

Durham Kawartha Power Line Class Environmental Assessment

Final Environmental Study Report

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Prepared By:

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Environmental Services

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Executive Summary

About the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has prepared this draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the proposed construction of a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Project) in eastern Ontario. The Project will be approximately 53 kilometres (km) in length and will connect the Clarington Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Clarington and Dobbin TS in the County of Peterborough. The Project will also involve a portion of the transmission line to be placed underground northeast of Clarington TS to cross four separate sets of 230 kV powerlines beside a roadway. The purpose of the Project is to upgrade and increase the resiliency of existing infrastructure that serves eastern Ontario. This will allow capacity in eastern Ontario to increase by over 400 megawatts (MW).

The preferred route will repurpose approximately 50 km of an existing transmission corridor between Clarington and Peterborough. Hydro One is prioritizing the use of existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW) where possible for the Project; however, two route alternatives were identified for a 3km portion of the new transmission line. The two route alternatives considered for the Project included:

Route Alternative A - Widening an existing Hydro One corridor

- This route alternative, shown in teal in Figure E-1, extends from north of Regional Road 3 to north of Concession Road 9.
- This route alternative uses an existing wood pole ROW and would require additional widening and clearing of adjacent wooded areas.

Route Alternative B - New corridor through agricultural lands

- This route alternative shown in purple in Figure E-1, extends from north of Regional Road 3 to north of Concession Road 9.
- This route alternative requires a new transmission line ROW on agricultural lands and avoids the need for additional clearing of wooded areas.

Additional components of the Project are summarized below:

Ancillary Works:

Clarington TS and Dobbin TS: Both Clarington TS and Dobbin TS will require reconfiguration within their existing fences to facilitate connection of the new transmission line. The line entrances at Clarington TS will be reconfigured to accommodate the new 230 kV transmission line. Upgrades to Clarington TS will also include new bus work, switchgear, breakers, and associated equipment. An existing 230 kV circuit from Seaton Junction in Pickering to outside Clarington TS will also be disconnected. The Dobbin TS upgrades will include new bus work,

switchgear, breakers and associated equipment, reconfiguring existing 230 kV circuits to accommodate the two new circuits coming from Clarington TS. No emission emitting equipment, such as new emergency or standby generators, or new boilers or heaters, will be installed for the Clarington TS and Dobbin TS reconfiguration and upgrades as a result of this project.

Underground Transmission Line: A portion of the line is planned to be placed underground to cross four separate 230 kV transmission lines and a regional road.

Repurpose of Existing Transmission Corridor: As the preferred route will include using the existing transmission corridor between Clarington and Peterborough, the existing transmission structures and associated equipment will require dismantling and removal. This may include the addition of dead-end structures to aid in line removal.

Upgrade on Existing Line: As a result of the Project, an approximately 8 km section of Skywire on an existing transmission line extending northeast from Dobbin TS will be upgraded. This work is not subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities (Class EA for TF) but is referenced here for notification and communication purposes.

Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities

This draft ESR has been prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, February 2024), which is an approved planning process under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Class EA for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2024) applies to Category B transmission projects. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects defines Category B projects as those which have potential environmental effects that can likely be mitigated. The Class EA is a streamlined planning process for transmission projects that have a predictable range of environmental effects and have industry standard measures that can be implemented to limit them.

Study Area

At the outset of the Class EA, the Local Study Area (LSA) and Project Study Area (PSA) were defined to assess potential natural environment, socio-economic environment, technical, and cultural constraints and potential effects associated with each of the route alternatives (Figure E-1). The ROW for the Project is anticipated to be up to 46 metres (m) in width, extending approximately 23 m on either side of the centreline. For the majority of its 53km, the ROW is situated within an existing corridor or shared ROW.

The PSA includes lands within 120 m of each of the route alternative center lines between Clarington TS and Dobbin TS. The objective of the PSA was to identify an area that includes

the future asset location, associated ROW, and directly adjacent lands to scope the spatial extent of technical studies and field investigations to characterize baseline existing conditions.

The LSA includes lands within 500 m of each of the route alternative centre lines between Clarington TS and Dobbin TS. The objective of the LSA was to expand upon the PSA to include an area of potential indirect Project effects on the natural and socio-economic environments associated with each of the route alternatives.

As mentioned, the preferred route will repurpose approximately 50 km of an existing transmission corridor between Clarington and Peterborough. Hydro One is prioritizing the use of existing transmission line ROW where possible for the Project. While new easements will be required for the DKPL transmission line ROW, this will be contained within the existing Hydro One corridor for these sections of the Project.

Consultation and Engagement

Since 2024, Hydro One has conducted consultation and engagement with eight First Nation communities; municipal, provincial, and federal government officials and agencies; potentially affected and directly affected property owners; and various interest groups. This involved Project notifications, communication, and engagement resulting in issues identification and resolution efforts. The consultation process included the development of a Project website, two rounds of in-person community open houses, meetings with First Nation communities, government officials, and directly affected property owners, as well as opportunities for Indigenous rightsholders to review Project reporting prior to its release. Additional communication and outreach included Project notices; personalized letters sent to directly affected property owners; postcards and flyers sent to potentially affected property owners; and radio, newspaper, and social media advertisements in affected regions and municipalities. Hydro One's dedicated Community Relations team responded to feedback, questions, and concerns raised by members of the public related to the Project.

Key Environmental Findings and Mitigation Measures

Listed below are key baseline conditions for environment factors assessed for the Project:

First Nations Land Use and Interests

- One First Nation community identified the importance of accessing parts of the Project lands for harvesting or traditional uses by First Nation communities.
- Two First Nation communities expressed interest in preserving and protecting existing remnants of the endangered Black Oak Savannah and Tallgrass Prairie ecosystems. Based on Ecological Land Classification (ELC) studies completed to date, no Black Oak Savannah or Tallgrass Prairie communities have been identified.

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- Two First Nation communities provided non-exhaustive lists of species of cultural significance (SCS). Following a review of the field survey results, 61 SCS (including 48 plant and 13 wildlife species) were confirmed present in the study areas.
- Hydro One commits to maintaining relationships of mutual respect with First Nations and seeks to identify community concerns and build appropriate actions into Project plans to address these concerns for the entire life of the Project.
- During the draft ESR comment period, MSIFN expressed the importance of deer wintering habitat, Hydro One and its EPC contractor will develop a specific restoration plan for deer wintering habitat.

Surface Water, Groundwater, and Source Water Protection

- The Project crosses the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area.
- The Project footprint intersects watercourses and waterbodies at 71 locations ranging from first to fourth order streams, with catchment areas of approximately <0.1 to 5,000 hectares (ha), including crossings at Bowmanville Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek, and the Pigeon River.
- The Clarington TS is located near discharge areas and extensive areas of potential groundwater discharge exist between Bethany and Peterborough associated with wetland and creek valleys including the Dobbin TS area.
- The Project passes through two Source Protection Regions (Central Lake Ontario Conservation and Trent Conservation Coalition) and three Source Protection Areas (Central Lake Ontario, Kawartha-Haliburton, and Otonabee-Peterborough).

Terrestrial and Aquatic Environment

- Six Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs) intersect the LSA, PSA and/or the ROW, in addition to one evaluated, non-provincially significant wetland.
- Approximately 34.0%/33.6% (Route Alternative A/B) of the LSA is wooded habitat (forest, swamp, plantation, woodland), and some of this area likely constitutes significant woodlands. Approximately 9.4%/8.1% (Route Alternative A/B) of the proposed ROW is wooded habitat.
- Significant valleylands are not specifically mapped beyond the Regional Natural Heritage System (Durham OP Map 2a) and ORM Natural Core Areas, but valleylands linked to major watercourses in the LSA—such as Bowmanville Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek, and Pigeon River—may qualify as significant under the Natural Heritage Reference Manual criteria.

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- Two regionally significant candidate life science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) are located in the LSA: Enfield Wetlands ANSI, which intersects the proposed ROW for both Route Alternatives A and B near Clarington TS, and Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI, located east of Bethany, which does not intersect the proposed ROW.
- Two Environmentally Sensitive Areas intersect the LSA and ROW in the eastern portion of the Project route: the Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area, which overlaps with the Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek East PSWs, and the Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area, which aligns with the Cavan Bog Wetland Complex PSW.
- Three conservation areas intersect both the LSA and ROW: Enfield Conservation Area (Central Lake Ontario CA), Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area (Kawartha Region CA), and Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area (Otonabee Conservation).
- Sixteen endangered or threatened species under the provincial *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) have high potential to occur in the LSA; six were confirmed during field surveys (Bank Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Blanding's Turtle, Black Ash, Butternut).
- Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) within the LSA and ROW includes confirmed and candidate areas across all four SWH categories – seasonal concentration areas, rare vegetation communities, specialized wildlife habitats, and habitats for species of conservation concern – identified using provincial criteria (MNRF 2015) and field surveys. Key features include bat maternity colonies, turtle wintering sites, amphibian breeding areas, deer yarding zones, and breeding habitats for species like Green Heron, Golden-winged Warbler, and Monarch.
- Of the 71 identified water crossing locations intersected by the Project footprint, a majority of the intersected watercourses and waterbodies provide direct fish habitat, while unmapped features may offer indirect support. There are 44 water crossing locations (62%) which have confirmed fish communities, including salmonids at 36 sites and lampreys at 5 crossings.

Atmospheric Environment (Climate, Air Quality, Emissions, and Noise)

- The averaged daily Air Quality Health Index scores for the Oshawa area during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 is low (1 to 3) and, therefore, a low risk to air quality (MECP, 2024b).
- Existing noise levels are expected to be dominated by noise sources associated with agricultural activities, rail traffic, and local road traffic.

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- Existing vibration levels are expected to be negligible or minimal, similar to other areas across Canada for receptors within rural land uses and adjacent to road corridors.

Cultural Heritage Resources

- The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment determined that the LSA contains lands with archaeological potential, as well as a previously recorded archaeological site. Hydro One and their contractor have committed to completing a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments (and if required Stage 3 +) for the ROW and other construction access/work areas as early as possible during detailed design prior to ground disturbing activities.
- Initial Cultural Heritage reporting (Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report) for the PSA identified existing and potential Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHL) and Built Heritage Resources (BHR) that could be impacted by the Project. After the preferred route was identified, a Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) was undertaken and concluded that although some considerations for vibrations and isolation must be considered during detailed design which may result in mitigation, there are no direct effects anticipated on CHLs or BHRs resulting in a need for further study.

Agricultural Resources

- Agriculture land use is present throughout a large extent of the PSA and LSA. The majority of agricultural crop production located within the LSA and PSA include grasslands, vegetables, oilseeds, wheats, as well as some cereals (AAFC, 2025).

Land Use and Communities

- The PSA and LSA span several municipalities, with the Regional Municipality of Durham and County of Peterborough having the largest populations. Median household incomes vary, with Clarington and Cavan-Monaghan above the provincial average. Housing density is highest in urban centers like Peterborough and Clarington, while rural municipalities like Cavan-Monaghan and Selwyn have lower densities and fewer dwellings.
- The Project area is governed by multiple overlapping land use plans and policies, including the Provincial Policy Statement (2024), Greenbelt Plan, and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The PSA and LSA intersect a complex network of transportation infrastructure—including provincial highways, municipal roads, CP Rail lines, and are in proximity to airports and heliports, as well as hydro transmission lines and other utilities. Emergency and healthcare services are available throughout the region.

Recreational Resources

- The PSA and LSA intersect several recreational trails within the Ontario Trail Network, including the Trans Canada Trail (Jackson Creek Kiwanis Trail), Victoria Rail Trail (South Corridor), and Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route), as well as conservation areas like Durham East Cross Forest, which offer diverse outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, skiing, and wildlife viewing.
- Additional nearby recreational resources include Fleetwood Creek and Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Areas, Long Sault Forest, and natural features like Bowmanville Creek and the Cavan Bog Complex. These areas support a range of seasonal and nature-based recreation and are recognized in local planning documents for their connectivity and ecological value.

What we found

Project activities could result in the following key potential environmental effects:

- Temporarily remove agricultural land (pasture, crops), compact or mix soils, disturb farm operations, damage tile drains, or affect organic/identity preserved (IP) crops and livestock. Permanent removal from agricultural use will only be affected at tower footprints and specialized situations (e.g., transmission line crossings);
- Disturb cultural heritage resources;
- Affect local traffic, utilities, land use compatibility, and create temporary nuisance effects (e.g., noise, dust, debris);
- Temporarily disturb aggregate or peat resources;
- Generate spills, waste, excess materials, greenhouse gas emissions, and fugitive dust;
- Affect surface water quantity and quality through soil rutting, vegetation removal, and dewatering;
- Impact source water areas, private wells, and groundwater flow through temporary construction works or changes to land use;
- Affect environmentally sensitive areas, conservation areas, ANSIs, significant woodlands/wetlands/valleylands, and wildlife habitat (e.g., removal of vegetation, soil erosion, sedimentation);
- Disturb or remove species at risk (SAR) individuals or habitat, including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Butternut, and Black Ash;
- Affect traditional land use, cultural values, and ecological features; and
- Temporarily disrupt access to trails and recreational areas during construction.

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All potential effects are described in Section 7 of this ESR.

What we will do

Hydro One will:

- Utilize an existing corridor for 50 km of the preferred route to minimize vegetation clearing and avoid additional crossings of environmentally significant areas, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine and Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs).
- Compensate all lands out of production and crops lost as a result of the Project's construction activities in accordance with Hydro One's crop loss/crop lands out of production policies.
- Schedule construction activities when soils are less susceptible to compaction using low bearing capacity equipment and limiting work to planned access roads, staging, and work areas to reduce soil compaction;
- Conduct archaeological assessments (e.g., Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessments), engage First Nations, and complete heritage evaluations as necessary to avoid or reduce potential effects of the Project;
- Coordinate with municipalities, implement traffic and noise control plans, and restore affected areas post-construction;
- Implement Emergency Response plans to address spills, use good management practices to prevent spills and contamination, clean-up and dispose of contaminated materials in accordance with provincial regulations and guidelines;
- Implement various waste management protocols, erosion controls, and emissions reduction strategies using best management practices;
- Develop and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control plan, as required;
- Selectively cut and retain compatible vegetation to promote regeneration using native plant species where practical during construction restoration;
- Develop and implement a construction water management plan to reduce potential effects from dewatering activities;
- Plan construction access, laydown, and work areas to avoid waterbodies and potential fish habitat to the extent practicable;
- Develop and implement species-specific mitigation measures;
- Engage First Nation communities, incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, and involve First Nations communities in fieldwork and biodiversity initiatives;

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- Provide signage, alternate access, and implement dust suppression techniques to minimize impacts on nearby recreational resources;
- Consider structure placement and work with municipalities and landowners to reduce visual effects; and
- Implement all proposed mitigation measures as described in Section 7 of this ESR.

Preferred Route Selection

The route evaluation framework was comprised of criteria and indicators organized into the following equally weighted themes:

- Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use
- Natural Environment
- Socio-Economic Environment
- Technical and Cost

The development of the evaluation framework was based on input and comments provided by First Nations, Project team members, subject matter experts, and stakeholders. Once criteria and indicators were identified, the Project team assigned weights for the criteria within each theme. Criteria with higher weights were considered to hold higher importance in the evaluation. Each theme was assigned a value of 100% to be distributed amongst the criteria within said theme. Following identification and weighting of the evaluation criteria, the Project team compiled information and metrics for indicators that were subsequently fed into a multi-criteria analysis tool called GoldSET.

In March 2025, Route Alternative B was selected by Hydro One as the preferred route as it:

- crosses the least area of land identified by First Nations communities as being significant, the least area of land with potential for traditional use plants, and the smallest area of woodlots;
- is expected to have less potential effects on vegetation communities, wildlife and wildlife habitat, species at risk, wetlands, natural hazards, floodplains, designated natural areas, and areas of potential restoration;
- is expected to have less potential effects on residential structures, as well as lands zoned as commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, business, and facilities lands; and
- has the shortest line length, requires no light angle transmission structures, crosses the lowest number of waterbodies, distributions lines and roads, and is expected to be easier to construct and operate.

Overall Conclusions

After the implementation of proposed known effective mitigation measures, net effects are expected to be **not significant**. Hydro One will take specific actions to reduce and avoid potential effects on the environment. Hydro One will continue to take the key actions including working with property owners, implementing a biodiversity initiative, engaging First Nation communities, and continuing engagement and consultation throughout the detailed design and construction phases of the Project. Hydro One commits to maintaining relationships of mutual respect with First Nation communities and seeks to identify community concerns and build appropriate actions into Project plans to address these concerns for the entire life of the Project.

Draft ESR Comment Period

Hydro One provided a 30-day comment period of the draft ESR from **October 29, 2025 to November 27, 2025**. Written comments or questions regarding the draft ESR were to be submitted to Hydro One no later than **4:00 p.m. on November 27, 2025**, and addressed to:

Rhona Scott, Environmental Planner, Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street, North Tower, 14th Floor, Toronto, ON M5G 2P5
Phone: 1-877-345-6799 (community relations hotline)
Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

The draft ESR was available electronically on Hydro One’s website at:
<https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha>

Copies of the draft ESR were also available in print at the following locations:

The Bethany- Kawartha Lakes Public Library 1474 ON-7A, Bethany ON (705) 324-9411	The Cavan Monaghan – Bruce Johnston Branch Library 2199 Davis Rd., Cavan- Monaghan, ON (705) 741-1253	The Bowmanville Library 163 Church St., Bowmanville, ON (905) 623-7322

On October 29, 2025, the Notice of Completion of the draft ESR was distributed to all interested parties including First Nation communities; municipal, provincial, and federal government official and agencies; potentially affected and interested persons; and interest groups presented in **Section 3** (see contact list in **APPENDIX A - 1**). The notice was published in the Lakefield Herald, Orono Weekly Times, The Peterborough Examiner, and the Durham/Kawartha Standard newspapers starting October 27, 2025. Radio ads for the notice were played on CKGEFM (Clarington), CJKXFM (Oshawa, Scugog), CKWVFM

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(Peterborough), CKWFFM (Cavan-Monaghan), CKQMFM (Kawartha Lakes) starting October 27, 2025. Hydro One hand-delivered letters to impacted property owners and flyers to properties located within the PSA, as well as coordinated an AdMail campaign of the notice to be delivered to over 6,200 residences along the Project route. The notice was also posted in social media advertisements and on the Project website:

<https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha> (see **APPENDIX A - 2** for notification letter and newspaper ad).

Comments received have been addressed and documented in the final ESR as required by the Class EA process. Hydro One has made best efforts to respond and resolve issues raised by concerned parties during the public review period. The ESR has been finalized for the proposed Project in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, February 2024).

The final ESR has been filed with the MECP and is available on the Project website. The Project is considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR and necessary environmental permits and approvals will be obtained prior to construction.

The EA Act has provisions that allow interested parties to request the MECP to make an order requiring a higher level of study or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies). Such requests can only be made on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. This process is referred to as a Section 16 Order request. Such requests were required to be sent in writing or email to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Environmental Assessment Branch of the MECP, while also copying Hydro One.

During the draft ESR review period, no Section 16 Order requests were received by the MECP or Hydro One relating to the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project. As such, the Project will proceed as outlined in this ESR.

