

**SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS  
AND HYDRO ONE RESPONSES**

The following table provides a summary of key issues expressed by property owners, stakeholders and interested parties during Hydro One's consultation process, including comments provided in verbal and written format at the two Public Information Centres held on February 21, 2008 and February 5, 2009. Also included in the table are Hydro One's responses or proposed measures to resolve or mitigate the issue.

**Table C: Summary of Stakeholder and Public Comments and Issues and Hydro One Responses**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Description of Issue</b>	<b>Hydro One Response</b>
<b>Evaluation process for preferred TS site</b>	A few participants had questions about the evaluation process that lead to the identification of the preferred site for Commerce Way TS.	Data gathered from maps, field visits and discussions with the relevant agencies were used as part of the site selection process. Data regarding natural environment, socio-economic environment, and cost and technical were analyzed, and the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative sites were studied in order to rank the sites in order of preference. See <b>Chapter 5.0</b> for more details.
<b>Proximity of TS to Hwy 401</b>	A representative from the MTO explained main concerns would relate to transmission lines crossing Hwy 401 , and that MTO would need to review site plan and permits could be required, if the station is to be located in close proximity to the highway.	The proposed location of the new Commerce Way TS is 300m away from Hwy 401 , not near the Highway 401 corridor.
<b>Appearance and boundaries of Commerce Way TS</b>	One commercial property owner of an undeveloped site near the preferred site for Commerce Way TS inquired about the proposed appearance of the station. The individual’s main concern is that the site be aesthetically pleasing since it will occupy the corner at one of the entranceways to Commerce Way Business Park.	<p>The proposed Commerce Way TS would have a footprint of approximately 150 m x 150 m on a 6-acre parcel of land. The exact property boundaries and location of the station on the site have not yet been determined as Hydro One is still in the process negotiating the purchase of the property.</p> <p>The station equipment would be low-profile, and fenced for safety and security. The site will be landscaped to ensure it’s aesthetically compatible with other businesses in the area.</p> <p>Hydro One has already spoken to City officials about this issue and will create a landscape plan that complies with the City of Woodstock’s Landscape Design Guideline (December, 1996). Simulations of the proposed TS and a 3-D model of the TS landscape concept are provided as <b>Figure 5-3</b> and <b>Figure 7-1</b> in this draft ESR, respectively.</p>

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<b>Protection of wetlands</b>	A few residents expressed the importance of protecting the wetland within the study area, and urged Hydro One to select a TS site away from the wetland.	The proposed TS site, on the east side of the Commerce Way Business Park, is located about 1050m away from the Brick Ponds Wetland.
<b>Property values</b>	<p>A few residential landowners who live along the south side of Parkinson Road within a commercially-zoned area expressed concerns regarding the potential effects of the proposed TS on their property values. They expressed their preference that the TS be built as far east as possible within the study area.</p> <hr/> <p>A few of the owners explained that their residential properties had been re-zoned for commercial/ industrial use and inquired if Hydro One would consider purchasing these properties for the proposed transformer station.</p> <hr/> <p>One commercial property owner of an undeveloped site near the preferred site for Commerce Way TS was concerned that the new station could have a negative impact on the value and future development potential of his property.</p>	<p>Hydro One’s criteria for evaluating alternative sites and selecting a preferred site for the new TS included avoiding close proximity to residential areas.</p> <p>The preferred site for Commerce Way TS is about 1430m away from the nearest residential property.</p> <hr/> <p>Selecting a site in the eastern part of the Commerce Way Business Park is also preferable to Hydro One and Woodstock Hydro from a technical point of view; as such, Hydro One did not consider it feasible to pursue discussions with these landowners regarding their potential interest in selling their properties.</p> <hr/> <p>The location of a transformer station in a commercial/industrial area is a compatible land use. Many of the businesses looking to locate in the area require a reliable supply of electricity, and as such the reinforced electrical system should be viewed as a positive feature for future economic development which is attractive to business and industry considering located in Woodstock.</p>
<b>Tower types and locations</b>	A majority of individuals, when questioned, indicated their preference for steel poles in residential areas instead of lattice towers. The Mayor of Woodstock has also expressed a preference for steel poles, and would like to	Hydro One’s general practice is to propose steel poles in built residential areas, which would include the section of the transmission line between Woodstock TS and Norwich Avenue. In commercially-zoned areas, Hydro One’s practice is to install lattice towers. For this

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	<p>see them along the entire route from Woodstock TS to Commerce Way TS.</p> <hr/> <p>A few individuals also inquired about where the new towers (structures) would be located and the construction process.</p>	<p>project, narrow base lattice structures are being proposed for the section of the transmission line between Norwich Avenue and Commerce Way TS.</p> <p>Because steel poles are more expensive than narrow-base lattice structures, Hydro One is discussing this issue with Woodstock Hydro which is sharing the cost of the project with Hydro One.</p> <hr/> <p>The overall number of transmission structures should not change. The new structures will be in the same location as the existing structures, and construction activities related to the upgrading of the existing transmission line would occur mainly within the existing right-of-way.</p> <p>Hydro One will be consulting with the County Roads Supervisor regarding minor adjustments to the location of one tower on the south side of Parkinson Road to maximize clearance for turning traffic.</p>
<b>Long-term plans for Woodstock TS</b>	<p>A question was raised about the possibility of decommissioning Woodstock TS once the new Commerce Way TS is in service.</p>	<p>The Woodstock TS will not be decommissioned after Commerce Way TS and Karn TS (to be constructed in the Township of South-West Oxford) are in service. Woodstock TS cannot be expanded due to its location within Southside Park; however, it will continue to be an integral part of the electrical infrastructure that supplies the Woodstock area.</p>
<b>Construction impacts</b>	<p>A few individuals inquired about construction impacts, and in particular potential disruption to traffic along Parkinson Road.</p>	<p>Hydro One will consult with affected property owners prior to the start of construction to identify underground infrastructure and to discuss the location of any construction access points that may be required along the right-of-way. Prior notification will be given for any pre-construction work, such as soil testing, and Hydro One will inform affected owners and municipal and county officials of its construction schedule.</p>

