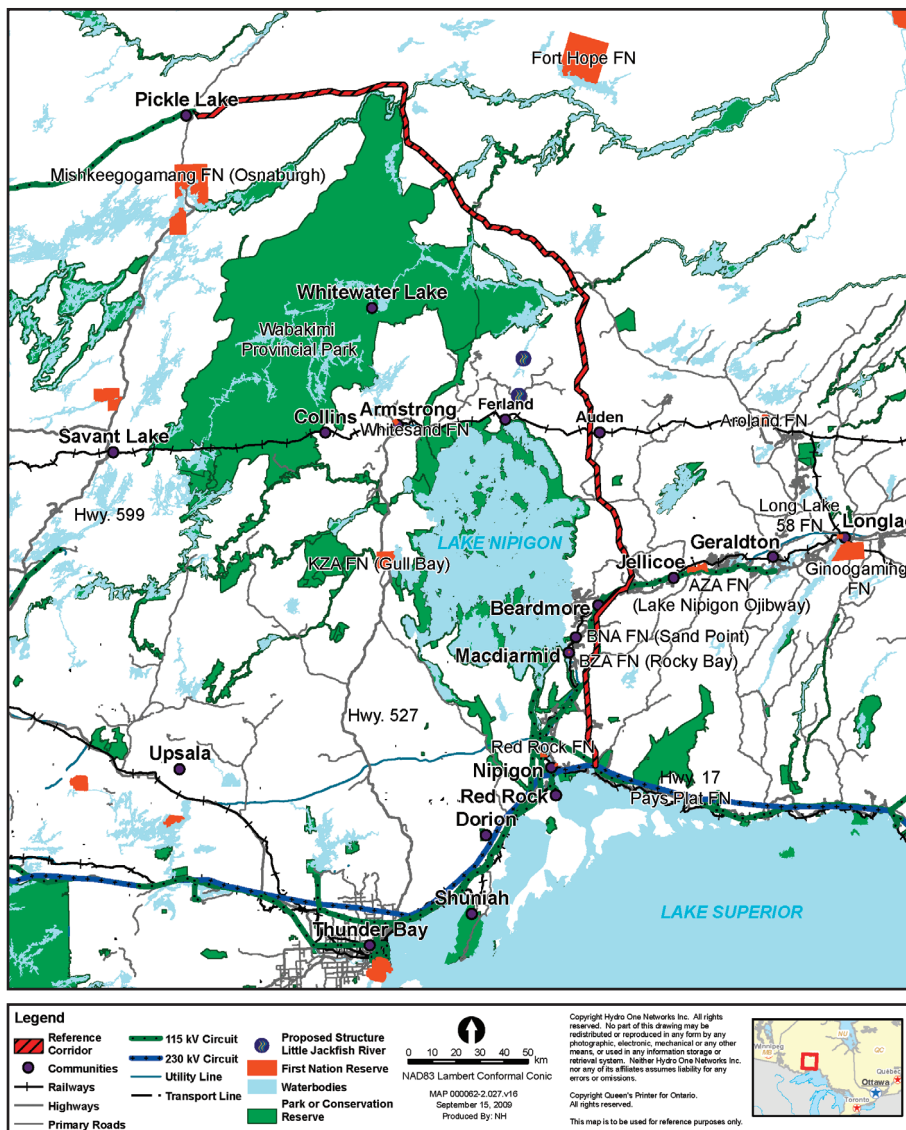


A Hydro One Project **Connecting**
Ontario's **Green Energy** Future

Commencement of the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment of the Northwest Transmission Expansion Project

RELIABILITY • CAPACITY • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



- **Grid Reinforcement** – Building the line would lay the groundwork for a future 230 kV connection between Dryden Transformer Station and the new station in the Pickle Lake area, creating a 230 kV ring and strengthening the grid's capacity in the northwest.
- **Economic Development** – The project has the potential to create direct and indirect construction jobs, green jobs and related economic benefits for northwestern Ontario communities and businesses.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) PROCESS

The Northwest Transmission Expansion Project is being undertaken in accordance with the *EA Act*. The first step in the process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference ("ToR") to provide the framework for the preparation of the environmental assessment. The ToR will define Hydro One's work plan for addressing the requirements of the *EA Act* when completing the environmental assessment. The ToR is subject to approval by the Minister of the Environment.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD (OEB) APPROVAL

The project also requires Leave to Construct approval pursuant to section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. The OEB, as regulator of Ontario's electricity industry, will determine whether the construction and operation of the proposed facilities are in the public interest.

CONSULTATION

Hydro One is committed to developing this important project in full consultation with affected parties. First Nations and Métis communities, members of the public, government ministries and agencies and interested stakeholders are encouraged to actively participate in the environmental assessment process, including the development of the ToR. Consultation opportunities are planned throughout the region to support the EA and OEB processes.

Public Information Centres (PICs) will be one of the main tools used for consultation. We encourage you to attend one of the PICs, where you will have the opportunity to learn more about the project and reference corridor, provide input, and discuss any issues or concerns with our project team.

Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") has initiated a project under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act* (the "*EA Act*") to build an approximately 430-kilometre, single-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line on a new corridor from near the Township of Nipigon to near the Township of Pickle Lake in northwestern Ontario. The project would also include building new stations near Nipigon and Pickle Lake and is estimated to be in-service in late 2013. A reference corridor, as shown above, will be studied by Hydro One to identify potential route alternatives and assess their potential environmental effects.

If approved, the Northwest Transmission Expansion Project would improve reliability and increase transmission capacity to meet existing and future electricity demand in northwestern Ontario. This project also supports the Province of Ontario's vision under the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* by providing the infrastructure needed to connect renewable generation to the provincial transmission system in the future.

The project would address a number of needs and provide critical benefits to the northwestern electricity system and communities:

- **Reliability** – The existing 115 kV transmission line between Ear Falls and Pickle Lake (E1C) is aging and has a poor performance record. The new line would provide an alternate source of supply resulting in improved reliability.
- **Capacity** – Electricity growth is expected to increase beyond the capacity of E1C, and the new line would provide the opportunity for existing customers to grow and for future customers to be connected to the provincial electricity system.
- **Renewables** – Northwestern Ontario has significant renewable generation potential, including approximately 100 megawatts (MW) at Ontario Power Generation's proposed Little Jackfish Hydroelectric Development and up to 280 MW of wind potential on the east side of Lake Nipigon. The line would provide the transmission capacity to develop this renewable generation.
- **Remote Communities** – The proposed line offers the opportunity for First Nations and other remote communities to connect to the grid in the future, reducing their dependency on diesel generation.

In addition, Hydro One is undertaking a consultation process with potentially affected First Nations and Métis communities. PICs will be conducted in these communities as requested.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES # 1

Tuesday, October 27	Pickle Lake	4 – 8 p.m.
Community Hall		
Wednesday, October 28	Thunder Bay	4 – 8 p.m.
Valhalla Inn – Ballroom 3 1 Valhalla Inn Road		
Tuesday, November 3	Beardmore	4 – 8 p.m.
Beardmore Complex		
Wednesday, November 4	Nipigon	4 – 8 p.m.
Nipigon Community Centre		
Thursday, November 5	Armstrong	4 – 8 p.m.
Lion's Club Community Hall		

If you wish to be added to the project mailing list or would like further information about the project and future consultation opportunities, contact:

Enza Cancilla, Manager, Public Affairs
Corporate Communications
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Tel: 1-877-345-6799 Fax: (416) 345-6984
Email: community.relations@HydroOne.com
Website: www.HydroOne.com/Northwest

Unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.