Figure E-1: Route Alternatives and Study Area

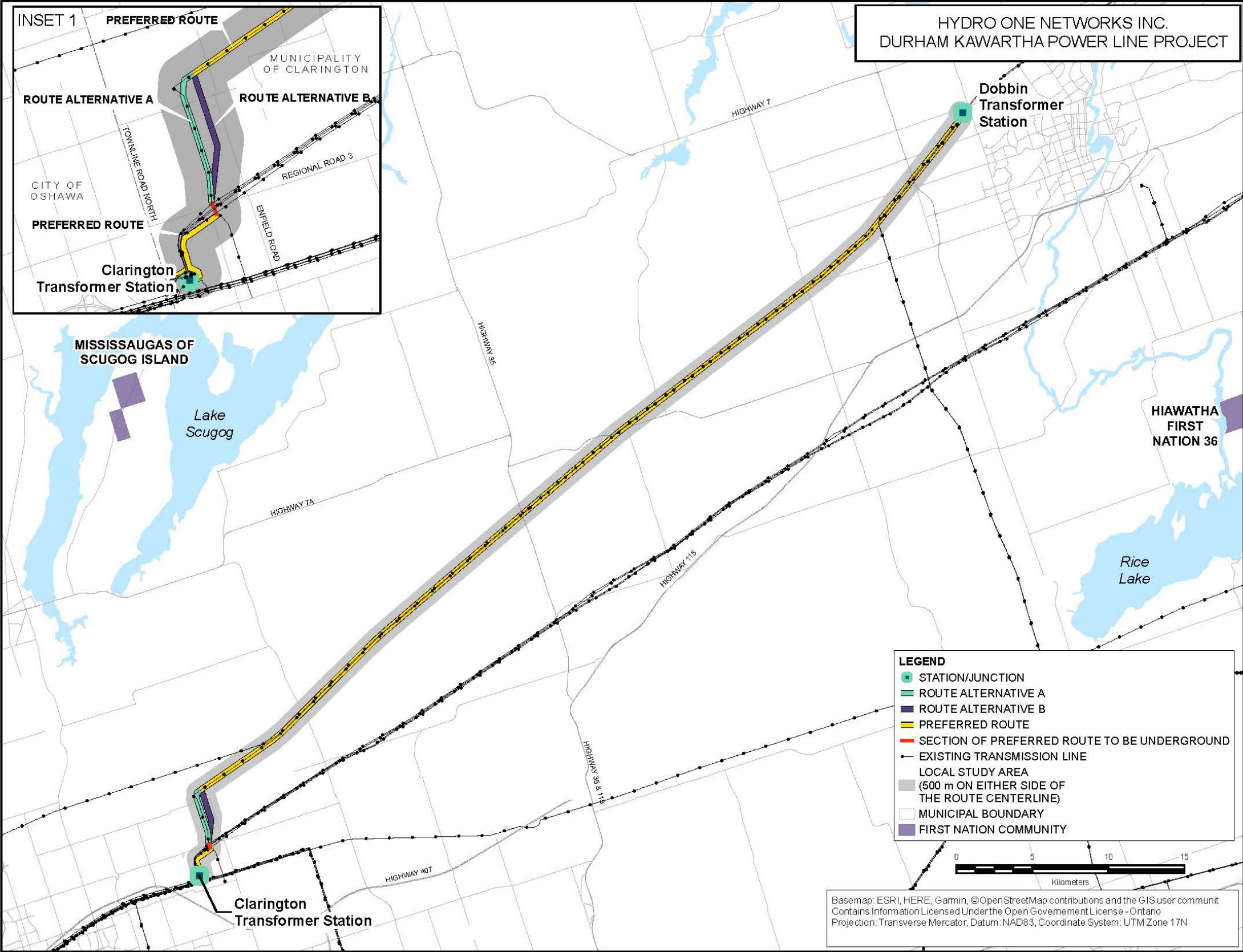


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- **APPENDIX A - 2:** Class EA Consultation Materials

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- **APPENDIX A - 3:** Indigenous Consultation
- **APPENDIX A - 4:** Stakeholder Consultation
- **APPENDIX A - 5** Project Record of Consultation
- **APPENDIX A - 6** Draft ESR Comments and Responses

APPENDIX B – Environment Inventory

APPENDIX C – Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

APPENDIX D – Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report

APPENDIX E – Preliminary Impact Assessment

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFN	Alderville First Nation
ANSI	Area(s) of Natural and Scientific Interest
AQHI	Air Quality Health Index
BFN	Beausoleil First Nation
BHA	Butternut Health Assessments
CA	Conservation Authority
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CCT	CFN Consultation Tool
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CFA	Capacity Funding Agreement
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CHEC	Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report
CHER	Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
CHRS	Canadian Heritage River System
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
Class EA	Class Environmental Assessment
CLFN	Curve Lake First Nation
CLI	Canada Land Inventory
CLOCA	Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
cm	Centimetres
CNR	Canadian National Railway
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
COH	Community Open House

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CP Rail	Canadian Pacific Railway
CRFN	Chippewas of Rama First Nation
CSA	Canadian Standards Association
CTC	Chippewa Tri Council
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
dBA	Decibels A
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DKPL	Durham Kawartha Power Line
E.S.T.	Eastern Standard Time
E.T.	Eastern Time
EA	Environmental Assessment
EA Act	<i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>
EAB	Environmental Assessment Branch
EASR	Environmental Activity and Sector Registry
ECA	Environmental Compliance Approval
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ECI	Early Contractor Involvement
eDNA	Environmental Deoxyribonucleic Acid
ELC	Ecological Land Classification
EMF	Electro-magnetic fields
EOL	End-of-life
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
ESA	<i>Endangered Species Act</i>
ESC	Erosion Sediment Control
ESR	Environmental Study Report

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FGCA	Forest Gene Conservation Association
GIFN	Chippewas of Georgina Island
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	Hectare(s)
HFN	Hiawatha First Nation
HVA	Highly Vulnerable Aquifer
WN	Wendat Nation
Hydro One	Hydro One Networks Inc.
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IESO	Independent Electricity System Operator
IGF	Information Gathering Form
IO	Infrastructure Ontario
IP	Identity Preserved
IPZ	Intake Protection Zone
KC	Kawartha Conservation
KN	Kawartha Nishnawbe
km	Kilometre(s)
km/hr	Kilometres per hour
kV	Kilovolt
L	Litre(s)
LACP	Land Acquisition Compensation Principles
LIO	Land Information Ontario

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LSA	Local Study Area
m	Metre(s)
MBCA	<i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>
MCM	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
MECP	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MEE	Ministry of Energy and Electrification
MEM	Ministry of Energy and Mines
mG	Milligauss
MIA	Ministry of Indigenous Affairs
mm	Millimetre(s)
MMAH	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MOE	Ministry of Energy
MOI	Ministry of Infrastructure
MP	Member of Parliament
MPP	Member of Provincial Parliament
MSIFN	Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
Mt	Million metric tonnes
MTCG	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
MTO	Ministry of Transportation
NHIC	Natural Heritage Information Centre
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NPP	Navigation Protection Program
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
O. Reg.	Ontario Regulation

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O ₃	Ozone
°C	Degrees Celsius
OEB	Ontario Energy Board
OFA	Ontario Federation of Agriculture
OMAFRA	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
OP	Official Plan
OPG	Ontario Power Generation
OPSD	Ontario Provincial Standard Drawing
ORCA	Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
PDWT	Prescribed Drinking Water Threat
PIA	Preliminary Impact Assessment
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter
PORs	Potential points of reception
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPS	Provincial Policy Statement
PSA	Project Study Area
PSW	Provincially Significant Wetlands
PTTW	Permit to Take Water
PWQMN	Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
rms	Root-mean-square
ROW	Right-of-way
SAC	Spills Action Centre
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	<i>Species at Risk Act</i>
SARO	Species at Risk Ontario

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SCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SCGT	Simple Cycle Gas Turbine
SCN	Soybean Cyst Nematode
SCS	Species of Cultural Significance
SGRA	Significant Groundwater Recharge Area
SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
SOCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SPA	Source Protection Area
SPP	Source Protection Plan
SRank	Subnational Rank
SS	Switching Station
SWH	Significant Wildlife Habitat
SWHTG	Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide
SWP	Source Water Protection
TC	Transport Canada
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
TMHC	Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc.
TS	Transformer Station
V/m	Volts per metre
VC	Valued Components
WPA	Wellhead Protection Area
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Plant
WSP	WSP Canada Inc.
WTFN	Williams Treaties First Nation
ZMPL	Zhooniya Makak Limited Partnership

1 Introduction

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has a long and trusted history of building critical electricity infrastructure that enables growth. Eastern Ontario is expected to grow rapidly over the next 20 years from Peterborough to Quinte West and extending into the Ottawa region. To support resiliency, Hydro One is proposing to construct a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Clarington Transformer Station (TS) located in the Municipality of Clarington and Dobbin TS in Peterborough County. Hydro One is calling this undertaking the Durham Kawartha Power Line (DKPL; the Project).

The proposed Project is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2024), an approved planning process under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). This process is designed for proponents to characterize the existing environment, assess potential environmental effects and mitigation, identify, and evaluate alternatives, conduct consultation and document study findings. Hydro One initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) in June 2024 and this Draft Environmental Study Report (draft ESR) has been prepared in accordance with the Class EA.

The Project will be approximately 53 kilometres (km) in length and will connect the Clarington TS in the Municipality of Clarington to the Dobbin TS near the Peterborough County (**Figure 1-1**). Both stations will require reconfiguration within their existing fences to facilitate connection of the new transmission line. A portion of the line is planned to be underground in order to cross four separate 230 kV transmission lines and a regional road. The Project will repurpose approximately 50 km of an existing Hydro One corridor that includes an idle transmission line on the southern side of the corridor. Approximately 23 km of this corridor is currently an idle transmission line strung with distribution line on transmission towers. This project will involve the removal of existing towers.

There is an approximately 3 km section northeast of Clarington TS where the existing corridor was not wide enough to accommodate the new infrastructure of this Project. For this section, two viable Route Alternatives were identified. Route Alternative A repurposes an existing wood pole line corridor, though it would need to be widened and therefore would require additional clearing of adjacent wooded areas. Route Alternative B is located further east than Route Alternative A and would require a new right-of-way (ROW) on agricultural lands.

Hydro One acknowledges that the Project falls within the traditional territory of First Nations, including the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and the Chippewa of the Anishinaabeg. These Nations are signatories to a number of important treaties covering the Project area. Hydro One understands that these Nations, among others, have been the caretakers of this land since

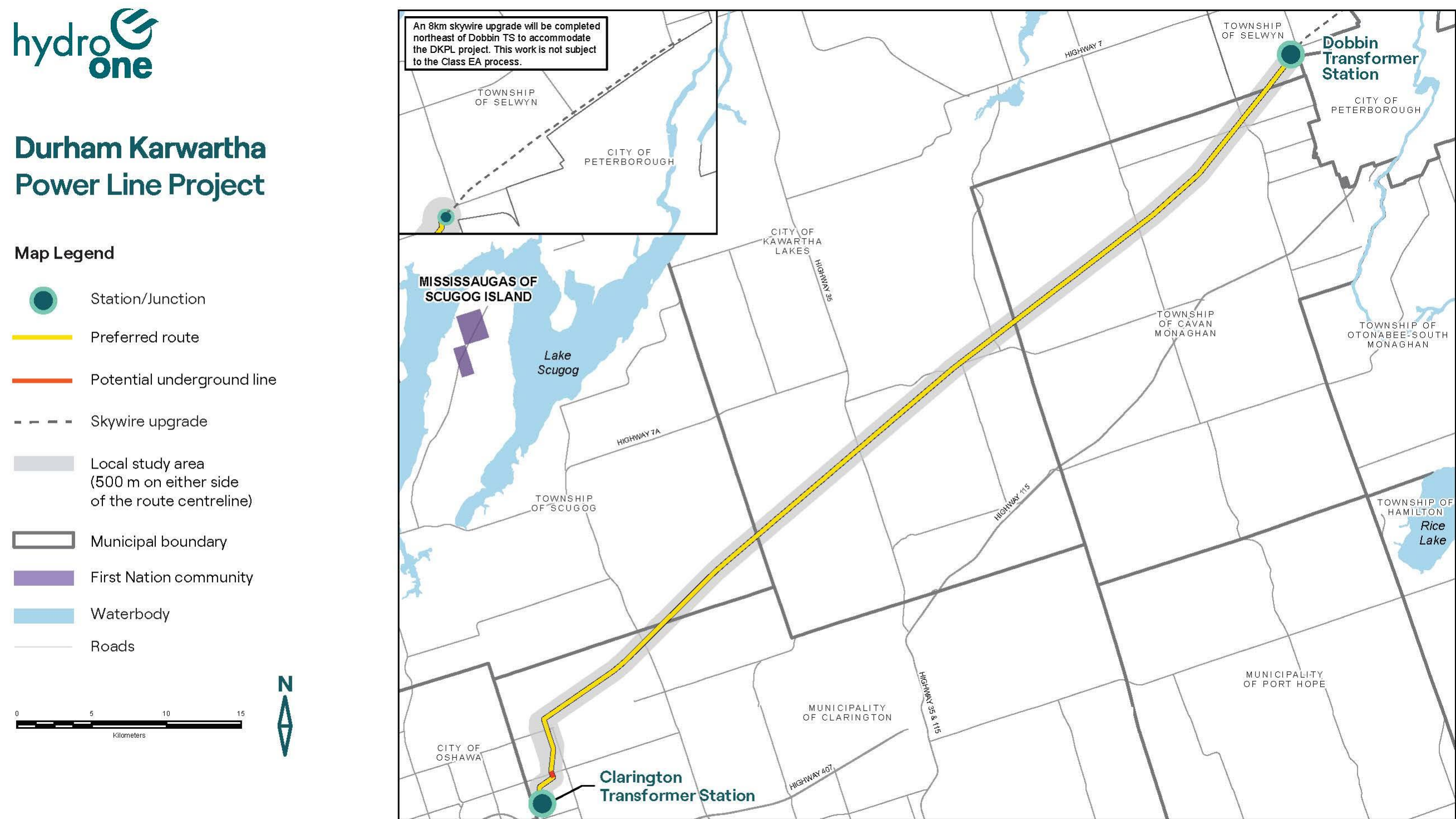
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time immemorial. We are grateful to be welcomed on these lands as partners to energize our futures together.

This Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) describes the Class EA process that was undertaken for the proposed Project. The draft ESR:

- Summarizes existing conditions in the Local Study Area (LSA) (500 m) and Project Study Area (PSA) (120 m);
- Documents the notification to, and consultation undertaken with Indigenous communities, government agencies, municipal staff and elected officials, interest groups and members of the public;
- Documents the route alternative identification and evaluation process conducted to select the preferred route;
- Identifies potential environmental effects associated with the Project; and
- Identifies potential avoidance, mitigation, and restoration measures to address these potential environmental effects.

Figure 1-1: Project Location



1.1 Need for the Undertaking

In December 2022, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) published the Gatineau Corridor End-of-Life (EOL) Study that examines transmission equipment reaching EOL in the Gatineau transmission corridor along with forecast reliability concerns in the areas supplied by those transmission circuits, Peterborough to Quinte West and Ottawa. One of the study recommendations was to reinforce Dobbin TS in Peterborough County with a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from either Cherrywood TS (Pickering, ON) or Clarington TS (Clarington, ON). The report outlined different variations to how the transmission reinforcement could be achieved.

The purpose of the new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line was to:

- Maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure (lines and stations) that has served Eastern Ontario for many years.
- Increase resiliency in Eastern Ontario, while also increasing supply capacity to Eastern Ontario by over 400 megawatts (MW).

In July 2023, the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) (formerly Ministry of Energy [MOE]) proposed to support critical transmission infrastructure in Northeast and Eastern Ontario by prioritizing three transmission projects and designating Hydro One as the transmitter to develop the three projects, including the Peterborough Area Transmission Reinforcement (now referred to as the Durham Kawartha Power Line). An Order in Council (OIC) was subsequently issued in October 2023 that amended Hydro One's licence to develop and seek approvals for the three projects.

Hydro One began development work for the Project and identified additional details with the variations proposed in the Gatineau Corridor EOL study. Specifically, Hydro One summarized the constraints at the terminal stations (Cherrywood TS and Clarington TS), inflationary cost escalation not initially anticipated, outage challenges, and incremental real estate requirements. In March 2024, the IESO reviewed and accepted Hydro One's scope to build a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from Clarington TS to Dobbin TS.

The required in-service date for the Project is 2029 in order to reinforce the transmission system and ensure reliability in the Peterborough to Quinte West and Ottawa areas for the next 20 years.

1.2 Description of the Undertaking

The proposed Project will involve the installation of a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, including associated infrastructure (e.g., towers, access roads), along the preferred route.

A portion of the line is planned to be placed underground in order to cross four separate 230 kV transmission lines and a regional road. As the preferred route will include repurposing an existing transmission corridor between Clarington and Peterborough County, the existing transmission structures and associated equipment will require dismantling and removal. Both Clarington TS and Dobbin TS will require reconfiguration within their existing fences to facilitate connection of the new transmission line.

Upon the successful completion of the Class EA process and receipt of subsequent required approvals, construction would begin as early as 2027, with potential to begin earlier if possible.

1.3 Alternatives to the Undertaking

The Class EA process requires identification and evaluation of alternatives to the undertaking. “Alternatives to” the undertaking are functionally different approaches to addressing the need for the undertaking.

Alternatives to the undertaking must be reasonable from a technical, economic and environmental perspective and must fall within the mandate of the proponent. It is understood that companies whose operating licences (i.e., as granted by the Ontario Energy Board) are limited to assessment of transmission alternatives cannot, for example, assess generation as an alternative to transmission facilities.

The Project resulted from a recommendation of the IESO, as documented in the bulk planning report “Gatineau Corridor End-of-Life Study” (December 8, 2022).

In such cases, the transmitter will accept the recommendations of an independent agency as a starting point for the Class EA Process and will not revisit alternatives considered and rejected by the planning process (e.g., generation alternatives and other transmission alternatives). The following summarizes the conclusions of the IESO report regarding the alternatives to the undertaking that were considered to address the identified need:

- Alternative 1: Do Nothing
- Alternative 2: Additional Generation; and
- Alternative 3: New Transmission Infrastructure.

Alternative 1: Do Nothing

The "Do Nothing Alternative" is an alternative to the undertaking that must be considered.

Due to the significant increase in the demand forecast for electricity in eastern Ontario, the Do Nothing Alternative would result in the inability to reliably supply the forecasted load growth. This load growth is anticipated for the Peterborough to Quinte West area and the broader

Ottawa Region in the near- to long-term. Furthermore, the Do Nothing Alternative would limit resources and bulk facilities in the region from operating efficiently for local and system needs. Therefore, the Do Nothing Alternative is not considered a feasible option.

Alternative 2: Additional Generation

The IESO, in their December 8, 2022, report, titled “Gatineau Corridor End-of-Life Study”, documented the assessment of near- to long-term solutions to address identified needs in the Peterborough to Quinte West and Ottawa regions.

After an assessment by the IESO of the capabilities and cost of potential resources, a new simple cycle gas turbine (SCGT) located in the Peterborough to Quinte West area was identified as the lowest cost resource alternative capable of supplying the magnitude of energy and capacity required. Other generation types were also considered (e.g. wind, solar, storage and combined cycle gas turbine); however, the profile of energy required to meet the regional needs made these options less cost-effective compared to a SCGT. Additionally, a proponent's choice of location for a new generation facility may require new or reinforced transmission infrastructure to ensure that the installed generator is able to meet the identified need. Therefore, the Additional Generation Alternative is not considered to be a feasible option.

Alternative 3: Transmission Alternatives

The IESO report concludes that for the current planning assumptions and the evaluated load growth scenarios, new transmission was found to be the most cost effective and technically feasible option to meet identified system needs in a timely manner. For the needs considered, the transmission option has a net present value approximately \$550M lower than the least cost resource alternative for the most likely scenario. Based on the results of the study, the IESO recommended a new 230 kV circuit transmission line from Clarington TS to Dobbin TS.

1.4 Approval Process and Regulatory Requirements

This section outlines the approval process required under the Class EA process as well as other regulatory requirements.

1.4.1 Class Environmental Assessment Process

This draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared in accordance with the Class EA for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, February 2024) an approved planning process under the *EA Act*. Components of the process include:

- Establish need (**Section 1.1**);
- Identify and evaluate “alternatives to” the undertaking (**Section 1.3**);
- Define study area (**Section 2**);

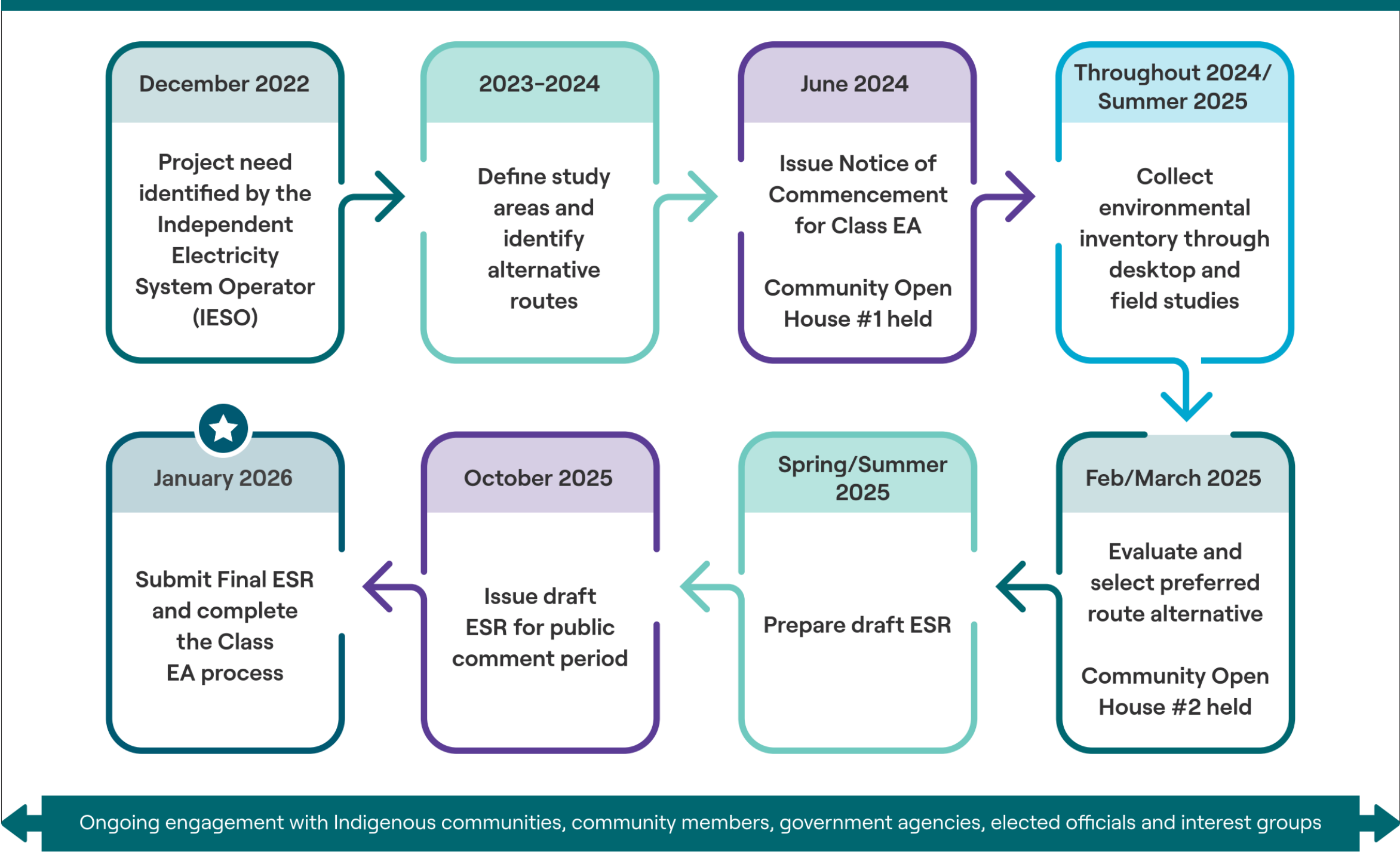
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- Issue initial notification (**Section 3.1**);
- Conduct an environmental inventory (**Section 3.12.1**);
- Identify and evaluate route alternatives (**Section 5**);
- Select the preferred route alternative (**Section 5.5**) and prepare the draft ESR;
- Issue Notice of Completion and the draft ESR for public review and comment (**Section 3.12**);
- Conduct consultation and engagement throughout the process (**Section 3**).

