

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is Hydro One's approach to vegetation management?

- To maintain our 150,000 kilometres of power lines, we take a preventative approach to vegetation management. This ensures that our lines and equipment are clear from potential hazards, to provide customers with a reliable supply of electricity.
- In developing our approach we consider safety, reliability, environmental responsibility, value to customer, and community interest.
- Our maintenance approach is based on a number of factors, including the tree's proximity to equipment and its growth habits, weather, topography, line voltage, line sag and sway, and community input.

### 2. Where is the project area in our community?

- In Ward 23, the transmission corridor is located between Highway 417 and Bridlewood Municipal Transformer Station, on Eagleson Road.

### 3. Why is this work needed now?

- Since our last maintenance cycle in 2012, some of the vegetation along the transmission corridor has reached a height that risks the safe, reliable operation of the line.
- Hydro One conducts routine vegetation maintenance along all our power lines to ensure equipment is clear from potential hazards to provide safe and reliable supply of electricity, and prevent tree related outages.

### 4. What does the work involve in 2018 and how is it different from the previous maintenance?

- Work will be completed using manual equipment such as pruners, chainsaws and support vehicles like bucket trucks and chippers to complete the maintenance. Large mechanical equipment will not be used during this maintenance cycle.

### 5. Will Hydro One use herbicide during this maintenance cycle?

- A low-volume government-approved herbicide may be selectively applied to certain cut stems to prevent regrowth.
- Our applicators are all licensed by Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and signage will be posted in areas where herbicide is used.
- Crews always seek the permission of the land owner prior to targeted application on private property.

### 6. How is work in our community different from Beaverbrook?

- Much of the transmission corridor in the Beaverbrook community extends through private residential properties where Hydro One has easements. Throughout the past several months we have been working with individual homeowners to develop a customized work execution approach.
- In your community, residential properties are adjacent to the transmission corridor and work on private property will likely not be required. If maintenance should be required on your property, a forestry representative will contact you in advance to discuss options.

## **7. What's the difference between compatible and incompatible species?**

- Compatible plantings are those that do not affect the safe operation of hydro equipment or impede access. Compatible vegetation rarely grows to a height that would interfere with the safe operation of our power lines. Compatible species vary on each transmission corridor depending on profile details such as topography, climate in the region, line voltage and sag during maximum load, line sway, and vegetation growth habits.
- Incompatible vegetation includes any plant or tree species that could grow into the required clearance area. Incompatible species require maintenance at some point.

## **8. Does Hydro One have a forestry policy?**

- We have a robust forestry policy that aims to serve the community while meeting our operational responsibilities. For more information, please pick up one of our brochures and visit our project website  
[www.HydroOne.com/VegetationManagement](http://www.HydroOne.com/VegetationManagement)

## **9. How does Hydro One determine how high trees can grow on transmission corridors?**

- Industry standards dictate how vegetation can grow under and near energized wires.
- We consider the proximity of the trees to the wires if/when a tree falls, as well as during peak times when the wires sag and sway due to the additional loading on the line.

## **10. Which legislation allows Hydro One to conduct this work?**

- Hydro One has various land rights in terms of its transmission corridors granting Hydro One certain rights with respect to vegetation management. The lands comprising Hydro One's transmission corridors may be either owned by the Province of Ontario or private property owners. With respect to provincially owned lands, Hydro One has a statutory easement over these Lands (section 114.5(6) of the *Electricity Act, 1998*) for the purposes of operating transmission and/or distribution systems.
- With respect to transmission corridors on privately owned lands, Hydro One has registered easements which grant Hydro One certain rights with respect to vegetation management.

## **11. How will Hydro One keep the community updated?**

- We believe that the most effective type of communication is early, often and, where possible, in person. Hydro One's Community Relations team is available to answer questions via email at [Community.Relations@HydroOne.com](mailto:Community.Relations@HydroOne.com) or by phone 1-877-345-6799.
- Up-to-date information is also shared on the project website  
[www.HydroOne.com/VegetationManagement](http://www.HydroOne.com/VegetationManagement)