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		<p>Hydro One will make best efforts to minimize impacts of its construction activities on area residents and businesses and will restore the right-of-way to pre-construction condition when the project is complete.</p> <p>Any required interruption to traffic along Parkinson Road will be temporary and will be coordinated with local road supervisors. Appropriate traffic control measures will be put into place as appropriate to ensure the safety of motorists and construction crews.</p> <p>Standard best practices will be followed to ensure typical construction disturbances, such as dust and noise are controlled.</p>
<p><b>Stability of transmission structures</b></p>	<p>A resident in the study area inquired about the stability of the transmission poles and towers and their potential to fall on adjacent lands.</p>	<p>Hydro One’s transmission structures are designed to withstand severe wind and a weather conditions. If a tower were to fall – an extremely rare occurrence – the towers are designed to fall within the transmission corridor, and do so because of the tension on the wires attached to the towers. If a tower were to be hit or the wires knocked down, automated protection systems will instantly shut electricity on that circuit to protect public safety.</p>
<p><b>Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)</b></p>	<p>A few individuals asked about potential health effects of the transmission line (e.g. exposure to EMFs).</p>	<p>For more than 30 years, research studies have examined the possibility that exposure to EMFs might affect health. While national and international health agencies, including Health Canada and the World Health Organization, have concluded that the scientific research does not demonstrate that EMFs cause or contribute to adverse health effect, some questions remain the subject of on-going research.</p> <p>Hydro One recognizes that some people have concerns about EMFs and we take seriously our responsibility to understand,</p>

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		<p>appropriately address and communicate information on this subject.</p> <p>Hydro One refers to Health Canada’s position on EMFs. The federal agency responsible for regulating and advising on health issues has stated that: “there is no compelling scientific evidence that EMFs in living and school environments, regardless of locations from power transmission lines, cause ill health such as cancer. This position is consistent with the overall opinion from most national and international scientific bodies.”</p> <p>A copy of a Health Canada’s Fact Sheet <i>Electric and Magnetic Fields at extremely low frequencies</i> was provided at the PICs, and it contains links to Health Canada’s website (<a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca">www.hc-sc.gc.ca</a>) and other useful publications. The fact sheet is provided in Appendix xx of this document.</p> <p>Information about EMF and links to other organizations is also available at <a href="http://www.HydroOneNetworks.com">www.HydroOneNetworks.com</a>, under the Environment Section.</p>
<b>Proposed in-service date</b>	One individual representing a company located in the area was concerned that the new transmission facilities will not be in service quickly enough for manufacturing plants and other just-in-time suppliers who need a reliable supply of power.	The proposed transmission facilities are scheduled to be in-service by late 2011. This facility cannot be connected until the facilities located between Ingersoll TS and Woodstock TS, including Karn TS, are in-service.
<b>Status of other Woodstock Area Transmission Infrastructure Projects</b>	Some individuals asked about other projects in the area, such as the Woodstock Area Transmission Reinforcement Project which was approved by the Ontario Energy Board in October 2007.	Hydro One has responded to strong economic growth in the Woodstock area with three transmission projects representing a total investment of \$134 million, the first of which was the transmission connection of the new Toyota Woodstock Manufacturing Plant. Hydro One has also begun construction on the Woodstock Area Transmission Reinforcement Project between Ingersoll TS and Woodstock TS. More information

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		<p>on this project is available at <a href="http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/newprojects">www.hydroonenetworks.com/newprojects</a></p>
<p><b>Project timeline and decision making / approval process</b></p>	<p>One commercial property owner of an undeveloped site near the preferred site for Commerce Way TS was concerned about the timelines for the project, and that that the process was too quick for any meaningful public participation. The individual wanted to know the decision making timelines for the project and opportunities for involvement</p>	<p>The Class EA process for the proposed undertaking began in early 2008. Stakeholders have had various opportunities to provide comments and feedback through public information centres (PICs) held on February 21, 2008, and February 5, 2009, and anytime to the toll-free project line at 1-877-345-6799.</p> <p>Hydro One considers its public notification of the project and both PICs was comprehensive. Approximately 400 individually-addressed letters were mailed out to announce the project and the first PIC in February 2008 and the second PIC in February 2009 using property owner lists provided by the City of Woodstock and Township of Norwich. In addition, the about 4200 notices were sent via Canada Post unaddressed admail to all residents/tenants within the study area for the TS and within 500 km on either side of the transmission line that Hydro One is proposing to upgrade. Notices of Class EA study commencement and for both PICs also appeared in local newspapers.</p> <p>From this point going forward, the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been issued for stakeholder and public review and comment from March 12 to April 13, 2009. Written questions or comments on the draft ESR must be submitted to Hydro One no later than 4:30 pm on April 13, 2009. In addition, individuals who are not satisfied with the project recommendations or the consultation process followed, may submit a request to the Ministry of the Environment no later than 4:30 pm on April 13, 2009 that this Class EA project be “bumped-up” to an Individual</p>

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		<p>Environmental Assessment. Details of the public input project are outlined in the Notice of Completion newspaper advertisement, attached as Appendix xx in this document.</p> <p>In addition, there will be further opportunities for public comment and participation when the Ontario Energy Board conducts its review of Hydro One's "Leave to Construct" application for this project. The details of the OEB process will be advertised in local newspapers and mailed to all affected property owners and individuals on Hydro One's project mailing list.</p>