The Class EA process is illustrated in **Figure 1-2**.

Figure 1-2: Class Environmental Assessment Process

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS



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The Class EA for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2024) applies to Category B transmission projects. The MECP Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects defines Category B projects as those which have potential environmental effects that can likely be mitigated.

The projects subject to the Class EA for Transmission Facilities document are as follows:

1. Establishing a new or temporary transmission line that has a nominal operating voltage of greater than or equal to 115 kV and is greater than 2 km in length.
2. Refurbishing an existing transmission line that has a nominal operating voltage of greater than or equal to 115 kV and is greater than 2 km in length.
3. Establishing a new transmission station that has nominal operating voltage of greater than or equal to 115 kV.
4. Expanding an existing transmission station, where the expansion involves the acquisition of land and the transmission station has a nominal operating voltage of greater than or equal to 115 kV.

A transmission line is defined as a line (including relevant structures and components, where applicable) for the transmission of electricity, that can be overhead, underground or submarine. A transmission station is defined as a station used in the transmission or transformation of electrical power and may comprise transformer stations, switching stations, compensation stations, regulating stations, terminal or tap stations, high voltage direct current stations or other types of stations.

Item number one in the list above is the criteria triggering the Class EA Process for this Project. Within the Class EA for TF there are two levels of assessment associated with the size of the project and the potential environmental effects. These include i) Screening Process (streamlined), and ii) Full Class EA Process. The following projects require a Full Class EA Process and are not eligible for the screening process:

1. Establishing a transmission line that has a nominal operating voltage of greater than 115 kV and less than 500 kV and is greater than or equal to 50 km
2. Establishing a transmission line that has a nominal operating voltage of greater than or equal to 500 kV and is greater than 2 km.
3. Refurbishing an existing transmission line that has nominal operating voltage of greater than or equal to 500 kV and is greater than or equal to 75 km.
4. Establishing a new or expanding an existing transmission station that has a nominal operating voltage of greater than 500 kV.

As this Project has a nominal operating voltage of 230 kV and is greater than or equal to 50 km in length, the Full Class EA Process is triggered. An environmental assessment for the

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Project will include an assessment of the design, construction, operation, maintenance and retirement of the asset.

Comments received have been addressed and documented in the final ESR as required by the Class EA process. Hydro One has made best efforts to respond and resolve issues raised by concerned parties during the public review period. The ESR has been finalized for the proposed Project in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, February 2024).

The final ESR has been filed with the MECP and is available on the Project website. The Project is considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR and necessary environmental permits and approvals will be obtained prior to construction.

The EA Act has provisions that allow interested parties to request the MECP to make an order requiring a higher level of study or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies). Such requests can only be made on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. This process is referred to as a Section 16 Order request. Such requests were required to be sent in writing or email to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Environmental Assessment Branch of the MECP, while also copying Hydro One.

During the draft ESR review period, no Section 16 Order requests were received by the MECP or Hydro One relating to the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project. As such, the Project will proceed as outlined in this ESR.

1.4.2 Other Permits, Licenses and Approvals

In addition to meeting *EA Act* requirements, there are several permits, licenses and approvals that may be required under municipal by-laws and provincial and federal legislation and regulations. These are described in **Table 1-1**. Hydro One or its contractors will continue to contact the appropriate regulatory agencies to ensure that the Project will meet the regulatory requirements prior to construction. The proposed Project does not trigger a federal EA under the *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*.

As stated in Section 62(1) of *the Planning Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13), “An undertaking of Hydro One Inc. that has been approved under the EA Act is not subject to this Act.”

While the Project is not subject to *the Planning Act* after completion of the Class EA, Hydro One will continue to work with the Region of Durham, Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan Monaghan, Township of Selwyn and the City of Peterborough during and after the Class EA process. Hydro One will continue to consult

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with the municipalities regarding design and the potential effects of construction on local traffic and nearby communities, as needed.

Table 1-1: Potentially Required Permits, Licenses and Approvals

Permit, License, Approval or Regulatory Requirement	Primary Agency	Description
Section 92 Leave to Construct	Ontario Energy Board (OEB)	Required for the construction of the new transmission line.
Transport Canada Aeronautical Assessment	Transport Canada	Required for the construction of the new transmission structures within 6 km of an aerodrome.
Nav Canada Land Use Assessment	Nav Canada	Required for the construction of the new transmission structures within 6 km of an aerodrome.
Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)/Permit to Take Water (PTTW)	MECP	May be required for construction dewatering.
Industrial Sewage Works Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for station drainage	MECP	May be required for changes to the station drainage system as part of the reconfiguration of Clarington TS and Dobbin TS to add one new 230 kV termination at each station and the construction of the new transmission line.
Approvals and/or Permits under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 2007	MECP	May be required for planned works that might affect species at risk and/or their habitat which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, 2007.
Approvals and/or Permits under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), 2002	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)/Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)	May be required for planned works that might affect species at risk and/or their habitat which are protected under the Species at Risk Act, 2002.
Ontario Heritage Act – Entry of Archaeological Assessment Reports into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)	Archaeological assessment is required prior to undertaking new ground disturbance in areas with archeological potential.

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Permit, License, Approval or Regulatory Requirement	Primary Agency	Description
Land Use Permit	Ministry of Transportation (MTO)	Required for project assets to be located within MTO Permit Control Areas.
Noise By-law Exemption	Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan Monaghan, Township of Selwyn and the City of Peterborough	An exemption may be required if the operation of construction equipment occurs outside of the Noise By-law curfew.
Use, Storage, Transportation of Explosives	Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	Required for magazines, vehicles used for transportation of explosives, and activities related to storage of explosives in support of splicing.
Road Entrance Permits	Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan Monaghan, Township of Selwyn and the City of Peterborough	Required to construct potential new entrances for access to a construction site from existing municipal roads.
Building Permit	Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan Monaghan, Township of Selwyn and the City of Peterborough	May be required for additional buildings constructed (e.g., relay buildings) as part of the reconfiguration of Clarington TS and Dobbin TS to add one new 230 kV termination at each station and the construction of the new transmission line.

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Permit, License, Approval or Regulatory Requirement	Primary Agency	Description
Demolition Permit	Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan Monaghan, Township of Selwyn and the City of Peterborough	Required for the demolition and removal of structures.
Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits Permit	Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), Kawartha Conservation (KC) and Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA)	Required for construction works within CLOCA, KCA and ORCA regulated areas.
Fisheries Act Authorization	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	May be required for in-water construction works or works with potential releases that have potential to adversely affect fish or fish habitat.
Crown Land Work Permit	Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	May be required if authorization under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> is required.
Notice of Work	Rail Companies	May be required for crossings of federally regulated rail lines.
Clearance Letter	Utility companies	Required to cross utilities (e.g., natural gas or oil pipelines, fibre optics)

In the event that other permits are identified as required, Hydro One and/or the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor will work with the regulator to ensure compliance.

2 Study Area

Study areas are required to define the spatial extent in which existing conditions information and data are collected and compiled to be described in enough detail to enable the evaluation of the Project. Two study areas (Local Study Area [LSA] and Project Study Area [PSA]) were identified to consider potential natural and socio-economic environmental features and potential effects associated with each of the route alternatives **Figure 2-1**). The ROW for the Project is anticipated to be up to 46 m in width, extending approximately 23 M on either side of the centreline. For the majority of its 53 km length, the ROW is situated within an existing corridor or shared ROW.

As further described in **Section 5.2** at the beginning of the Class EA process, the Hydro One Project team completed a preliminary assessment to identify the technical and environmental constraints and opportunities for the proposed double-circuit 230 kV transmission line. This included mapping known environmental and technical feature constraints, identifying opportunities to parallel existing linear infrastructure, as well as utilization of existing easements and/or ROW, where possible.

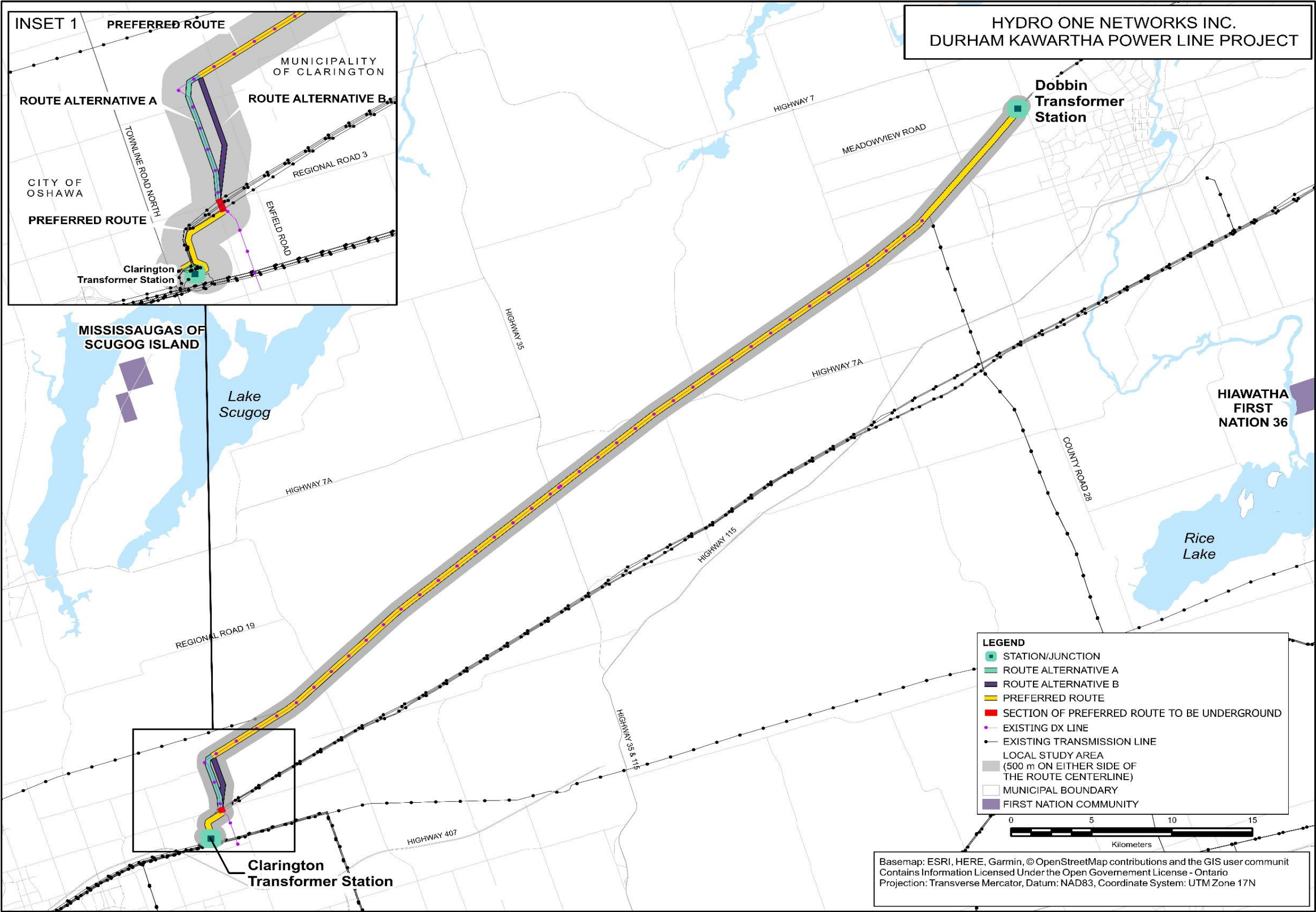
2.1 Project Study Area

The Project Study Area (PSA) includes lands within 120 metres (m) of each of the route alternative center lines between Clarington TS and Dobbin TS. The objective of the PSA was to identify an area that includes the future asset location, associated ROW and directly adjacent lands used as an extent for the scope of technical studies and field investigations that are documented in baseline existing conditions. The majority of the Project will repurpose approximately 50 km of an existing transmission corridor between Clarington and Peterborough. Hydro One is prioritizing the use of existing transmission line corridors where possible for the Project.

2.2 Local Study Area

The Local Study Area (LSA) includes lands within 500 m of each of the route alternative centre lines between Clarington TS and Dobbin TS. The objective of the LSA was to expand upon the PSA to include an area of potential indirect Project effects on the natural and socio-economic environments associated with each of the route alternatives.

Figure 2-1: Study Area



3 Engagement and Consultation

Engagement is an important component of the Class EA process; it gives stakeholders and Indigenous rightsholders opportunities to meaningfully participate and provide input in the planning process and other aspects of the Project. It also allows the proponent to develop strong relationships with various community groups, learn about social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors related to the Project, and serve as a feedback mechanism for the Project, thereby ensuring the Project is compliant with regulatory requirements and community values. Feedback collected through the engagement process can also improve Project design to avoid potential effects.

The key principles that have guided Hydro One's approach to consultation and engagement include ongoing, meaningful, and open engagement with residents and communities potentially affected by or interested in the proposed Project.

The characteristics of consultation and engagement for this Project include the following:

- A transparent and flexible engagement process;
- Project information communicated to support a two-way dialogue with First Nations communities, local elected officials, federal, provincial, and municipal government agencies, local residents, farmers and property owners, interested persons, businesses, and interest groups;
- Ongoing opportunities for interested parties to learn about and provide meaningful input on the proposed Project; and
- Full and fair considerations and documentation by Hydro One of all input received during the consultation and engagement process and incorporation of such input, where feasible and reasonable, into Project planning.

Engagement with First Nation communities is detailed in **Section 3.5**. The Project contact list at the time of this report is provided in **APPENDIX A - 1**. The following local elected officials, federal, provincial, and municipal government agencies, businesses, and interest groups were engaged by Hydro One:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO);
- Indigenous Services Canada;
- Canadian Wildlife Services;
- Transport Canada (TC);
- Nav Canada;
- Canadian National Railway;

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- Canadian Pacific Railway;
- Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP);
 - Dave Smith, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha;
 - Todd J. McCarthy, MPP for Durham;
 - Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock;
- Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO);
- Infrastructure Ontario (IO);
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA);
- Kawartha Conservation Authority;
- Otonabee Conservation Authority;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA);
- Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM);
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade (MEDJCT);
- Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM);
- Ministry of Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Indigenous Affairs;
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH);
- Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR);
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP);
- Ministry of the Solicitor General;
- Ministry of Transportation (MTO);
- Ontario Clean Water Agency;
- Ontario Power Generation (OPG);
- Ontario Provincial Police (OPP);
- Ontario Heritage Trust;
- Regional Municipality of Durham;
- Municipality of Clarington;
- Township of Selwyn;
- City of Peterborough;
- County of Peterborough;
- City of Pickering;

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- City of Kawartha Lakes;
- Township of Scugog;
- Township of Cavan Monaghan;
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA);
- Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge);
- Capstone Infrastructure;
- Votorantim Cimentos;
- Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB);
- Durham District School Board (DDSB);
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPRDSB);
- Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB);
- Durham Region Field Naturalists;
- Kawartha Field Naturalists;
- The Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN);
- Nature Conservancy of Canada;
- North Durham Nature;
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust;
- Ontario Nature;
- Trans Canada Trail;
- Peterborough Airport;
- Selwyn Public Library;
- Moccasin Trails;
- ConstructConnect;
- Kawartha Land Trust; and
- Forest Gene Conservation Association.

The above Project contact list was determined based on organizations, municipalities, and interest groups located within the PSA and LSA. Federal and Provincial contacts were obtained through the EA Government Review Team List (MECP, 2025).

To facilitate transparent and robust consultation and engagement, a variety of tools were implemented, consisting of:

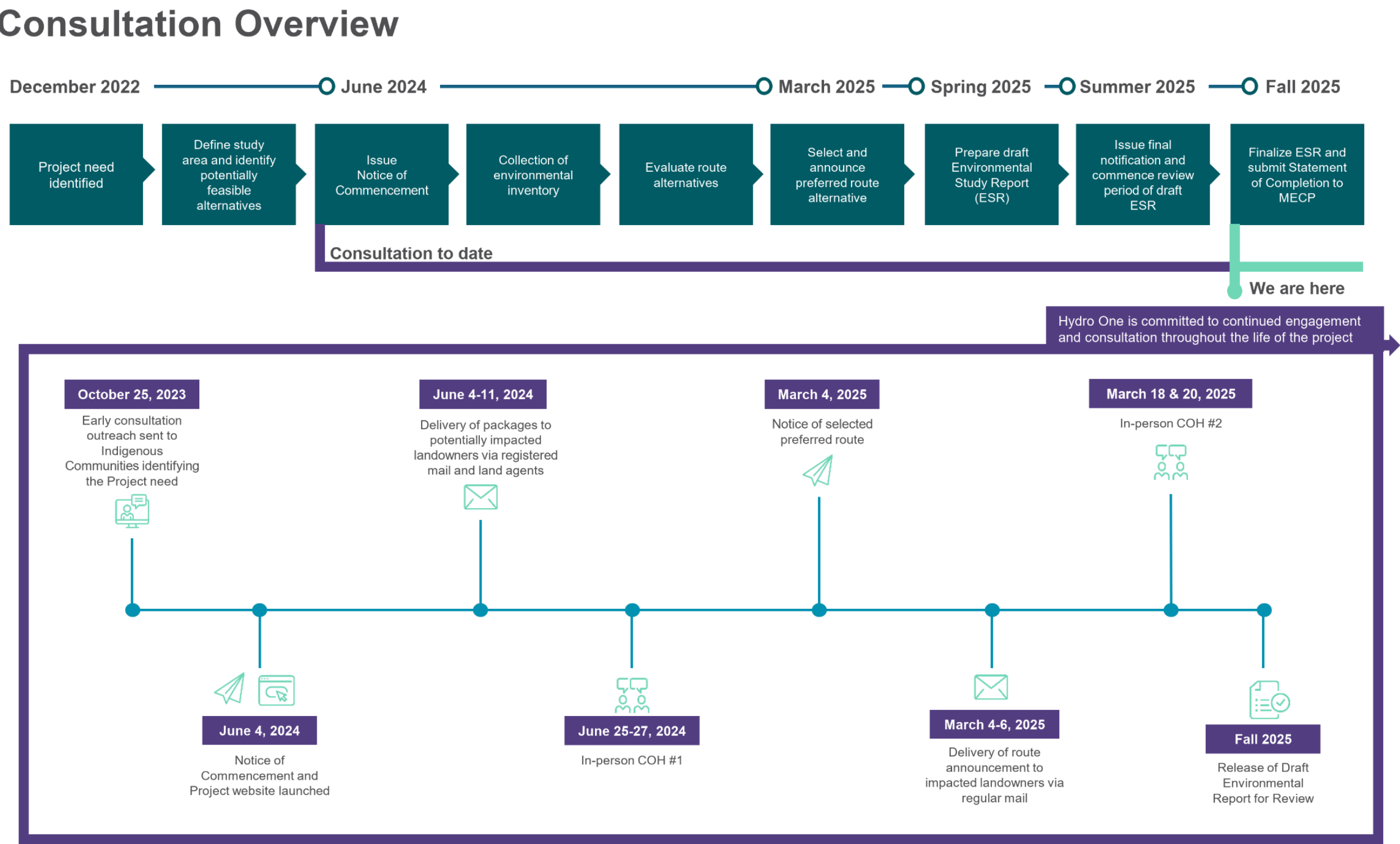
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- Notification letters and postcards to provide updates on the Project. Notices were sent via Canada Post admail to available postal routes and PO boxes intersecting the LSA;
- Letters via registered mail (and in some cases delivered by hand) to potentially and directly affected landowners to provide updates on the Project and encourage any questions and feedback to be discussed with the appropriate Project representative;
- Newspaper, radio, and social media advertisements to provide updates on the Project and reminders of upcoming public engagement events;
- In-person community open houses (COH);
- Meetings and discussions with municipal, provincial and federal elected officials, agency and municipal staff, representatives from Indigenous communities, and residents;
- Virtual and in-person meetings, and correspondence with rightsholders and stakeholders who expressed specific interests, concerns and/or feedback;
- Establishment of a Project contact list, through which interested parties received Project updates via email, or via Canada Post mail for those who requested accommodation;
- Dedicated Community Relations email address and phone number for receiving questions and feedback; and
- A Project website: <https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha> with an interactive online mapping tool to help share Project information and updates.

