at the construction site;
- Restoration of the ROW.

A post-construction monitoring program will include inspection of areas that have been restored, including any newly planted trees and any other vegetation, ditch crossings and potential erosion areas identified during construction (as required). The effects of the project, the effectiveness of the mitigation approaches, and the need for remedial action will be assessed in the program.

Monitoring reports will be prepared and submitted as required to the OEB after the completion of the project.

## 9. Conclusion

Hydro One is proposing to refurbish the Midtown Toronto power corridor. The existing infrastructure was originally built in the 1920s and the first underground cable laid in the 1950s. Hydro One is proposing to rebuild the existing overhead double-circuit transmission line as a three-circuit line between Leaside Transformer Station (TS) and Bayview Junction (Jct), replace the existing aging underground cable (L14W) and install a second new circuit between Bayview Jct and Birch Jct by means of rock tunnel method, and re-string the conductors on the existing double-circuit transmission line, between Birch Jct and Bridgman TS.

The requirement to increase electrical transmission capacity along the 115 kV circuits between Leaside TS and Bridgman TS, has been confirmed by the Ontario Power Authority (OPS, 2006) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO, 2007).

This Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Ontario *EA Act* and describes the Class EA process that has been carried out for this project. Subject to necessary permits, licences and approvals, construction could begin in 2010, and the strengthened power corridor could be fully operational by April 2013. Once completed, the Midtown Project will supply reliable service to homes and businesses in the midtown Toronto area and the surrounding areas to the west.

Environmental, socio-economic and technical criteria were established to identify and evaluate alternative routes. Based on the analysis undertaken, Route Option 1 was selected as the preferred route and tunneling as the preferred method of construction with minimal effects.

Potential short term and long term environmental effects were identified and corresponding mitigation measures were suggested for the proposed undertaking.

Hydro One has conducted extensive public and government agency consultation since November 2008 to inform stakeholders about the project, to identify issues and concerns and to resolve or propose appropriate mitigation measures. First Nations communities, ministries, agencies, City of Toronto, TRCA, residents' associations, school boards, property owners and other interest groups were consulted by way of meetings, telephone conversation, email correspondence and mailing of project information.

Two sets of Public Information Centres (PIC) were held for this project in February and December 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 and a project web page were made available throughout the planning process. A project hotline was also provided to the public, which enabled them to speak with a Hydro One representative at anytime to provide comments, ask questions, or obtain further information on the project.

A Draft ESR was made available for public and government agencies for review and comment from March 8, 2010 to June 25, 2010. During the review period, comments and issues were received regarding the proposed project. The issues raised and Hydro One's responses are documented in **Chapter 4** of this ESR. No Part 2 Order requests were received to elevate the Midtown Electricity Infrastructure Renewal Project Class EA to an Individual EA.

Through filing this Final ESR with the MOE, Hydro One has complied with the EA Act for the Midtown Electricity Infrastructure Renewal Project, and the project is considered acceptable. Hydro One will proceed with the undertaking outlined in the report. Hydro One will seek any required approvals, licenses, and permits, as necessary.

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