The results of the consultation and engagement activities are summarized in the sections below. The consultation and engagement summary includes correspondence up to January 23, 2026. Feedback was considered by the Project team and incorporated where appropriate. Copies of consultation and engagement materials such as notices, COH display panels, and correspondence are included in **APPENDIX A - 2**, consultation materials with First Nation communities are included in **APPENDIX A - 3**, and key correspondence with stakeholders is included in **APPENDIX A - 4**. A copy of the Project Record of Consultation is provided in **APPENDIX A - 5**.

A high-level overview of the consultation and engagement timeline is outlined in **Figure 3-1** and further explained in the subsequent sections below.

Figure 3-1: Consultation Timeline



3.1 Notice of Commencement and Community Open House #1

The Notice of Commencement (NoC), which included an invitation for the COH #1, was published in local newspapers, radio stations, advertised on social media platforms, posted on the Project specific website and distributed to the public via Canada Post starting on June 4, 2024. In addition, affected property owners along the proposed routes received a package including the NoC and property specific information hand delivered using CanAcre. The NoC introduced the Project by providing details on the Project need, description, study area, route alternatives and associated regulatory processes. The NoC referred to the Project website and solicited questions and comments to be provided to Hydro One Community Relations.

Copies of the NoC and Community Open House #1 were distributed as follows:

Date	Method	Action
October 23, 2023	Email	Early notice of the Project delivered to Alderville First Nation (AFN), Beausoleil First Nation (BFN), Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation (GIFN), Chippewas of Rama First Nation (CRFN), Curve Lake First Nation (CLFN), Hiawatha First Nation (HFN), Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN), and Kawartha Nishnawbe (KN).
June 4 to 25, 2024	Radio ads played on CKGEFM (Clarington), CJKXFM (Oshawa, Scugog), CKWVFM (Peterborough), CKWFFM (Cavan-Monaghan), CKQMFM (Kawartha Lakes)	Radio ads played on local radio stations for four (4) spots per day.
June 4 to 27, 2024	Social media advertisements run on Meta (Facebook and Instagram)	Social media advertisements ran to promote COH #1. Each post was connected to the Project website.

Date	Method	Action
June 5 to 8, 2024	NoC and Invitation to COH #1 published in the Lakefield Herald, Orono Weekly Times, The Peterborough Examiner, and The Durham/Kawartha Standard	NoC and Invitation to COH#1 published.
June 4, 2024	Email	Hydro One emailed the NoC to federal agencies, provincial ministries and authorities, municipalities, interest groups and businesses.
June 4, 2024	Direct mail	Hydro One mailed the NoC to property owners within the ROW of each route alternative to make sure potentially affected property owners were notified.
June 4, 2024	Canada Post admail	Hydro One mailed the NoC to homes and businesses within the LSA.
June 4 to 10, 2024	Hand delivered	CanAcre via Hydro One delivered the NoC to property owners within the ROW of each route alternative to make sure potentially affected property owners were notified.

Refer to **APPENDIX A - 2** for a copy of the NoC and Notice of COH #1.

3.2 Community Open House #1 (COH #1)

COH #1 consisted of three (3) in-person events which were held to provide stakeholders an introduction to the Project and the Transmission Facilities Class EA process. Table maps, Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) general fact sheets, and a series of panels were set up at each venue for attendees to view, provide comments, and ask questions of the Project Team. The COHs were also equipped with a tablet loaded with a web map of the Project for attendees to identify where the proposed Project was in relation to their address and areas of potential

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interest (e.g., affected properties, wildlife crossing areas). The key information shared at these sessions included:

- Project overview and benefits;
- Class EA process;
- Preferred route selection process;
- Process for working with property owners; and
- Project timeline and next steps.

The following table presents details and sign-in sheet attendance for COH #1 in-person events.

Date	Location	# of Attendees¹
June 25, 2024	Solina Community Hall 1964 Concession Road 6	53
June 26, 2024	Peterborough Lions Community Centre 347 Burnham Street	27
June 27, 2024	Bethany United Church 2 George Street, Bethany,	73

The COHs consisted of a variety of engagement activities and materials used to share information on the Project, as well as provide opportunities for participants to ask questions and provide feedback. Materials used at the event are included as attachments to this report.

Overall, in-person COH #1 events were attended by more than 153 participants and most questions focused on the following themes:

- General Project information;
- Socio-economic impacts to residential/agricultural land;
- Impacts to the natural environment;
- Route selection process;
- Property (including property rights and property acquisition);
- Tower location and design;
- Health and safety;
- Existing and new infrastructure;

¹ Some attendees elected not to use the sign-in sheet when asked, therefore attendee numbers are approximate.

- Project need; and
- Construction.

3.3 Notice of Preferred Route and Community Open House #2

The Notice of Preferred Route, which included an invitation for the COH #2, was published in local newspapers, radio stations, advertised on social media platforms, posted on the Project specific website, and distributed to the public via Canada Post starting on March 4, 2025. In addition, affected property owners along the selected preferred route received a package including the Notice of Preferred Route and property specific information sent by direct mail. The Notice of Preferred Route provided an overview of the engagement, evaluation, and outcome of the route selection process required to determine the preferred route for a 3 km section of the line. The Notice of Preferred Route invited the public to attend the upcoming COH #2 to learn more about the Project and upcoming milestones. The notice also referred to the Project website and requested questions and comments to be provided to Hydro One Community Relations.

Copies of the Notice of Preferred Route and Community Open House #2 were distributed as follows:

Date	Method	Action
March 3, 2025	Email	Notice of Preferred Route delivered to Alderville First Nation (AFN), Beausoleil First Nation (BFN), Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation (GIFN), Chippewas of Rama First Nation (CRFN), Curve Lake First Nation (CLFN), Hiawatha First Nation (HFN), Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN), and Kawartha Nishnawbe (KN).

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Date	Method	Action
March 4 to 17, 2025	Radio ads played on CKGEFM (Clarington), CJKXFM (Oshawa, Scugog), CKWVFM (Peterborough), CKWFFM (Cavan-Monaghan), CKQMFM (Kawartha Lakes)	Radio ads for the announcement of COH #2 played on local radio stations.
March 3 to 17, 2025	Social media advertisements run on Meta (Facebook and Instagram)	Social media advertisements ran to promote COH #2. Each post was connected to the Project website.
March 5 to 8, 2025	Notice of Preferred Route and Invitation to COH #2 published in the Lakefield Herald, Orono Weekly Times, The Peterborough Examiner, and The Durham/Kawartha Standard	Notice of Preferred Route and Invitation to COH#2 published.
March 4, 2025	Notice of Preferred Route Announcement and Invitation to COH #2	Hydro One emailed the Notice of Preferred Route and invitation to COH #2 to federal agencies, provincial ministries and authorities, municipalities, interest groups, and businesses.
March 4, 2025	Direct Mail	Hydro One mailed the Notice of Preferred Route and invitation to attend COH #2 to impacted property owners within the ROW of the selected preferred route.
March 4, 2025	Email	Hydro One emailed the Notice of Preferred Route and invitation to attend COH #2 to members of the public on the Project mailing list.

Date	Method	Action
March 4, 2025	Canada Post admail	Hydro One mailed the notice of preferred route and invitation to attend COH #2 to homes and businesses within the LSA.

Refer to **APPENDIX A - 2** for a copy of the Notice of Preferred Route Selection and Notice of COH #2.

3.4 Community Open House #2 (COH #2)

COH #2 consisted of two (2) in-person events which were held to provide stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about Project updates and to introduce the selected preferred route. Table maps, EMF general fact sheets, and a series of panels were set up at each venue for attendees to view, provide comments, and ask questions of the Project Team. Five tablets loaded with a web map of the Project were used by Project team members to demonstrate where the proposed Project was in relation to addresses and areas of potential interest identified by attendees (e.g., affected properties, wildlife crossing areas). The key information shared at these sessions included:

- Overview of Project updates;
- Ongoing Class EA;
- Selected preferred route and the route evaluation process; and
- Project timeline and next steps.

The following table presents details and sign-in sheet attendance for COH #2 in-person events.

Date	Location	# of Attendees ²
March 18, 2025	Solina Community Hall 1964 Concession Road 6	26
March 20, 2025	Bethany United Church 2 George Street, Bethany,	56

Refer to **APPENDIX A - 2** for the letter template and the mapping included in the information package.

² Some attendees elected not to use the sign-in sheet when asked therefore attendee numbers are approximate.

The COHs consisted of a variety of engagement activities and materials used to share information on the Project, as well as provide opportunities for participants to ask questions and provide feedback. Materials used at the event are included as attachments to this report.

Overall, in-person COH #2 events were attended by more than 82 participants and most questions focused on the following themes:

- General Project information;
- Socio-economic impacts to residential/agricultural land;
- Impacts to the natural environment;
- Tower location and design;
- Health and safety;
- Existing and new infrastructure;
- Project need; and
- Construction.

3.5 First Nation Communities

Hydro One acknowledges that the Project falls within the traditional territory of First Nations, including the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and the Chippewa of the Anishinaabeg. These Nations are signatories to a number of important treaties covering the Project area. Hydro One understands that these Nations, among others, have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to be welcomed on these lands as partners to energize our futures together.

Consultation with First Nation communities is an important part of the requirements of the Class EA process. The Crown's Duty to Consult requirements, per Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* may be discharged (partially or fully) concurrent with the Class EA process. Hydro One contacted MEM (formerly MOE) on December 11, 2023, to clarify if the Crown's Duty to Consult was triggered by the Project. Hydro One also requested confirmation on which First Nation communities were to be consulted and if the Crown would be delegating procedural aspects of the consultation to Hydro One. In the correspondence, Hydro One provided a description of the characteristics, general location, and scope of the proposed Project.

On December 29, 2023, a letter from MEM (formerly MOE) provided specific delegation of procedural aspects of the Crown's Duty to Consult to Hydro One, and advised that the following communities (rightsholders) were to be included in the consultation and engagement

process (see **APPENDIX A - 3** for the Hydro One inquiry letter to the Crown and the Crown Duty to Consult delegation letter):

- Alderville First Nation (AFN);
- Beausoleil First Nation (BFN);
- Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation (GIFN);
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation (CRFN);
- Curve Lake First Nation (CLFN);
- Hiawatha First Nation (HFN);
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN); and
- Kawartha Nishnawbe (KN).

For ease of reading, note that both collectively and individually, these listed First Nations communities may be referred to interchangeably as “Indigenous communities”, “the identified Indigenous communities”, “First Nations” or “the identified First Nations”. Signatories of the Williams Treaties may also be referred to as “the Williams Treaties First Nations”.

The PSA and LSA are located within the boundaries of the historic Williams Treaties (1923), signed between AFN, BFN, GIFN, RFN, CLFN, HFN, and MSIFN (i.e., the Williams Treaties First Nations) and the Federal Crown; as well as the historic Southern Ontario Treaties (1764-1862) signed between 21 First Nation Communities and the Federal Crown (CIRNAC, 2025).

Additionally, in December 2023, the Crown identified that the Wendat Nation (Quebec) should be included in the consultation process as it specifically relates to archaeological resources. Mapping from the Wendat Nation indicates that areas of interest overlap the PSA and LSA (Huron-Wendat Nation, 2016).

The communities listed above were notified of the proposed Project through pre-NoC emails sent on October 25, 2023, notifying the communities of their plans to build a transmission line from Clarington to Peterborough. A formal NoC was sent to all First Nation communities in May, 2024, providing notification that Hydro One was initiating a Class EA for the Project. The letters outlined that the procedural aspects of the Duty to Consult had been delegated to Hydro One and provided Crown contacts for questions or comments regarding this delegation.

Hydro One’s consultation approach is to first contact the First Nation communities (identified) and to understand how those First Nation communities wish to be engaged or consulted as rightsholders. Hydro One stresses the importance of open and interest-based engagement with First Nation communities to determine each individual community’s interests by sharing information early and often. Hydro One strives to familiarize the First Nation communities with

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the Project, while listening and receiving their input. Hydro One seeks to build relationships that include collaboration where possible, looking for mutually acceptable outcomes, and establishing trust. In this manner, all communications between Hydro One and First Nation communities are referred to collectively as ‘consultation and engagement’ in order to indicate the formal and informal concurrent process of early, ongoing, and respectful communications. As Hydro One has already introduced the Project to these communities, subsequent consultation and engagement can focus on understanding any issues and concerns related to the Project and finding ways to address those concerns or potential impacts on rights through mitigation measures.

It remains Hydro One’s goal to achieve the agreement and support, articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), of Indigenous peoples. Hydro One will use FPIC as a goal and a guide in every engagement. Hydro One understands that UNDRIP and FPIC are an important lens to view our relationship with Indigenous people, along with the evolving law, practices, and the guidance of Indigenous communities in Ontario.

The First Nation community consultation and engagement process was implemented to promote a transparent and meaningful approach. The process included:

- Notifications and provision of information to provide updates on the Project throughout the Class EA process;
- Ongoing reminders of upcoming public and First Nation specific community information events;
- Offers by the Hydro One Project team to meet with the community to present the proposed Project and to address their issues or concerns;
- Offers by the Hydro One Project team to First Nation communities to conduct their own Traditional Knowledge studies;
- Frequent meetings, correspondence, and discussions with designated staff/leaders from First Nation communities both proactively and as requested;
- Dedicated Indigenous Relations Project representatives;
- The invitation to participate in archaeological assessments and natural environment field studies. Including the sharing of survey locations and methodology to assist in the design of the natural environment field program to gather input in advance;
- Creation of a route evaluation survey that was shared with the First Nation communities to assist in gathering input on the route evaluation process;

- Establishment and maintenance of a Project website and interactive Project map, allowing for the sharing of Project information and updates; and
- Offering capacity funding to support monitoring and Project engagement activities.

In addition to the consultation and engagement process outlined above, First Nation communities identified (with the exception of Kawartha Nishnawbe, at their request) were provided 167 days to complete early review of sections of the draft ESR and the DNER. As draft of sections became available, seven early review periods for First Nations took place between January 24, 2025 and August 20, 2025. Kawartha Nishnawbe declined to participate in the early review of the sections due to their limited internal capacity and will be provided the fulsome draft ESR to review during the Public Review Period.

Ongoing correspondence and records of engagement activities with First Nation communities is included in the Record of Consultation (**APPENDIX A - 5**).

3.5.1 Capacity Funding Agreements

Input received from First Nation communities is a key component to Project design and planning. At the outset of the Class EA process, Hydro One offered financial assistance through Capacity Funding Agreements (CFA). The CFAs are meant to address the following aspects with communities:

- Outline an agreed-upon method of consultation and engagement, considering community protocols and practices;
- Outline a jointly agreed-upon work plan and budget for each community to be meaningfully consulted on the Project, including adequate capacity and resourcing to participate;
- Identify a Community Engagement Coordinator or similar position; and,
- Outline a process for the sharing of information regarding the Project and associated studies and regulatory processes.

Hydro One recognizes that each community may wish to amend aspects of the agreement to reflect community consultation protocols that may already be established. First Nation communities were requested to review the agreements and share revisions with Hydro One.

Funding was also offered to First Nation communities seeking to undertake or enhance Traditional Ecological Knowledge/Traditional Resource and Land Use studies (collectively referred to as Indigenous Knowledge). Where appropriate, and if provided in advance of the final ESR, the findings from these studies will be incorporated throughout the final ESR.

The First Nation communities who received this funding offer included:

- MSIFN;
- AFN;
- CLFN;
- HFN;
- BFN;
- CRFN; and
- GIFN.

3.5.2 First Nation Community Participation in Field Surveys

As part of its initiatives to support and build capacity for the involved First Nation communities that are participating in the Project, Hydro One offered each First Nation community the financial resources necessary to hire a field monitor to participate in the field surveys conducted on behalf of the Project. All communities identified by the Crown were offered opportunities to participate in field programs in 2024 and 2025. Natural Environment field surveys began in April 2024 and all communities currently engaged in consultation on the Project were notified and invited to participate. The Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (under PIF P392-0264-2025) began in May 2025 and is ongoing.

3.5.3 First Nation Communities Record of Consultation

In addition to the consultation process outlined above, First Nation communities received an advanced project initiation email in the fall of 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project. Relevant communities were also provided information regarding the Hydro One First Nations Equity Partnership model. This began ongoing open communications and meetings with the identified First Nation communities which included discussions about guidance on consultation procedures, discussions around equity partnerships, sharing Project information, procurement, capacity funding, scheduling regular standing meetings, employment, archaeological field work, monitoring opportunities, and open houses. Hydro One remains in contact with the First Nation communities for ongoing transparent communication regarding the Project and any interests the First Nation communities may have. Some specific references to species or locations may have been redacted or edited throughout these records to respect the wishes of First Nations to keep their Indigenous Knowledge confidential.

3.5.3.1 Alderville First Nation

3.5.3.1.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), AFN received an advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

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AFN responded to Hydro One on November 22, 2023, with a letter acknowledging receipt of Hydro One's project initiation email and outlining guidance and procedures for consultation with AFN.

Hydro One acknowledged receipt of AFN's consultation procedures in an email from January 31, 2024, and requested an opportunity to discuss equity partnership with the community. AFN informed Hydro One that a filing fee and Notice of Request to Consult were required before AFN could engage in further discussion and that they needed to understand the Project's potential impacts on their Treaty Rights.

On February 5, 2024, Hydro One responded to AFN to inform them that they did not have enough information at that time to provide more valuable detail on the Project as required under AFN's consultation protocol. Hydro One informed AFN that they had initiated the process for payment of the filing fee to proceed with discussions around the equity partnership and capacity funding. AFN and Hydro One scheduled a meeting for March 1, 2024.

On March 1, 2024, Hydro One met with AFN in person to discuss the Project and equity partnership, procurement, funding, and ongoing energy projects.

Hydro One reached out to AFN on March 12, 2024, noting that AFN had been invited to a joint meeting with MSIFN to discuss the Project and equity partnership.

Hydro One met with AFN and representation from MSIFN on March 15, 2024, to discuss the Project, the equity model policy, and capacity funding. Hydro One also discussed scheduling regular meetings with MSIFN and AFN and sent a list of action items following the meeting.

On April 19, 2024, Hydro One reached out to AFN to inquire which archaeological consultants they preferred to work with in advance of the Request for Proposal. AFN provided a list of consultants they preferred not to work with for Hydro One's consideration.

Hydro One met virtually with AFN and other First Nations communities, including representation, on May 2, 2024, to discuss the Project, in particular Project scope, timelines, invoicing, capacity funding, and equity partnership funding, in addition to employment opportunities, procurement, and other Hydro One projects. AFN indicated their interest in involvement in archaeological field studies, and Hydro One acknowledged that First Nations communities may have preferences regarding archaeological consultants. Hydro One followed up with a list of action items from their meeting, including commitments from Hydro One and Hydro One's environmental consultant, WSP, as well as a request for meeting availability to review the capacity funding.

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On May 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nations communities to share action items from their call on May 2, 2024. Hydro One also followed up with communities to request their availability for another meeting in May 2024.

On May 7, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN to request the key contacts for monitoring opportunities and for invoicing.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided AFN with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with AFN.

AFN confirmed their point of contact for upcoming field study notifications on May 28, 2024, to which Hydro One noted that they would be in contact to introduce them to their environmental consultant, WSP, and share a Field Work Plan to inform them of planned field studies for the Project.

Hydro One met virtually with AFN and other First Nations communities on June 10, 2024, to discuss the Project. Hydro One shared that the NoC had been released publicly on June 4, 2024, and provided an overview of the Project timelines and the route alternatives for a 3 km stretch of the line that would be evaluated by an environmental assessment and community and stakeholder input. Hydro One provided an overview of the Multi-Project CFA, highlighting the history of the agreement development and a breakdown of the capacity funding available for each community. Hydro One also discussed upcoming field studies for the Project as well as planned COHs. Communities inquired about Hydro One's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process and selection. On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow-up email to AFN and other First Nations communities regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

Between June 13 and 16, 2024, AFN, Hydro One, and other First Nations communities confirmed their availability for a joint virtual meeting on July 8, 2024, to continue Project discussions.

On June 14, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN and other First Nations communities to inform them that their environmental consultant, WSP, would be reaching out to discuss and share field monitoring opportunities, understand interest for participation, community capacity, and to negotiate a field monitoring agreement. Hydro One noted that field studies would begin in summer 2024.

On June 19, 2024, WSP reached out to AFN to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided a fieldwork summary detailing the types of field surveys to take place and the estimated schedule. WSP also shared additional details

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regarding Indigenous monitor participation on Hydro One projects and inquired if AFN had an existing field monitor agreement that they preferred to use.

Hydro One emailed AFN on June 27, 2024, to inquire about the possibility of a community tour when they present to Chief and Council on July 16, 2024. Hydro One expressed interest in learning more about the Black Oak Savannah, as well as any other features or projects of AFN.

On July 4, 2024, AFN confirmed to WSP that they were interested in participating in field monitoring and inquired about access to lands within the corridor for harvesting seed, access to field survey results, how impacts would be offset, and possible field days. WSP clarified to AFN that Class EA fieldwork flowed through WSP and inquired if AFN had an existing agreement template for Indigenous monitors. WSP shared anticipated field days of July 15 to 16, 2024, for Ecological Land Classification (ELC) surveys to take place, followed by aquatic habitat surveys planned for August 2024.

Hydro One emailed AFN on July 5, 2024, to respond to AFN's July 4, 2024, email to confirm that they were in discussion with their Real Estate team to determine the possibility for AFN to access corridor lands for harvesting, that they would share results of the field studies with AFN, and that the Class EA would determine the effects and impacts of the Project to frame how and what any offsets would be.

On July 8, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with AFN and other First Nations communities to discuss Project updates, including timelines, the Class EA process, fieldwork, opportunities for First Nations involvement, and capacity funding. Meeting attendees agreed to meet in person in Scugog Island on August 12, 2024, for their next meeting. Hydro One shared a copy of the meeting presentation and notes with attendees.

On July 8, 2024, AFN requested a monitoring agreement from Hydro One. Hydro One forwarded AFN's request to WSP, which confirmed that the monitoring agreement template was currently being finalized and that they would send a copy to AFN once ready. WSP also informed AFN on July 12, 2024, that the ELC survey would be postponed until additional land access could be secured.

On July 24, 2024, WSP shared a Master Subcontract Agreement (MSA) field monitoring with AFN for their review and an information sheet outlining the requirements for liability insurance and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) clearance. AFN responded to WSP on July 25, 2024, to provide a signed contract, liability insurance, and WSIB coverage to satisfy Indigenous monitor participation requirements. AFN noted that the WSIB coverage was set to expire on August 19, 2024. WSP circulated the fully executed MSA with AFN and noted that they would be in touch regarding a work order and monitor field schedule.

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Also on August 9, 2024, WSP emailed AFN to notify them about upcoming fieldwork planned for August 13 to 16, 2024. WSP provided a description of the surveys and reminded AFN that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement would be required to take part in the fieldwork. WSP also provided a list of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for monitors.

On August 12, 2024, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting Hydro One provided an overview of their Early Contractor Involvement/Engineering Procurement and Construction (ECI/EPC) process and approach and discussion on Hydro One's approach to the EA process. During the meeting, communities requested greater involvement early on in the EA process. This request was addressed by Hydro One's development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR and DNER chapters.

On August 14, 2024, as a follow-up to their meeting, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to share the meeting presentation and a list of action items to be addressed. Hydro One also provided Project Shapefiles.

As another follow-up to an action item from their August 12, 2024, meeting, Hydro One emailed AFN on August 16, 2024, to inquire if they had any interest in visiting the Project route alternatives and invited them to a working session for additional field survey opportunities. Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to identify their preferred approach for the workshops and propose dates to facilitate these conversations. The site visit was cancelled in October due to weather and availability. AFN and Hydro One decided to reschedule the site visits to the new year (2025).

Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities on August 19, 2024, to inform them that they intended to award Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) with the Stage 1 Archaeology scope of work for the Project.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed AFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13 to 15, 2024 and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

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On August 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN to inquire if they had any questions, concerns, or input regarding the Multi-Project CFA and to request their input on the idea of hosting a community open house in AFN to provide the community with an update on the Project.

Additionally, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to inform them that it was developing a route evaluation framework to assess the two route options for DKPL. Hydro One noted that they intended to include a discussion of the route evaluation at their next monthly meeting on September 11, 2024, and listed potential criteria for the evaluation related to Indigenous Culture, Values, and Land Use. Hydro One requested community feedback on the route evaluation criteria by September 30, 2024.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed AFN and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

In response to Hydro One's request for input on the route evaluation criteria, AFN responded on September 2, 2024, to request that the protection of remnant Tallgrass Prairie as its own evaluation category be added to their September 11, 2024, meeting agenda. Hydro One responded to confirm the item would be added to the agenda and inquired if AFN could connect them with someone who might be willing to lead an education segment on the Black Oak Savannah and Tallgrass Prairie for an internal Hydro One learning session at the end of September 2024. Hydro One and AFN corresponded back and forth to coordinate a meeting.

AFN responded to Hydro One by introducing them to the manager of the Black Oak Savannah to discuss their request further. AFN recommended a site visit for Hydro One to learn more about the restoration work that AFN was undertaking. AFN and Hydro One scheduled a site visit for October 3, 2024. AFN followed up on September 19, 2024, to recommend a meeting on October 30, 2024, for a joint visit with the Rice Lake Plains Partnership.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with AFN and First Nations communities to share a monthly Project update. The agenda included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC, environmental field monitoring opportunities, and upcoming field studies. At the request of AFN, discussions surrounding remnant Tallgrass Prairie were included.

On September 13, 2024, WSP emailed AFN and First Nations communities to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

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On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed AFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 22, 2024, AFN provided updated WSIB coverage information to WSP but noted that they were unsure if they would have monitors available to attend the upcoming fieldwork at that time.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On October 3, 2024, Hydro One, AFN, and First Nations Communities agreed to cancel a meeting scheduled previously for October 9, 2024, due to busy schedules.

On October 30, 2024, Hydro One met with AFN, other First Nation communities, and the Rice Lake Plains Partnership to discuss tall grass restoration and protection, an overview of Hydro One Vegetation Management, Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Recovery Information, and for a brief presentation on the DKPL Project.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with AFN and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an Environmental Deoxyribonucleic Acid (eDNA) sampling program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed AFN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and Project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

Additionally, WSP emailed AFN and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

On November 3, 2024, Hydro One requested input from AFN on the criteria and indicators that would be used to evaluate which alternative route would be selected as the Preferred Route for the Project. Hydro One requested feedback on the route evaluation criteria by November 29, 2024, and shared a link to the survey for feedback.

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Hydro One emailed AFN on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025.

Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities on November 13, 2024, to discuss project updates. Topics included the Field Work Plan review and upcoming 2025 field season, the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment in 2025, the route evaluation survey for community feedback, and the draft ESR review schedule. On November 14, 2024, Hydro One shared screenshots of the route evaluation survey and reminded attendees that the route evaluation survey closed on November 29, 2024.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN to share a monthly update on the Project. Updates related to DKPL included route evaluation and input from communities required by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024 to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and the development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR chapters in the new year. This development was the result of communities' request for greater involvement in the EA process during the meeting on August 12, 2024.

On December 2, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to cancel their meeting planned for January 8, 2025, due to the challenge with aligning schedules. Hydro One informed them that they would schedule individual meetings based on communities' schedules and requested confirmation on the planned approach. Hydro One also committed to sharing a month-end email with important dates and schedules.

On December 4, 2024, AFN requested additional time for their review of the draft Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment. Hydro One confirmed an extension for AFN's review to December 9, 2024.

On December 9, 2024, Hydro One received comments from AFN on the draft Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment.

On December 11, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with AFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting, WSP presented the draft ESR review schedule and conducted a SharePoint access walkthrough.

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On December 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to share a year-end update and monthly summary of the Project. Hydro One shared information regarding the Field Work Plan and upcoming 2025 field season, the draft ESR reporting schedule, and upcoming community open houses.

On January 7, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to request an opportunity to connect and discuss the upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for the Project. AFN suggested that the meeting should be held collectively with the Michi Saagiig Nations.

On January 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to inform them that WSP was preparing the release of the SharePoint platform to house sections of the ESR for review. Hydro One shared the reporting schedule and requested confirmation on the contacts requiring SharePoint access.

Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities on January 22, 2025, for a monthly Project update.

On January 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to inquire if they could include references to Tallgrass Prairie as a criterion route analysis in the draft ESR. Hydro One informed AFN that they would not include details of species that AFN identified in their communications and that their intention was to provide high-level details unless directed by communities otherwise. Hydro One also informed AFN that a section of the draft ESR would be shared with them in mid-February 2025.

On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

On February 12, 2025, Hydro One, and WSP met with AFN and First Nations communities to provide an update on southeast projects. Hydro One discussed Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for DKPL, as well as upcoming field monitoring opportunities.

On February 13, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to inquire about a cancellation they received for the meeting scheduled for March 12, 2025. Hydro One clarified that they had intended to reschedule the meeting to March 24, 2025, to follow a previously scheduled session on forestry practices. Hydro One noted that MSIFN was taking the lead on this and had confirmed alignment with the southern Williams Treaty collective.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

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On February 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN as a follow up to their meeting on February 12, 2025. Hydro One provided their responses to AFN's comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report and proposed a working session to discuss next steps. Hydro One also inquired about the community's capacity for upcoming archaeological field monitoring or if there were any barriers preventing participation. Hydro One requested feedback by February 26, 2025, and confirmed that they would provide the opportunity to begin the 2025 archaeological field sessions with ceremony if First Nations indicate interest.

On February 18, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment comment responses noted that they would require time to respond to Hydro One's responses to the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment.

On February 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to propose rescheduling their March 24, 2025, meeting to April 7, 2025, and also proposed reinstating the March 12, 2025, meeting.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and other First Nations communities to share project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL, details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review, and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 6, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to inquire about the purpose of an upcoming Project meeting, and that their understanding was that they would discuss Hydro One's response to AFN's comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report. Hydro One clarified that they intended to discuss DKPL as well as other projects in their upcoming meeting, including their concerns with Hydro One's Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment response.

On March 10, 2025, Hydro One and TMHC met with AFN and First Nations communities to discuss archaeology on Hydro One projects. Discussions included comment responses from the DKPL Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, document control, and artifact repatriation

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protocols. AFN indicated concern with Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment recommendations, specifically AFN requested that some areas marked as previously assessed should require rework. The rework locations were discussed, and Hydro One committed to confirming direction prior to their next meeting.

On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed AFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses First Nation comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified communities that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April.

On March 24, 2025, AFN responded to WSP to confirm their interest in sending liaisons for fieldwork monitoring. AFN indicated that they would mostly focus efforts on archaeological work, but that there may be occasions where they could attend other environmental fieldwork as well. AFN also noted that they would provide updated liability insurance certificates when available.

On March 24, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities for their monthly southeast projects' touchpoint. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment rework and property access constraints, enhanced methodologies for pedestrian surveys, field monitoring, and funding provided by the CFA and monitoring agreements.

On March 31, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to acknowledge their interest and capacity to participate in environmental fieldwork. On April 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to propose skipping their next meeting planned for April 9, 2025, so the community could focus on recovery following a significant winter storm.

On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to provide an update on action items from their meeting on March 24, 2025. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, and deadlines for communities to review the Cultural Heritage Existing Environmental Conditions (CHEC) and chapters of the draft ESR.

On April 7, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to provide their WSIB and Liability Insurance required for fieldwork monitoring. Hydro One confirmed that they would share the documents with contractors and copy AFN on the communications.

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On April 8, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide another fieldwork memo detailing additional terrestrial and aquatic surveys planned for the 2025 field season. WSP thanked AFN for their March 31, 2025, update on interest and capacity for field monitoring and acknowledged receipt of their updated WSIB and insurance documents.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, and ELC and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability.

On April 20, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to thank them for the Project updates from their email on April 4, 2025, and to inquire about the status of their monitoring agreement with WSP. AFN inquired about the split of archaeological work between TMHC and WSP and expressed confusion between the work and notifications from different contractors. AFN requested to be informed about dates for archaeological fieldwork and if there were any outstanding items for AFN.

On April 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to provide an overview of consultant contracts and Project status to help streamline the information. Hydro One provided a list of contacts for WSP for natural environment and archaeology field studies and summarized upcoming dates for surveys. Hydro One confirmed that WSP had been provided AFN's updated insurance documents and that AFN had an existing monitoring agreement from summer 2024, ensuring documentation was in place for participation in field studies. AFN responded to Hydro One to inform them that the fee schedule for archaeological liaisons had been updated, and to note that they thought the monitoring agreement from 2024 had expired. Hydro One responded to AFN to confirm acceptance of the new archaeology liaison rates.

On April 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to provide a proposed agenda for their upcoming meeting on May 5, 2025. Hydro One also provided a consolidated summary of the urban forestry strategy for their review.

On April 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to confirm the monitoring agreement between AFN and WSP was still valid. Hydro One confirmed that the previous work orders under the agreement had expired and provided a new work order dated April 28, 2025, for their review.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and requested confirmation of participation for additional details to be shared with monitors.

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On May 15, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities to discuss forestry protocols in the Williams Treaty Territory and to provide a monthly update on projects.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nations communities to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to AFN and First Nations communities, expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project, and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. WSP also provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and provided contacts to inform if they were able to participate.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of Section 4 of the draft ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered AFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to share an updated field schedule for amphibian surveys beginning on May 26, 2025, and welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2, 2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed participation of field monitors.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

On June 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to provide an update on their capacity funding.

On June 9, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to introduce their new Indigenous Relations team member ahead of their meeting on June 11, 2025.

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On June 11, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities to discuss updates and collaborative efforts on Hydro One's transmission projects. Project updates included an advanced review schedule for upcoming ESR chapters, development of a tall grass prairie protocol, updates on field studies, biodiversity initiative, funding proposals, Indigenous Knowledge studies, and archaeology. AFN inquired if Hydro One's process is impacted by government actions, such as Bill 5. Hydro One informed communities that they intended to continue with business as usual and to continue maintain relationships with First Nations regardless of legislative changes.

On June 13, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to provide a contact for their Archaeological Program Coordinator to be included on archaeology correspondence moving forward.

On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to inform them that Butternut Health Assessments (BHAs) would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide draft sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 7, 2025, AFN emailed WSP to request SharePoint access for their new Energy Lead to access the draft report chapters for review and to copy them on all future correspondence going forward. WSP replied to AFN to confirm access had been granted to the Energy Lead and that they would include them on correspondence going forward.

On July 7, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to introduce their new Indigenous Relations lead for the Project.

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On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 9, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations to provide an overview of natural environment field studies, including completed spring surveys and ongoing BHAs. Hydro One also informed communities that chapter 3 of the draft ESR and the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report were expected to become available for advanced review in the coming week. During the meeting, AFN raised the need for a four-season approach for ecological surveys, requesting that winter studies be completed. AFN expressed the desire for a fulsome, balanced, and well-rounded approach to understanding what was happening on the land in every season. Hydro One committed to follow up on their request. Hydro One provided technical updates and informed communities of two communities involved in the design phase for Early Contractor Involvement. AFN inquired about HONI's cultural heritage evaluation policy document. HONI committed to taking this back as an action item to follow up on.

On July 10, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to follow up on a comment made during their meeting on July 9, 2025, and to request clarification regarding what locations of the Project, species of interest, or potential Project impacts were of particular concern for winter studies to better understand the goals and intent of the work to scope out what Hydro One could commit to. AFN replied to clarify that they were seeking a four-season approach to environmental studies for the entire corridor, expressing the need for a fulsome, balanced, and well-rounded approach to understand what was happening on the land in each season. Hydro One thanked AFN for their response and requested further clarification regarding which species and areas of concern were of the highest priority for the requested winter studies. Hydro One also suggested that they could bring this discussion to the table with other First Nation communities as well. AFN responded to Hydro One to recommend trail cameras be implemented along the corridor to observe species inhabiting the land during the winter. Hydro One thanked AFN for the suggestion to implement trail cameras and noted that they would present their suggestion internally for consideration and follow up for further discussion.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds.

On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to share section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on team staffing.

On July 20, 2025, AFN emailed in response to Hydro One's question on July 14 with contacts for archaeological questions and concerns.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and MSIFN representation to follow up with them regarding their interest in winter studies. Hydro One mentioned that deploying trail cameras could be problematic due to the many private properties located along the hydro corridor. Hydro One also presented an opportunity to potentially provide funding for the communities to conduct winter studies and invited both communities to meet with a biologist to develop a scope for the work. Hydro One welcomed their thoughts on the presented approach.

On July 26, 2025, AFN emailed WSP to request that they include their new Consultation Energy Coordinator on fieldwork notification emails going forward.

WSP responded on July 28, 2025, to confirm they would include the contact on correspondence going forward. AFN inquired if any further documentation would be required for their monitor to participate in upcoming fieldwork. WSP emailed AFN to confirm that they had the required documentation for monitors to participate in upcoming fieldwork, including a signed monitoring agreement, insurance, and WSIB. WSP inquired if AFN had any monitors available to participate in the BHAs on July 30, 2025, or ongoing stage 2 archaeological fieldwork.

On July 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to request their availability for their monthly Project update meeting in August 2025.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 30, 2025, AFN emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on Sections 7 and 8 of the draft ESR. AFN also noted that they previously held elections on July 18, 2025, and that their Council composition had changed slightly. AFN advised that their letterhead would be updating accordingly in the coming weeks. Hydro One replied on July 31, 2025, to thank them for their comments on the draft ESR and to confirm that they would share them with their environmental team for review and response.

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On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate.

Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to provide the presentation slides from their meeting on August 15, 2025, and to propose an in-person meeting in fall 2025.

On August 12, 2025, AFN emailed WSP to confirm they had a monitor available to attend the BHAs on August 21, 2025, and requested the site visit details. WSP acknowledged AFN's request and committed to providing site visit details once available.

On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP thanked AFN again for indicating monitor availability for BHAs on August 21, 2025.

On August 13, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a new Work Order for participation in field studies and clarified that the previous Work Order they had was specific to archaeological fieldwork. WSP requested that AFN review and sign the Work Order to ensure their monitor could participate in field studies on August 21, 2025. WSP apologized for the misunderstanding.

On August 15, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included monitor training, winter studies, environmental reporting, construction, the biodiversity initiative, ESA permitting, and ongoing archaeology work. Hydro One informed communities that a revised version of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report with updates from the spring 2025 field season would be provided for advanced review, and that final reports were being prepared for public review in October 2025. AFN raised concerns about monitor training and that it could have a robust cultural component. Hydro One confirmed that they would seek feedback from interested parties in the development of the monitor training. AFN noted that they had a fulsome training program and hoped to have capacity to run it again in 2026 and to open it up to other communities for participation. Regarding construction, AFN raised concerns about avoiding areas that had not been cleared for archaeology. Hydro One confirmed construction activity, including access and laydown areas, would not take place in any area not previously cleared for archaeology.

On August 16, 2025, AFN emailed WSP to provide the signed Work Order and to inquire about some of the terms to be updated to reflect current rates and mileage.

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On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to acknowledge the revisions identified by AFN and provided a revised Work Order. In a separate email, WSP sent AFN the site visit details and PPE requirements for BHAs on August 21, 2025.

On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited any questions regarding their previous email with site visits details.

On August 20, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to follow up on the execution of the revised Work Order. WSP provided a countersigned Work Order from the original agreement signed by AFN on August 13, 2025, to ensure their monitor could participate in fieldwork on August 21, 2025. WSP confirmed they would replace it with the revised Work Order once it had been signed by AFN.

On August 21, 2025, AFN emailed WSP the signed Work Order. WSP replied with the countersigned agreement.

On August 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and representation from MSIFN in advance of their meeting on August 26, 2025. Hydro One noted that they did not have a structured agenda for the meeting, but that the purpose of the meeting was intended to understand communities' expected outcomes of the winter studies request. Hydro One also confirmed that WSP would be in attendance for support.

On August 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and MSIFN representation to acknowledge concerns regarding references to the ESA in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and suggested a separate meeting on August 27, 2025, to discuss further. AFN agreed with MSIFN's recommendation to include this discussion as an agenda item in their next monthly update meeting with other First Nation communities. Hydro One agreed with their suggestion.

On August 25, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide the Daily Field Report for the BHAs that took place on August 21, 2025.

On August 26, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN, representation from MSIFN, and WSP to discuss a scope of work for the proposed winter studies and funding. MSIFN suggested monitoring for animal movements within the corridors and the need to study additional wildlife and cultural meadows in spring. The use of trail cameras was suggested for areas where there was tree and vegetation removal anticipated. AFN and MSIFN agreed to provide a scope for the winter work within a month. Hydro One committed to providing a detailed map of public and private lands and areas of potential clearing. AFN suggested that tracking should be for all fur

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bearing animals and recommended use of trail cameras. AFN also requested consideration for the owl population when designing the scope of the study. Additionally, AFN reiterated concerns around corridor maintenance and land rehabilitation post construction. Hydro One noted that First Nation communities would have input and influence over maintenance as equity partners in the line and that the minimum effort and commitment is to restore the land to the condition it was prior to construction.

On August 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and representation from MSIFN to share an overview of action items from their meeting on August 26, 2025, including providing a map of public access lands in the ROW and areas that may have impacts to vegetation and follow up discussion to discuss the mapping and methodologies, with the intent of developing workplan to execute in fall and winter of 2025. Hydro One also suggested incorporating discussion on targeted studies to the agenda of their next monthly meeting.

On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide a summary of the results from the BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season.

On September 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to invite them to attend their next Monthly Projects Meeting on September 10, 2025, in-person at Hiawatha First Nation. Hydro One committed to providing an agenda ahead of the meeting and noted that the virtual meeting option would remain available.

On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 10, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities for their monthly Project update meeting. Topics of discussion included winter studies, feedback on advanced review of the DNER and ESR chapters, targeted studies, habitat definitions in the reports, and the biodiversity initiative.

On September 11, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and MSIFN representation to provide the requested mapping to support winter studies project development, including a map of woodlots along the ROW. Hydro One noted that the source data may have some inaccuracies and that most of the woodlots showing within the ROW would have been cleared as part of maintenance activities on the corridor.

On September 23, 2025, MSIFN representation, Hydro One, and AFN exchanged emails regarding the winter studies. MSIFN representation acknowledged receipt of the maps for the winter studies and set an internal deadline of October 9, 2025, to provide Hydro One with a guidance document outlining preferred methodologies for the studies. Hydro One confirmed

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the deadline and proposed a meeting to review the document. MSIFN representation confirmed interest in a meeting to review the guidance document, and Hydro One agreed to follow up with proposed dates.

On October 1, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to provide the Project team's responses to their comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR.

On October 6, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and other First Nation communities to recommend shortening their upcoming monthly project update meeting due a small number of updates to share. Hydro One also proposed adding a topic to their agenda regarding a platform for confidential file sharing and storage. Hydro One requested confirmation of members that would require access to each community's respective file sharing folders.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and other First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One thanked communities for their input.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

November 12, 2025, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities for a monthly project update meeting. Topics of discussion included RFP bid updates, project updates, and community initiatives and ongoing engagement.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed AFN to share an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them.

On November 24, 2025. Hydro One emailed AFN to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and to request to be informed if they anticipated any issues submitting comments before the deadline. AFN responded to Hydro One to confirm they had no further comments on the draft ESR. Hydro One responded to thank them. AFN's comment received during the draft ESR comment period and Hydro One's response can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On November 24, 2025, MSIFN copied AFN on an email to WSP following up on the data request for savannah communities data from field studies. WSP emailed MSIFN and AFN to

inform them that they were still working to compile the requested savannah communities data and that they would be sharing it with them soon.

On November 25, 2025 WSP emailed MSIFN and AFN to confirm that the information requested had been uploaded to Sharepoint for their review and granted access to the site.

On December 10, 2025, MSIFN copied AFN and Williams Treaties First Nations (WTFN) communities on an email sent to Hydro One to inform them that a winter study proposal had been selected for Hydro One's review. Hydro One thanked the WTFN communities for their effort and time to bring forward the winter study proposal. Hydro One noted that they would have an opportunity to review and provide feedback in January 2025 due to capacity and efforts to complete the final ESR.

On December 12, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and First Nation communities to express gratitude for their effort, insight, and willingness to collaborate on the Project. Hydro One shared a list of action items and updates in lieu of their monthly meeting and wished everyone a nice holiday break.

On January 9, 2026, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities to discuss monthly southeast project updates. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 AA fieldwork and report timing, completion of the final ESR, EPC bid contractor evaluations, and ongoing ground surveying.

On January 14, 2026, Hydro One emailed AFN and MSIFN to confirm their interest in supporting the one-time winter studies proposal put forth by their hired subcontractor. Hydro One provided conditions for the study and items to be addressed.

3.5.3.1.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

On May 2, 2024, Hydro One held a Project meeting with AFN and First Nations communities and discussed employment and procurement on DKPL.

On June 10, 2024, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. Communities inquired about Hydro One's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process and selection. On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow-up email regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

During a meeting with AFN and First Nations communities on August 12, 2024, Hydro One provided an overview of its ECI/EPC process and approach and discussed its approach to the EA process.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met with AFN and First Nations communities and included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC and environmental field monitoring.

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The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits. **Table 3-1** provides a summary of AFN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment.

Table 3-1: Summary of Alderville First Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Class EA Process	AFN inquired about how impacts would be offset in the corridor.	Hydro One replied that their first step in the Class EA was to determine what the effects/impacts of the projects would be to help frame how and what any offsets would be. Hydro One welcomed all knowledge and insight, and they looked forward to opportunities to discuss further.
	During a meeting on June 11, 2025, AFN inquired about how Hydro One’s process may be impacted by government actions and new legislation, such as Bill 5.	Hydro One advised that they abide by the current SAR legislation requirements for permitting and expressed their intention to proceed with all work as planned at the outset of the EA process, including rigorous engagement and the inclusion of First Nations input. Hydro One committed to maintaining ongoing two-way dialogue with the First Nations to facilitate meaningful inclusion in the Project development process.
Field Work	During a meeting on July 9, 2025, AFN raised the need for a four-season approach for ecological surveys, requesting that winter studies be completed.	Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities to discuss funding and scope for winter studies to be completed by communities. Discussions to develop a scope for winter studies are still ongoing.
	In a meeting about conducting winter studies, AFN suggested that tracking should be for all fur bearing animals and recommended use of trail cameras. AFN also requested consideration for the owl population when designing the scope of the study. Additionally, AFN reiterated concerns around corridor maintenance and land rehabilitation post-Project.	Hydro One met with AFN and First Nation communities to discuss funding and scope for winter studies to be completed by communities. Discussions to develop a scope for winter studies are still ongoing but are understood to involve observation of winter movement patterns of deer and other fur-bearing animals in publicly accessible areas that will have impacted vegetation due to the Project. Hydro One noted that First Nation communities as equity partners would have input and influence over maintenance and that the minimum effort and commitment is to restore the land to the condition it was prior to construction.
Effects to Species at Risk (SAR) and Native Plant Species	AFN inquired about access to lands within the corridor for harvesting seed.	Hydro One inquired if there was a particular portion of the corridor that AFN was interested in that Hydro One could flag. Hydro One Real Estate has confirmed that as the corridor is made up of easements on private property, Hydro One cannot facilitate access to properties it does not own.
	AFN inquired about being able to access results from field studies, as they suspected the corridor would cross Tallgrass Prairie and Black Oak Savannah remnants.	Hydro One responded that they would ensure to share results of the studies with AFN and welcome their involvement in the process. Hydro One confirmed that WSP had flagged this to their Natural Environment Team. Field study results were shared with communities and appended to this report in APPENDIX B . Hydro One also committed to discussing any questions or concerns raised by First Nation communities going forward.
	AFN provided a list of species of cultural significance/concern that had already been identified along the proposed corridor from road allowances and noted that protecting Tallgrass Prairie ecosystems was one of AFN’s main prerogatives.	Hydro One and AFN coordinated an educational learning session for the Hydro One team on the Black Oak Savannah and Tallgrass Prairie on October 30, 2024, for a joint visit with the Rice Lake Plains Partnership.
Archaeology	AFN provided comments on the Draft Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment. Comments included input to wording, requests for enhanced pedestrian survey methodology and suggestions for areas previously assessed to be re-assessed. Comments were received December 9, 2024. Hydro One responded February 2025. Comments from AFN on the Stage 1 AA can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	The Stage 1 Archaeology Report was updated to reflect new wording. While the recommendations of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment would remain the same, Hydro One committed to implementing the enhanced survey methodology and re-assessing some areas which were previously assessed. Reponses to comments received by AFN on the Stage 1 AA can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
	During a meeting on August 15, 2025, HONI shared that GIFN had requested HONI support them in training archaeological monitors. AFN raised concerns about the potential training and its needs for a robust cultural component. AFN noted that they had a fulsome training program and hoped to have capacity to run it again in 2026 and to open it up to other communities for participation	Hydro One confirmed that they would seek feedback from interested parties in the development of the monitor training.
Environmental Study Report	AFN provided comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR during advanced review. Comments can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	Reponses to comments received by AFN section 7 & 8 of the draft ESR can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .
	During the draft ESR comment period AFN informed Hydro One that they had no further comments on the draft ESR. AFN's comment can be found in Section 3.12.1 and APPENDIX A - 6 .	Hydro One responded to AFN to thank them. Hydro One's response to AFN's comment can be found in Section 3.12.1 and APPENDIX A - 6 .

3.5.3.2 Beausoleil First Nation

3.5.3.2.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), Williams Treaties Policy Coordinator representing Chippewa Tri Council (CTC) on behalf of BFN, received an advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

CTC, on behalf of BFN, emailed Hydro One on November 8, 2023, to request their availability for a time to meet and discuss the Project.

BFN, GIFN, and CRFN, and MSIFN met virtually with Hydro One on December 13, 2023, to discuss Hydro One's Indigenous relations strategy, the reason for transmission line growth, the proposed DKPL Project, and the equity partnership model. CTC informed Hydro One that MSIFN did not represent all of the WTFN and Hydro One confirmed that they were open to a consultation framework that each community was comfortable with. Hydro One confirmed equity model funding could be applied to support community meetings.

On March 5, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with BFN, GIFN, and CRFN to provide a brief update on the Project. CTC representation was unable to attend due to technical issues. Hydro One reviewed the Project map and discussed the different phases of the Project. Hydro One provided further details on the equity partnership model. Hydro One committed to sending a follow up email with the meeting details and a copy of the presentation for meeting invitees that could not attend.

On March 13, 2024, Hydro One sent an updated example of the equity model to CTC representation and BFN.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided BFN and CTC representation, with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with BFN.

On June 17, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to request a meeting to discuss partnerships and capacity funding. On June 19, 2024, CTC requested Hydro One's availability to circulate with the communities.

WSP emailed BFN on June 19, 2024, to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided BFN with a fieldwork summary and estimated dates of upcoming field studies. WSP inquired if BFN had an existing Indigenous monitoring agreement that they preferred to use.

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On June 25, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide their availability to meet in July 2024. CTC noted they would circulate the meeting dates to the communities for confirmation.

On July 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to revisit their request for a meeting to discuss the Project, field studies participation, and capacity funding.

On August 9, 2024, WSP emailed BFN to notify them that fieldwork would take place between August 13 to 16, 2024 and provided a brief description of the surveys. WSP reminded BFN that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement was required for participation, WSP also provided a list of required PPE.

Hydro One emailed BFN on August 19, 2024, to inform them that they intended to reward the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed BFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

On August 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and First Nations communities to inform them that it was developing a route evaluation framework to assess the two route options for DKPL. Hydro One requested community feedback on the route evaluation criteria by September 30, 2024.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed BFN and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

On September 13, 2024, WSP followed up with BFN and First Nations communities to offer PPE for monitors interested in participating in the upcoming fieldwork. WSP sent another email to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would

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be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed BFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On October 10, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to share a presentation with Project updates including information on the equity model. Hydro One shared a high-level overview of their approach to funding agreements and offered to schedule a time to discuss the information provided. CTC representation responded to Hydro One to inform them that they were in the process of scheduling a meeting to discuss the Project and would be in a position to do so during the week of October 21, 2024. Hydro One expressed their willingness and interest to come to the community when they were available to meet.

A meeting during the week of October 21, 2024, did not occur. Discussions regarding a meeting between Hydro One and CTC representation resumed in the May 20, 2025, record, which will be included in the next draft of this ESR.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with BFN and CTC representation and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed BFN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

Additionally, WSP emailed BFN and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

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Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025. Hydro One requested that any feedback or questions for TMHC be provided by December 4, 2024.

On November 27, 2024, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to share a monthly update on the Project, including a reminder of the deadline for input from communities on the route evaluation by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024 to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and SharePoint rollout for review of draft ESR chapters in the new year.

On January 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN to inform them that WSP was preparing the release of the SharePoint platform to house sections of the ESR for review. Hydro One shared the reporting schedule and requested confirmation on the contacts requiring SharePoint access.

On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and First Nations communities to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed BFN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to share Project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL, details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review, and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

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On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified BFN that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April. On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide the March 2025 Project updates. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, acknowledging barriers to First Nations' involvement, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

On April 8, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide another fieldwork memo detailing additional terrestrial and aquatic surveys planned for the 2025 field season. WSP noted that additional survey details would be forthcoming and requested confirmation of interest and availability, and to ensure all documentation, including monitoring agreement, insurance, WSIB certificate, and WSP's Third-Party Verification process, was complete ahead of survey dates.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, 2025, and ELC and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability.

On April 28, 2025, BFN provided Hydro One with updated contact information for their Lands Consultation contact. Hydro One thanked BFN for the updated information.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed CTC representation and BFN to request availability for a meeting to discuss Project updates and the First Nations equity partnership. Hydro One shared their availability for June 2025 and provided a proposed agenda.

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On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to BFN and CTC representation expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. WSP also provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 21, 2025, BFN emailed WSP to thank them for the update regarding amphibian surveys and to inform WSP that they did not have any available monitors to participate in fieldwork at this time.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of Section 4 of the draft ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on Section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered BFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to share an updated field schedule for amphibian surveys beginning on May 26, 2025, and welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 26, 2025, BFN emailed Hydro One to provide contact information for their consultation liaison for southeast projects. Hydro One responded to thank BFN for the update and to inform them that they had been in contact with CTC representation to coordinate a meeting for updates on southeast projects. Hydro One welcomed an opportunity to meet with BFN to provide an update.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2, 2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join

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them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

Between June 2 and 3, 2025, Hydro One and CTC representation for BFN scheduled a virtual meeting to discuss Project updates for June 13, 2025.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

On June 13, 2025, Hydro One met with BFN, GIFN, CRFN, and CTC representation. Hydro One provided an overview of the equity partnership and discussed Project updates.

On June 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to share a copy of the meeting presentation from June 13, 2025.

On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to inform them that BHAs would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate.

On June 26, 2025, Hydro One met with BFN, GIFN, CRFN, and CTC representation to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included Hydro One's team structure, Indigenous procurement, equity partnership, capacity funding, and CTC's intention to develop a monitor training program. Hydro One expressed support for the monitor training program and willingness to assist as needed. BFN inquired if Hydro One was aware of Durham Region's outreach regarding duty to consult, Hydro One advised that they were not aware of or connected to this outreach.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide draft Sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of Section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

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Between June 27, 2025, and July 2, 2025, BFN and Hydro One discussed an opportunity to present information on the equity partnership to Chief and Council on July 9, 2025. On July 3, 2025, Hydro One noted that they could not attend the meeting on July 9, 2025 due to a conflict. The meeting with Chief and Council was postponed until July 30, 2025, and later cancelled by BFN.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN, CRFN, GIFN, and CTC representation to follow up on capacity funding and welcomed outstanding questions.

On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds.

On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to share section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on team staffing.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a summary of the results from the BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season.

On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 23, 2025, Hydro One met with CRFN, BFN, and GIFN representation to review progress on the Project and other major Hydro One initiatives. Topics discussed included winter studies, contractor and engineering updates, the draft ESR, Bill C-5, the archaeology pause, cultural interests in ecosystems, capacity funding, and community updates.

On October 10, 2025, CTC representation emailed Hydro One to provide a response regarding the draft Capacity Funding Agreement with CRFN, BFN, and GIFN, and requested a meeting to discuss and finalize the agreement. Hydro One acknowledged receipt of the response and committed to providing their availability for a meeting. Hydro One noted that a subsequent email would be circulated regarding Project construction and procurement.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One also provided an update on the Capacity Funding Agreement. Hydro One followed up to coordinate a meeting to discuss the agreement.

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide their comments on the CFA and followed up to coordinate a meeting to discuss the agreement.

On October 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a final version of the CFA and a document providing an overview of the agreement to be shared with Chief and Council. Hydro One also noted that the draft ESR was expected to be released shortly for review.

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On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

On November 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to introduce them to a representative of the Project construction contractor to discuss opportunities for the Project. Hydro One offered to include the representative at their next monthly meeting to provide an update.

On November 11, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to request rescheduling their monthly update meeting due to conflicting schedules. Hydro One offered to reschedule to November 17 or 18, 2025, or the following week.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to share an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them.

On November 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN and CTC representation to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and to request to be informed if they anticipated any issues submitting comments before the deadline. No comments were received from BFN during the draft ESR comment period.

On January 15, 2026, Hydro One met with BFN and CTC representation to discuss project updates. Topics discussed included project updates, and current opportunities, upcoming meetings and capacity funding.

To date, Hydro One has not received specific comments or concerns regarding the Project from BFN.

3.5.3.2.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

3.5.3.3 Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation

3.5.3.3.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), Williams Treaties Policy Coordinator representing Chippewa Tri Council (CTC) on behalf of GIFN, received an

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advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

CTC, on behalf of GIFN, emailed Hydro One on November 8, 2023, to request their availability for a time to meet and discuss the Project.

BFN, GIFN, CRFN, representation from CTC, and MSIFN met virtually with Hydro One on December 13, 2023, to discuss Hydro One's Indigenous relations strategy, the reason for transmission line growth, the proposed DKPL Project, and the equity partnership model. CTC informed Hydro One that MSIFN did not represent all of the WTFN and Hydro One confirmed that they were open to a consultation framework that each community was comfortable with. Hydro One confirmed that equity model funding could be applied to support community meetings. Following the meeting, Hydro One provided a revised Project map to CTC and GIFN.

On March 5, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with BFN, GIFN, and CRFN to provide a brief update on the Project. CTC representation was unable to attend due to technical issues. Hydro One reviewed the Project map and discussed the different phases of the Project. Hydro One provided further details on the equity partnership model, including how the debt and revenue were determined and the risk apportionment approach. GIFN requested clarity regarding project debt. Hydro One committed to sending a follow up email with the meeting details and a copy of the presentation for meeting invitees that could not attend.

On March 13, 2024, Hydro One sent an updated example of the equity model to CTC representation and GIFN.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided GIFN and CTC representation with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with GIFN.

On June 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN to ensure they had the appropriate contacts for consultation and field study program engagement.

On June 17, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to request a meeting to discuss partnerships and capacity funding. On June 19, 2024, CTC requested Hydro One's availability to circulate with the communities.

WSP emailed GIFN on June 19, 2024, to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided GIFN with a fieldwork summary and estimated dates of upcoming field studies. WSP inquired if GIFN had an existing Indigenous monitoring agreement that they preferred to use.

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On June 25, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide their availability to meet in July 2024. CTC noted they would circulate the meeting dates to the communities for confirmation.

On July 23, 2024, Hydro One reached out to GIFN and CTC representation to revisit their request for a meeting to discuss the Project, field studies participation, and capacity funding.

On August 9, 2024, WSP emailed GIFN to notify them that fieldwork would take place between August 13 to 16, 2024 and provided a brief description of the surveys. WSP reminded GIFN that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement was required for participation in addition to providing a list of required PPE.

Hydro One emailed GIFN on August 19, 2024, to inform them that it intended to reward the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

On August 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to inform them that it was developing a route evaluation framework to assess the two route options for DKPL. Hydro One requested community feedback on the route evaluation criteria by September 30, 2024.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

On September 13, 2024, WSP followed up with GIFN and First Nations communities to offer PPE for monitors interested in participating in the upcoming fieldwork. WSP sent another email to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would

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be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On October 10, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share a presentation with Project updates including information on the equity model. Hydro One shared a high-level overview of their approach to funding agreements and offered to schedule a time to discuss the information provided. CTC representation responded to Hydro One to inform them that they were in the process of scheduling a meeting to discuss the Project and would be in a position to do so during the week of October 21, 2024. Hydro One expressed their willingness and interest to come to the community when they were available to meet.

A meeting on the week of October 21, 2024, did not occur. Discussions regarding a meeting between Hydro One and CTC representation resumed in the May 20, 2025, record, and will be included in the next draft of this ESR.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with GIFN and CTC representation and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed GIFN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and Project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

Additionally, WSP emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

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Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025. Hydro One requested that any feedback or questions for TMHC be provided by December 4, 2024.

On November 27, 2024, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share a monthly update on the Project, including a reminder of the deadline for input from communities on the route evaluation by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024 to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and SharePoint rollout for review of draft ESR chapters in the new year.

On January 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN to inform them that WSP was preparing the release of the SharePoint platform to house sections of the ESR for review. Hydro One shared the reporting schedule.

On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and First Nations communities to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL, details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review, and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

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On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified GIFN that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April.

On March 24, 2025, GIFN replied to WSP to inform them that they did not have monitors available to attend fieldwork. WSP acknowledged their response.

On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide the March 2025 Project updates. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, acknowledging barriers to First Nations' involvement, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

On April 8, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide another fieldwork memo detailing additional terrestrial and aquatic surveys planned for the 2025 field season.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, 2025, and ELC and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 7, 2025, GIFN emailed WSP to request a monitoring agreement for review. WSP replied to provide a monitoring agreement and requested that they reach out if they had any questions.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to GIFN and CTC representation expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

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On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. WSP also provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of section 4 of the ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered GIFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share an updated field schedule for amphibian surveys beginning on May 26, 2025, and welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed BFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2, 2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

On June 13, 2025, Hydro One met with BFN, GIFN, CRFN, and CTC representation. Hydro One provided an overview of the equity partnership and discussed Project updates.

On June 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share a copy of the meeting presentation from June 13, 2025.

On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

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On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to inform them that BHAs would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate.

On June 26, 2025, Hydro One met with BFN, GIFN, CRFN, and CTC representation to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included Hydro One's team structure, Indigenous procurement, equity partnership, capacity funding, and CTC's intention to develop a monitor training program. Hydro One expressed support for the monitor training program and willingness to assist as needed.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide draft Sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

On June 30, 2025, GIFN emailed WSP to provide their comments on Section 7 of the ESR.

On July 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN to inquire about what kinds of plants GIFN was thinking of with regard to their comment about mitigation measures in the ESR and the replanting Traditional Use Plants.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN, CRFN, GIFN, and CTC representation to follow up on capacity funding and welcomed outstanding questions.

On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 9, 2025, Hydro One followed up with GIFN regarding plant types for replanting and inquired if they had any seed suppliers in mind for providing seed mixes for replanting Traditional Use plants.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds.

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On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share Section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on team staffing.

On July 22, 2025, First Nations Consulting, on behalf of GIFN, emailed Hydro One to request an opportunity to establish relationship agreements for Hydro One projects in Williams Treaty First Nations territory and to facilitate engagement and economic opportunities for GIFN. Hydro One responded to thank First Nations Consulting for informing Hydro One of their role representing GIFN and to request a meeting to discuss Project updates, capacity funding, and the equity model. First Nations Consulting confirmed their availability to meet on August 6 or 7, 2025.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 6, 2025, Hydro One met with GIFN and First Nations Consulting to provide an overview of the Project and current timelines. Hydro One highlighted opportunities for GIFN monitors to observe upcoming fieldwork activities and offered support in developing a tailored monitor training program, to which GIFN expressed interest.

On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 14, 2025, First Nations Consulting, on behalf of GIFN, emailed Hydro One to inquire about the capacity funding agreement. Hydro One noted the changes to the agreement.

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On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 26, 2025, First Nations Consulting, on behalf of GIFN, emailed Hydro One to inform them that they connected with CTC representation and that they identified a path forward for collaboration on the Project. First Nations Consulting requested reoccurring Project meetings.

On August 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed First Nations Consulting representing GIFN and CTC representation to thank them for their coordination and confirmed that a poll was distributed to determine meeting preferences among the CTC communities and their representation.

On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a summary of the results from the BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season.

On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 23, 2025, Hydro One met with CRFN, GIFN, BFN, and First Nations Consulting representing GIFN, to review progress on the Project and other major Hydro One initiatives. Topics discussed included winter studies, contractor and engineering updates, the draft ESR, Bill C-5, the archaeology pause, cultural interests in ecosystems, capacity funding, and community updates.

On October 10, 2025, CTC representation emailed Hydro One to provide a response regarding the draft Capacity Funding Agreement with CRFN, BFN, and GIFN, and requested a meeting to discuss and finalize the agreement. Hydro One acknowledged receipt of the response and committed to providing their availability for a meeting. Hydro One noted that a subsequent email would be circulated regarding Project construction and procurement.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One also provided an update on the Capacity Funding Agreement. Hydro One followed up to coordinate a meeting to discuss the agreement.

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide their comments on the CFA and followed up to coordinate a meeting to discuss the agreement.

On October 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to provide a final version of the CFA and a document providing an overview of the agreement to be shared with

Chief and Council. Hydro One also noted that the draft ESR was expected to be released shortly for review.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

On November 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to introduce them to a representative of the Project construction contractor to discuss opportunities for the Project. Hydro One offered to include the representative at their next monthly meeting to provide an update.

On November 11, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to request rescheduling their monthly update meeting due to conflicting schedules. Hydro One offered to reschedule to November 17 or 18, 2025, or the following week.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them.

On November 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed GIFN and CTC representation to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and to request to be informed if they anticipated any issues submitting comments before the deadline. No comments were received from GIFN during the draft ESR comment period.

On January 15, 2026, Hydro One met with GIFN and CTC representation to discuss project updates. Topics discussed included project updates, and current opportunities, upcoming meetings, and capacity funding.

3.5.3.3.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

Table 3-2 provides a summary of GIFN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment

Table 3-2: Summary of Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Environmental Study Report	GIFN inquired if traditional use plants that must be removed in the ROW could be reintroduced alongside plants from the “mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features, and Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Features”	At the time of this draft ESR release, Hydro One is engaging with GIFN to understand the types of plants GIFN is looking to reintroduce, for consideration in post-construction restoration seed mixes and plantings.



3.5.3.4 Chippewas of Rama First Nation

3.5.3.4.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), CRFN received an advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

On November 8, 2023, CRFN emailed Hydro One to thank them for the project notice and inquired if Hydro One and CRFN had an existing partnership agreement in place. Hydro One informed CRFN that they did not already have an agreement in place but intended to negotiate an agreement with CRFN or with the collective WTFN and that Hydro One intended to schedule a meeting with the communities to discuss the Project.

CTC, on behalf of CRFN, emailed Hydro One on November 8, 2023, to request their availability for a time to meet and discuss the Project.

CRFN, BFN, GIFN, representation from CTC, and MSIFN met virtually with Hydro One on December 13, 2023, to discuss Hydro One's Indigenous relations strategy, the reason for transmission line growth, the proposed DKPL Project, and the equity partnership model. CTC informed Hydro One that MSIFN did not represent all of the WTFN and Hydro One confirmed that they were open to a consultation framework that each community was comfortable with. CRFN indicated a staffing change and provided a new contact to Hydro One. Hydro One confirmed equity model funding could be applied to support community meetings. Hydro One provided a revised Project map to CTC and CRFN.

On March 5, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with BFN, GIFN and CRFN to provide a brief update on the Project. CTC representation was unable to attend due to technical issues. Hydro One reviewed the Project map, discussed the different phases of the Project, and provided further details on the equity partnership model. At the end of the meeting, Hydro One committed to sending a follow up email with the meeting details and a copy of the presentation for meeting invitees that could not attend.

On March 13, 2024, Hydro One sent an updated example of the equity model to CTC representation and CRFN.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided CRFN and CTC representation with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with CRFN. CRFN responded to Hydro One on May 27, 2024, to inform them that they could not access the link to the Project website. Hydro One notified their Community Relations team regarding the issue and also offered to meet in person with CRFN to introduce themselves.

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On June 3, 2024, Hydro One reached out to CRFN to ensure they had the appropriate contacts for consultation and field study program engagement. CRFN replied on June 5, 2024, to confirm contact information for consultation.

On June 17, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to request a meeting to discuss partnerships and capacity funding. On June 19, 2024, CTC requested Hydro One's availability to circulate with the communities.

WSP emailed CRFN on June 19, 2024, to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided CRFN with a fieldwork summary and estimated dates of upcoming field studies. WSP inquired if CRFN had an existing Indigenous monitoring agreement that they preferred to use.

On June 25, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide their availability to meet in July 2024. CTC noted they would circulate the meeting dates to the communities for confirmation.

On July 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to revisit their request for a meeting to discuss the Project, field studies participation, and capacity funding.

On August 9, 2024, WSP emailed CRFN to notify them that fieldwork would take place between August 13 to 16, 2024 and provided a brief description of the surveys. WSP reminded CRFN that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement was required for participation in addition to providing a list of required PPE.

On August 19, 2024, CRFN replied to WSP to inform them that they would not be available to attend the fieldwork and that they looked forward to receiving the draft reports for review.

Hydro One emailed CRFN on August 19, 2024, to inform them that it intended to reward the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

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On August 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to inform them that it was developing a route evaluation framework to assess the two route options for DKPL. Hydro One requested community feedback on the route evaluation criteria by September 30, 2024.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

On September 13, 2024, WSP followed up with CRFN and First Nations communities to offer PPE for monitors interested in participating in the upcoming fieldwork. WSP sent another email to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN to inform them that they would be in Rama on September 27, 2024, and proposed a meeting to discuss ongoing projects, consultation, community involvement, and equity opportunities.

CRFN replied to Hydro One on September 20, 2024, to confirm their availability for a meeting on September 27, 2024.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

Hydro One met with CRFN on September 27, 2024, for a review of Hydro One projects. Hydro One provided project status updates, shared a high-level overview of the equity model, and details of other project partnership opportunities for involvement. Hydro One reviewed the process for capacity funding with a commitment to follow up and further discuss these items internally.

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Following their in-person meeting, CRFN emailed Hydro One on October 2, 2024, requested a high-level summary on next steps between Hydro One and CRFN to brief Council.

On October 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN to provide follow up information on the meeting, including slides regarding the current consultation stage of the project and noted opportunities for Indigenous input.

On October 10, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share a presentation with Project updates including information on the equity model. Hydro One shared a high-level overview of their approach to funding agreements and offered to schedule a time to discuss the information provided. CTC representation responded to Hydro One to inform them that they were in the process of scheduling a meeting to discuss the Project and would be in a position to do so during the week of October 21, 2024. Hydro One expressed their willingness and interest to come to the community when they were available to meet.

A meeting on the week of October 21, 2024, did not occur. Discussions regarding a meeting between Hydro One and CTC representation resumed in the May 20, 2025, record, and will be included in the next draft of this ESR.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with CRFN and CTC and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed GIFN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

Additionally, WSP emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025. Hydro One requested that any feedback or questions for TMHC be provided by December 4, 2024.

On November 27, 2024, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share a monthly update on the Project, including a reminder of the deadline for input from communities

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on the route evaluation by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024 to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and SharePoint rollout for review of draft ESR chapters in the new year.

On January 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN to inform them that WSP was preparing the release of the SharePoint platform to house sections of the ESR for review. Hydro One shared the reporting schedule and requested confirmation on the contacts requiring SharePoint access.

On January 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN to share an update on projects in the Williams Treaty First Nation area. Hydro One noted that DKPL was subject to Hydro One's First Nation equity partnership and provided a brief schedule update on the EA and field studies. Hydro One noted that their ECIs would be engaging with First Nations communities.

On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and First Nations communities to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL, details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review, and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

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On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified CRFN that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April. On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide the March 2025 Project updates. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, acknowledging barriers to First Nations' involvement, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

On April 8, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide another fieldwork memo detailing additional terrestrial and aquatic surveys planned for the 2025 field season. WSP noted that additional survey details would be forthcoming and requested confirmation of interest and availability, and to ensure all documentation, including monitoring agreement, insurance, WSIB certificate, and WSP's Third-Party Verification process, was complete ahead of survey dates.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, 2025, and ELC and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability.

On April 28, 2025, Hydro One met with CRFN's economic development, infrastructure and consultation teams. Hydro One provided information on the First Nations Equity Model, the southeast projects, and capacity funding via the Multi Project Funding Agreement, among lifecycle topics pertaining to connections, metering program updates and procurement.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 7, 2025, CRFN emailed Hydro One to introduce their community consultation worker to be the primary contact for consultation going forward. WSP replied to CRFN to thank them and to confirm they would update their contact list accordingly.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN to thank them for their time during their meeting on April 28, 2025. Hydro One also shared the presentation from their meeting with up-to-date

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information on the Project and information on capacity funding and the equity partnership. Hydro One also expressed interest in cultural awareness training facilitated by CRFN and requested their availability for training options.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to CRFN and CTC representation expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. WSP also provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of section 4 of the ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered CRFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share an updated field schedule for amphibian surveys beginning on May 26, 2025, and welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2, 2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

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On June 13, 2025, Hydro One met with BFN, GIFN, CRFN, and CTC representation. Hydro One provided an overview of the equity partnership and discussed Project updates.

On June 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share a copy of the meeting presentation from June 13, 2025.

On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to inform them that BHAs would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate.

On June 26, 2025, Hydro One met with BFN, GIFN, CRFN, and CTC representation to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included Hydro One's team structure, Indigenous procurement, equity partnership, capacity funding, and CTC's intention to develop a monitor training program. Hydro One expressed support for the monitor training program and willingness to assist as needed.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide draft Sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed BFN, CRFN, GIFN, and CTC representation to follow up on capacity funding and welcomed outstanding questions.

Between July 3, 2025, and July 13, 2025, Hydro One and CRFN discussed capacity funding and amendments to their agreement.

On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds.

On July 15, 2025, CRFN responded to Hydro One's inquiry to confirm the preferred contact to be informed in the event of an archaeological find to be circulated internally to Leadership. CRFN also advised that they expected work to stop immediately in the event of sensitive finds and to be notified by phone and email and that a representative from CRFN would need to attend the site to take necessary steps for handling sensitive finds. CRFN noted that proponents would then need to follow their own internal protocols for such finds.

On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed GIFN and CTC representation to share Section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on team staffing.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 12, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to follow up on their capacity funding agreements and offered to set up a call to address any questions they had.

On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a summary of the results from the BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season.

On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 23, 2025, Hydro One met with CRFN, GIFN, BFN, GIFN representation to review progress on the Project and other major Hydro One initiatives. Topics discussed included winter studies, contractor and engineering updates, the draft ESR, Bill C-5, the archaeology pause, cultural interests in ecosystems, capacity funding, and community updates. CRFN emailed Hydro One following the meeting to inquire about the date for the next monthly meeting. Hydro One confirmed that scheduling for the next meeting was still in progress.

On October 10, 2025, CTC representation emailed Hydro One to provide a response regarding the draft Capacity Funding Agreement with CRFN, BFN, and GIFN, and requested a meeting to discuss and finalize the agreement. Hydro One acknowledged receipt of the response and committed to providing their availability for a meeting. Hydro One noted that a subsequent email would be circulated regarding Project construction and procurement.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One also provided an update on the Capacity Funding Agreement. Hydro One followed up to coordinate a meeting to discuss the agreement.

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide their comments on the CFA and followed up to coordinate a meeting to discuss the agreement.

On October 23, 2025, Hydro One met with CRFN and CTC representation to review the CFA.

On October 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to provide a final version of the CFA and a document providing an overview of the agreement to be shared with Chief and Council. Hydro One also noted that the draft ESR was expected to be released shortly for review.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

On November 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to introduce them to a representative of the Project construction contractor to discuss opportunities for the Project. Hydro One offered to include the representative at their next monthly meeting to provide an update.

On November 11, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to request rescheduling their monthly update meeting due to conflicting schedules. Hydro One offered to reschedule to November 17 or 18, 2025, or the following week.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed CRFN and CTC representation to share an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them.

On November 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed CRFN and CTC representation to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and to request to be informed if they anticipated any issues submitting comments before the deadline. No comments were received from CRFN during the draft ESR comment period.

On January 15, 2026, Hydro One met with CRFN and CTC representation to discuss project updates. Topics discussed included project updates, and current opportunities, upcoming meetings, and capacity funding.

To date, Hydro One has not received specific comments or concerns regarding the Project from CRFN.

3.5.3.4.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

3.5.3.5 Curve Lake First Nation

3.5.3.5.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), CLFN received an advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

Hydro One met with CLFN on January 17, 2024, to discuss initial information on the Project. CLFN indicated interest in involvement and wished to be consulted individually and not as a

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collective with the other CTC. CLFN indicated staff changes and requested a preliminary meeting to discuss the Project in greater detail.

On January 31, 2024, Hydro One resent their initial correspondence from October 25, 2023, to CLFN to share with their new staff.

On February 5, 2024, Hydro One followed up with CLFN to welcome an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership opportunities.

On February 7, 2024, Hydro One had a phone call conversation with 4 Directions Conservation Consultation (4D), representing CLFN, to provide contact information to set up a meeting with CLFN.

On February 14, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN and representation from 4D to discuss the equity model and to present a high-level introduction of the Project. CLFN indicated their interest in their involvement in the environmental and archaeological aspects of the Project and that consultants and/or staff would fill the role of field monitors for the community. CLFN informed Hydro One that the role of an engagement coordinator would likely be funded by the CFA and filled by 4D in the short term. CLFN indicated their appreciation for the equity model presented by Hydro One. CLFN discussed past issues with third-party contractors which was acknowledged by Hydro One.

On February 27, 2024, Hydro One emailed 4D to confirm their availability to meet with and present to Chief and Council on March 4, 2024. Hydro One inquired if they would be presenting to the economic or consultation group at the meeting. 4D responded to Hydro One to provide contacts to be included on all consultation correspondence and noted that their Economic Development team was aware of their upcoming meeting.

On March 1, 2024, 4D emailed Hydro One to confirm that Hydro One was on the agenda for their Council meeting on March 4, 2024, and provided both in-person and virtual options for attending.

On March 4, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN and representation from 4D to discuss the Project. Hydro One provided a detailed history of the Project, including timelines and the development of the equity partnership.

On April 23, 2024, 4D representing CLFN and HFN called Hydro One. 4D informed Hydro One of their position representing CLFN and HFN for consultation on the Project. Hydro One and 4D discussed Project timelines and the status of agreements, including capacity funding to support ongoing Project discussions. 4D confirmed they would follow up with CLFN regarding how they intend to move the Project discussions forward. Hydro One informed 4D of the in person meeting planned for May 2, 2024, with MSIFN, AFN, HFN, and CLFN, and

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recommended reaching out to the meeting facilitator from MSIFN should they wish to participate.

Hydro One met virtually with CLFN, representation from 4D, and other First Nations communities on May 2, 2024, to discuss the Project, in particular Project scope, timelines, invoicing, capacity funding, and equity partnership funding, in addition to employment opportunities, procurement, and other Hydro One projects. Hydro One followed up with a list of action items from their meeting, including commitments from WSP and Hydro One as well as a request for meeting availability to review the Multi-Project CFA.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided CLFN with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with CLFN.

On June 6, 2024, Hydro One attended a Sunrise Ceremony and community dinner at Curve Lake First Nation as a part of community relationship building with CLFN.

On June 7, 2024, Hydro One had a phone call with CLFN to discuss projects in the southeast. CLFN noted they were not aware of the projects. CLFN referred Hydro One to their Economic Development coordinator.

On June 10, 2024, Hydro One attended an in-person meeting in CLFN to discuss consultation on the Project. Hydro One and CLFN also confirmed a dinner meeting with two Councillors on June 17, 2024.

Following their in-person meeting, Hydro One hosted a virtual meeting on June 10, 2024, with CLFN and First Nation communities. Hydro One shared that the NoC had been released publicly on June 4, 2024, and provided an overview of the Project timelines and the route alternatives for a 3 km stretch of the line that would be evaluated by an environmental assessment, including community and stakeholder input. Hydro One provided an overview of the Multi-Project CFA, highlighting the history of the agreement development and a breakdown of the capacity funding available for each community. Hydro One also discussed upcoming field studies for the Project as well as planned Community Open Houses. Communities inquired about Hydro One's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process and selection. Following the meeting, on June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow up email to CLFN and other First Nations communities regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

On June 14, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN and other First Nations communities to inform them that their environmental consultant, WSP, would be reaching out to discuss and share field monitoring opportunities, understand interest for participation, community capacity, and to

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negotiate a field monitoring agreement. Hydro One noted that field studies would begin in the summer of 2024.

Hydro One emailed CLFN on June 18, 2024, to request their preferred date and time for Hydro One to present to Chief and Council.

On June 19, 2024, WSP reached out to CLFN to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and to inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided a field plan summary detailing the field survey types and an estimated schedule. WSP also shared additional details regarding Indigenous monitor participation on Hydro One projects and inquired if CLFN had an existing field monitor agreement that they preferred to use.

On July 8, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with CLFN and other First Nations communities to discuss Project updates, including timelines, the Class EA process, fieldwork, opportunities for First Nations involvement, and capacity funding. Meeting attendees agreed to meet in person in Scugog Island on August 12, 2024, for their next meeting. Hydro One shared a copy of the meeting presentation and notes with attendees.

On July 15, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN to request a meeting with the community and their new consultant, Francis Chua Consulting Inc.

Francis Chua Consulting Inc., on behalf of CLFN, replied to Hydro One on July 31, 2024, to request a brief call ahead of their meeting scheduled for August 12, 2024, to discuss the equity partnership and capacity funding.

Hydro One replied to Francis Chua Consulting Inc. on August 6, 2024, to provide their availability for a call on August 8, 2024. The meeting took place on August 7, 2024.

Hydro One met virtually with Francis Chua Consulting Inc., on behalf of CLFN, to introduce the Project and to provide an update on the Project status and consultation. Francis Chua Consulting Inc. brought up the requirements for field monitor participation being a barrier. Hydro One committed to sending all pertinent information on the Project to Francis Chua Consulting Inc. and to scheduling a follow up meeting with them to discuss any questions or concerns following their review of the materials.

On August 9, 2024, Hydro One shared previous emails between Hydro One and CLFN with Francis Chua Consulting Inc. to bring them up to speed on the consultation to date.

Also on August 9, 2024, WSP emailed CLFN to notify them about upcoming fieldwork planned for August 13 to 16, 2024. WSP provided a description of the surveys and reminded CLFN that

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a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement would be required to take part in the fieldwork. WSP also provided a list of PPE required for monitors.

On August 12, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting, Hydro One provided an overview of their ECI/EPC process and approach and discussion on Hydro One's approach to the EA process. During the meeting, communities requested greater involvement early on in the EA process. This request was addressed by Hydro One's development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR and DNER chapters.

On August 14, 2024, as a follow-up to their previous meeting, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to share the meeting presentation and a list of action items to be addressed. Additionally, Hydro One shared the Shapefiles for the Project.

Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities on August 19, 2024, to inform them that it intended to reward the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities to share a monthly Project update. The agenda included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC, environmental field monitoring opportunities, and upcoming field studies.

On September 13, 2024, WSP emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would be provided once

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confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On September 24, 2025, Hydro One coordinated and facilitated a field visit with the Southern Williams Treaty Nations to provide a tour of Clarington TS and to view both route alternatives for the Project. Though AFN and MSIFN called HONI representatives the night before to inform that they would be unable to attend due to inclement weather, CLFN was able to attend. Attendees were briefed on several key points related to the station's operation and planned future developments.

Between October 3 and 4, 2024, Hydro One, CLFN, and First Nations Communities agreed to cancel a meeting scheduled previously for October 9, 2024, due to busy schedules.

On October 9, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN in response to their concern that the insurance liability requirement was a barrier to environmental field monitoring participation. Hydro One inquired about the amount of liability insurance that CLFN carried so they could align their process. CLFN informed Hydro One that they did not have monitors currently available; however, the issue of WSIB was still a barrier, and they welcomed any solutions from Hydro One. CLFN noted they would confirm their amount of liability insurance.

On October 30, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN, other First Nation communities, and the Rice Lake Plains Partnership to discuss tall grass restoration and protection, an overview of Hydro One Vegetation Management, Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Recovery Information, and for a brief presentation on the DKPL Project.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with CLFN and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One informed CLFN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions

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Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

In a separate email, Hydro One requested input from CLFN on the criteria and indicators that would be used to evaluate which alternative route would be selected as the Preferred Route for the Project. Hydro One requested feedback on the route evaluation criteria by November 29, 2024, and shared a link to the survey for feedback.

Additionally, WSP emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

Hydro One emailed CLFN on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025.

Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities on November 13, 2024, to discuss project updates. Topics included the Field Work Plan review and upcoming 2025 field season, the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment in 2025, the route evaluation survey for community feedback, and the draft ESR review schedule. On November 14, 2024, Hydro One shared screenshots of the route evaluation survey and reminded attendees that the route evaluation survey closed on November 29, 2024.

Between November 22 and 25, 2024, WSP and Hydro One worked with CLFN to resolve an access issue with the link to the Field Work Plan. CLFN confirmed they could download the required files for their review.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN to share a monthly update on the Project. Updates included route evaluation and input from communities required by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024 to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and the development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR chapters in the new year. This development was the result of communities' request for greater involvement in the EA process during the meeting on August 12, 2024.

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On December 2, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to cancel their meeting planned for January 8, 2025, due to the challenge with aligning schedules. Hydro One informed them that they would schedule individual meetings based on communities' schedules and requested confirmation on the planned approach. Hydro One also committed to sharing a month-end email with important dates and schedules. CLFN responded to Hydro One to confirm they could meet with Hydro One and MSIFN on January 22, 2025.

On December 11, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with CLFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting, WSP presented on the draft ESR review schedule and conducted a SharePoint access walkthrough.

On December 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to share a year-end update and monthly summary of the Project. Hydro One shared information regarding the Field Work Plan and upcoming 2025 field season, the draft ESR reporting schedule, and upcoming community open house.

Hydro One met with CLFN on January 22, 2025, for a monthly project update.

On January 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to share the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report for review and requested feedback by February 23, 2025. Hydro One requested permission from communities regarding the inclusion sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the report and inquired if this information would need to be redacted prior to submission to the public.

On January 30, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to inquire about best practices for protection of Traditional Knowledge and community-specific information for drafting the ESR. Hydro One also informed CLFN that a section of the draft ESR would be shared with them in mid-February 2025.

On February 12, 2025, Hydro One and WSP met with CLFN and First Nations communities to provide an update on southeast projects. Hydro One discussed Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for DKPL, as well as upcoming field monitoring opportunities.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

On February 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to propose rescheduling their March 24, 2025, meeting to April 7, 2025, and also proposed reinstating the March 12, 2025, meeting.

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On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On February 28, 2025, CLFN emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report, including the adoption of a four-season approach to the field program and recommendations for bat acoustic surveys and call surveys to be completed. CLFN also concluded that the Michi Saagiig should set the protections and regulations for working within wetlands due to their Rights and responsibilities to wetlands on their territory.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One replied to CLFN to confirm they would work with the environment team to address their comments on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to share Project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL and details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 10, 2025, Hydro One and TMHC met with CLFN and First Nations communities to discuss archaeology on Hydro One projects. Discussions included comment responses from the DKPL Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, document control, and artifact repatriation protocols.

On March 11, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN to discuss CLFN's capacity for ongoing archaeology and environmental field monitoring opportunities, as well as barriers to participation, such as the WSIB and liability insurance requirements that CLFN did not have. CLFN proposed hiring a consultant who could meet those requirements and proposed field visits rather than monitoring opportunities. Hydro One also discussed their archaeological field monitor training program.

Following the meeting, CLFN emailed Hydro One to provide their consultation archaeology review letter confirming that CLFN agreed with the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report recommendations. CLFN expressed gratitude for TMHC and Hydro One's work on the report.

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On March 13, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to CLFN to summarize follow-up items, including action for CLFN to engage a third-party consultant with WSIB and liability insurance to act as their monitor for upcoming fieldwork. Hydro One also committed to offering accompanied site visits for CLFN during archaeological field studies, and Hydro One's training program to support CLFN until their comprehensive archaeological monitoring program launches in 2026. Hydro One also committed to exploring opportunities to address the financial burden of long-term archaeological training for CLFN. Hydro One sent information to CLFN regarding the Energizing Life Fund as an opportunity for financial support.

On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified communities that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April.

On March 24, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities for their monthly southeast projects' touchpoint. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment rework and property access constraints, enhanced methodologies for pedestrian surveys, field monitoring, and funding provided by the CFA and monitoring agreements. CLFN indicated a concern with the language during the financial onboarding process, referring to the First Nation as a "vendor". Hydro One acknowledged their comment and explained that templated forms and systems did not properly reflect the working relationship between the First Nation and the proponent.

On March 24, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to inform them that they did not have capacity for fieldwork participation but requested that WSP continue to notify them of upcoming opportunities, as they intended to build their monitoring capacity and staff. CLFN indicated their interest in getting the monitoring agreement and documentation in order with their third-party organization.

On March 31, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to thank them for the update regarding their availability and requested clarification regarding the organization's affiliation with CLFN. On April 2, 2025, WSP's Third-Party Assessment and Verification team emailed CLFN to request information for the not-for-profit organization, IPCC, enlisted for field monitoring participation on behalf of CLFN. CLFN requested that WSP send the information request directly to IPCC.

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On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to provide an update on action items from their meeting on March 24, 2025. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

From April 4 to April 8, 2025, WSP worked with CLFN and IPCC to secure a monitoring agreement.

On April 8, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to provide responses to their comments on the Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report, compiled by WSP and Hydro One.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, 2025, and ELC and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability. CLFN confirmed their interest in participating in as many field visits as possible and requested a more detailed plan by date and location to be able to confirm their monitor's availability.

On April 15, 2025, CLFN's Archaeology Consultant Lead emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the opportunity to CLFN to review the CHEC. CLFN requested an opportunity to include a windshield survey with Elders to the cultural landscape study.

On April 22, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to inquire if all requirements had been met to participate in field studies. CLFN also requested additional details of upcoming field studies, including dates, times, meeting locations, and PPE requirements. WSP confirmed that a monitoring agreement between WSP and IPCC was required before CLFN could participate in field monitoring. WSP informed CLFN that the second round of amphibian surveys would take place the week of May 20, 2025, and provided additional detail regarding the survey locations by date, survey timing, and a map of the survey locations.

On April 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to confirm their support for a windshield survey with Elders to take place to inform on the importance of the landscape to the community. Hydro One requested CLFN's availability to discuss logistics.

On April 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to provide a proposed agenda for their upcoming meeting on May 5, 2025. Hydro One also provided a consolidated summary of the urban forestry strategy for their review.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and confirmed that IPCC had completed their Third-Party Assessment and Verification

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process. WSP also confirmed that a work order would be issued to CLFN and requested that CLFN identify monitor availability so additional details could be shared.

On May 9, 2025, CLFN confirmed that they had a monitor from IPCC available to attend fieldwork on May 22, 2025, and provided their contact information for relevant details to be shared.

On May 14, 2025, WSP emailed the field monitor from IPCC to provide meeting details, PPE requirements, and a contact for the fieldwork on May 22, 2025.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities to discuss forestry protocols in the Williams Treaty Territory and to provide a monthly update on projects.

On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN and IPCC to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. IPCC responded to WSP to thank them for the update.

WSP followed up with an email to CLFN to provide dates for provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and provided contacts to inform if they were able to participate.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nations communities to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to CLFN and First Nations communities, expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project, and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of section 4 of the ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered CLFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to share an updated field schedule for amphibian surveys beginning on May 26, 2025, and welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also

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provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2, 2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 28, 2025, CLFN responded to WSP to inform them that they and IPCC would look into their availability for field monitoring starting the week of June 16, 2025, and requested to be kept informed of ongoing fieldwork. WSP responded to confirm they would continue to keep CLFN up to date on any upcoming fieldwork.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

On June 9, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to introduce their new Indigenous Relations team member ahead of their meeting on June 11, 2025.

On June 11, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nation communities to discuss updates and collaborative efforts on Hydro One's transmission projects. Project updates included advanced review schedule for upcoming ESR chapters, development of a tall grass prairie protocol, updates on field studies, biodiversity initiative, funding proposals, Traditional Knowledge studies, and archaeology. CLFN noted that they were in the development phase of a Traditional Knowledge study.

On June 18, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to provide their comments on section 4 of the ESR regarding bat mitigation measures and a request to share whether bat maternity roosts or foraging habitats were identified during the 2025 field season.

On June 18, 2025, CLFN emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing their responses to CLFN's comments on sections 1 and 2 of the ESR and proposed language for the acknowledgement of additional treaties.

On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to acknowledge their request for additional language in section 1 of the ESR and offered an amendment to the language for CLFN's review.

On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3.

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WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to inform them that BHAs would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide draft sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to follow up regarding CLFN's request for a site visit to see the Project. Hydro One requested CLFN's availability to coordinate a visit and provided a list of required PPE.

On July 3, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to inquire if eDNA and aquatic field studies were still ongoing and inquired about when they could expect to receive the Daily Field Reports for those activities.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to request a meeting to discuss the Project and to offer an opportunity for CLFN to express any concerns or feedback they may have. Hydro One proposed a meeting for July 7, 2025. Hydro One followed up with a virtual meeting invite.

On July 4, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to inform them that eDNA surveys had concluded for the season and provided a PDF with the Daily Field Reports from the natural environment fieldwork that took place during the 2025 field season. WSP also noted that results from the 2025 field program would be detailed in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report which would be made available to communities once it had been compiled.

On July 7, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN to discuss Project engagement, including the quality of engagement, opportunities for improvement, and CLFN's priorities. Hydro One offered to host a site tour in July or August 2025. CLFN expressed interest in a dedicated day focused on Indigenous Knowledge. CLFN advised that they had been seeking an Archaeology Liaison but did not expect to fill the role within the year, and that they appreciated receiving continued notice of fieldwork activities.

Following the meeting, Hydro One emailed CLFN to follow up on the revised language from their email on June 20, 2025, for inclusion in the draft ESR.

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On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 8, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to thank them for providing the Daily Field Reports for the natural environment field studies to date and requested a copy of the maps of the field surveys. WSP responded to provide the maps from terrestrial and aquatics field surveys. CLFN responded to acknowledge receipt of the maps.

On July 8, 2025, CLFN responded to Hydro One to confirm they were agreeable to the proposed text for a revised land acknowledgement to be included in the ESR. CLFN acknowledged that the revision was not ideal, however they understood the political challenges that Hydro One's revision was intended to address. Hydro One responded to thank them for their willingness to accept the language and compromise on the revision.

On July 9, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations to provide an overview of natural environment field studies, including completed spring surveys and ongoing BHAs. Hydro One also informed communities that chapter 3 of the draft ESR and the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report were expected to become available for advanced review in the coming week. Hydro One provided technical updates and informed communities of two communities involved in the design phase for Early Contractor Involvement.

On July 11, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Daily Field Report from the July 9, 2025, BHAs. CLFN replied to WSP to inquire if they could provide the categories assigned to each Butternut tree. WSP committed to sharing their inquiry with their natural environment team to provide a response.

On July 14, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to provide their comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR. WSP thanked CLFN for their comments and confirmed that the Project team would review and provide responses to be shared back with CLFN once complete.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One followed up with CLFN to inquire about their preferred availability for a site visit.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds. CLFN responded to provide the contacts that should be informed in the event of an archaeological find to circulate internally.

On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN in response to their inquiry regarding Butternut tree categories to inform them that their technician would be processing the BHA data in the coming weeks and would provide the requested information once it became available.

On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments to be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on their team staffing.

On July 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to follow up on their request for availability for a site visit.

On July 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN in response to their comment regarding impacts to bats in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report from May 21, 2025. Hydro One provided a comment response table to address their comments. On July 23, 2025, CLFN emailed Hydro One to confirm they had no further questions.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 23, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Project team's responses to their comments on section 4 of the draft ESR.

On July 23, 2025, CLFN emailed Hydro One to thank them for following up and to inform them that they did not have availability for a site visit at that time and that they were looking into October and November 2025 for the site visit.

On July 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to confirm they would leave it with CLFN to re-open site visit discussions at a time that worked for them. Hydro One noted that October 2025 would be a better option for observing archaeology fieldwork over November 2025 in case the archaeology program ended as a result of approaching winter weather.

On July 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to request their availability for their monthly Project update meeting in August 2025.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 1, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Daily Field Report from the BHAs that took place on July 30, 2025. WSP also noted that additional data processing would be required to confirm the tree categories, which would be shared once available.

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On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate.

Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to provide the presentation slides from their meeting on August 15, 2025, and to propose an in-person meeting in fall 2025.

On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 15, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nation communities to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included monitor training, winter studies, environmental reporting, construction, the biodiversity initiative, ESA permitting, and ongoing archaeology work. Hydro One informed communities that a revised version of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report with updates from the spring 2025 field season would be provided for advanced review, and that final reports were being prepared for public review in October 2025.

On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 25, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Project team's response to their comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR.

On August 25, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Daily Field Summary from the BHAs that took place on August 21, 2025. WSP confirmed that a summary of the results would be provided in the coming days. CLFN inquired if WSP could share the tree category results. WSP confirmed that the categories would be included in the results summary.

On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide a summary of the results from the BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season. WSP confirmed that the summary included category results, as per their previous request.

On September 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to invite them to attend their next Monthly Projects Meeting on September 10, 2025, in-person at Hiawatha First Nation. Hydro One committed to providing an agenda ahead of the meeting and noted that the virtual meeting option would remain available.

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On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 3, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to confirm that they had reviewed the revised draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and had no additional comments, as their initial concerns had been addressed. WSP thanked them for their confirmation.

CLFN emailed WSP to inquire whether additional genetic sampling would be conducted for inconclusive trees surveyed during the BHAs.

On September 10, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nation communities for their monthly Project update meeting. Topics of discussion included winter studies, feedback on advanced review of the DNER and ESR chapters, targeted studies, habitat definitions in the reports, and the biodiversity initiative. CLFN inquired if Hydro One would be open to compensating for GHG emissions during construction. Hydro One discussed opportunities for sequestration as a non-ecological benefit and restoration and agreed to discuss internally to develop a response.

On September 11, 2025, CLFN emailed WSP to inform them that they brought up the idea of compensating for GHG emissions during their monthly meeting with Hydro One on September 10, 2025. CLFN informed WSP that the recommendation would be taken back for internal discussion and that they would await a response from the Project team.

On September 16, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to confirm that Hydro One planned to proceed with genetic testing of all Category 2 and Category 3 Butternut trees in the fall of 2025. WSP also noted that genetic testing of Category 1 Butternut trees was not planned, given that Category 1 trees were not protected, were in advanced stages of disease, and did not support the protection or recovery of the species.

On September 16, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to confirm that the comments expressed by CLFN at the September 10, 2025, meeting regarding Section 7 of the draft ESR had been documented.

On October 6, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and other First Nation communities to recommend shortening their upcoming monthly Project update meeting due a small number of updates to share. Hydro One also proposed adding a topic to their agenda regarding a platform for confidential file sharing and storage. Hydro One requested confirmation of members that would require access to each community's respective file sharing folders.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and other First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be

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shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One thanked communities for their input.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

November 12, 2025, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nation communities for a monthly project update meeting. Topics of discussion included RFP bid updates, project updates, and community initiatives and ongoing engagement.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed CLFN to share an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them.

On November 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and to request to be informed if they anticipated any issues submitting comments before the deadline. No comments were received from CLFN during the draft ESR comment period.

On December 10, 2025, MSIFN copied CLFN and WTFN communities on an email sent to Hydro One to inform them that a winter study proposal had been selected for Hydro One's review. Hydro One thanked the WTFN communities for their effort and time to bring forward the winter study proposal. Hydro One noted that they would have an opportunity to review and provide feedback in January 2025 due to capacity and efforts to complete the final ESR.

On December 12, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLFN and First Nation communities to express gratitude for their effort, insight, and willingness to collaborate on the Project. Hydro One shared a list of action items and updates in lieu of their monthly meeting and wished everyone a nice holiday break.

On January 9, 2026, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nation communities to discuss monthly southeast project updates. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 AA fieldwork and report timing, completion of the final ESR, EPC bid contractor evaluations, and ongoing ground surveying.

3.5.3.5.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

On May 2, 2024, Hydro One held a Project meeting with CLFN and First Nations communities and discussed employment and procurement on DKPL.

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On June 10, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. Communities inquired about Hydro One’s ECI process and selection. On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow-up email regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

During a meeting with CLFN and First Nations communities on August 12, 2024, Hydro One provided an overview of their ECI/EPC process and approach, and a discussion on Hydro One’s approach to the EA process.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met with CLFN and First Nations communities and included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC and environmental field monitoring.

On December 3, 2024, CLFN emailed Hydro One to inquire if Hydro One had partnerships or resources to support CLFN in contributing supplies for training courses planned for 2025. Hydro One and CLFN discussed details of the training course and Hydro One confirmed a donation amount.

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

Table 3-3 provides a summary of CLFN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment.



Table 3-3: Summary of Curve Lake First Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
EA Process	CLFN shared that agreements with third-party contractors had been problematic in the past, approaching CLFN as a vendor providing a service; CLFN is seeking improvements in the approach from contractors.	Hydro One agreed and indicated that internal work is ongoing to ensure contractors are educated on Hydro One's values.
	CLFN inquired about Hydro One's environmental contractor and noted that they would provide a list of preferred contractors.	Hydro One confirmed that WSP would be the environmental consultant for the Project, which was determined through the RFP process.
	CLFN noted in the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's perspectives paper, Evolving Environmental Impact Assessments in the Mackenzie Valley and Beyond: Perspectives Paper (2020), the consideration of well-being in the EA process requires a broader approach that looks beyond just biophysical impacts. It must include Indigenous social, economic, cultural, and health factors—all of which are crucial to understanding how development may affect CLFN's overall well-being. CLFN stated that by incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, Hydro One can ensure that these diverse factors are considered, leading to better decision-making, stronger community engagement, and more sustainable outcomes for both the community and the environment.	Hydro One advised that planning for this project is subject to the Class EA for Transmission Facilities, 2024 (Class EA for TF), which is the proponent's legal compliance mechanism under the <i>Environment Assessment Act</i>. <i>Section 6.5 of the Class EA for TF states: Consideration of Cumulative Effects: All proponents will consider cumulative effects when planning projects. The assessment will include the proposed undertaking and any other proposed undertakings in the immediate project area where documentation is available (e.g., other environmental assessments).</i> Hydro One intends to assess the cumulative effects of the project in compliance with this requirement. With respect to broader cumulative effects as a result of development activities, Hydro One would recommend reaching out to the provincial Crown to discuss potential impacts and mitigations.
Project Need	CLFN inquired if the need for DKPL was related to work being completed by Ontario Power Generation (e.g. Small Modular Reactors)	Hydro One responded that the need for DKPL is driven by the need and direction from MEM (formerly MOE) for further electrification of the east by strengthening transmission infrastructure.
Employment Opportunities	CLFN inquired about procurement, hiring and employment opportunities.	Hydro One informed CLFN that these discussions would take place during broader discussions in which Hydro One would work together with First Nations communities on EPC process and in procurement.
	CLFN identified barriers to field monitoring participation such as capacity constraints and not having WSIB or Liability Insurance to meet the field monitoring requirements	CLFN identified a third-party consultant to participate in field monitoring on behalf of CLFN. Hydro One also confirmed that CLFN could attend Hydro One-accompanied site visits while archaeological field work takes place.
Traditional Territory	CLFN noted the Environmental Study Report should acknowledge the Treaty Territories where this project is located.	Hydro One agreed and proposed the below addition to be included in the consultation section of the ESR: <i>Hydro One acknowledges that the DKPL Project falls within the traditional territory of First Nations including the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga), and the Chippewa of the Anishaabeg. These Nations represent the signatories of the Williams Treaties on which the DKPL project resides. Hydro One understands that these Nations, among others have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial.</i>

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Indigenous Knowledge/Traditional Knowledge	CLFN noted it was essential to conduct a thorough Indigenous Knowledge Study to establish a comprehensive baseline of information and fully assess the impacts of development on CLFN's Rights, which translates to the well-being of the community.	Hydro One fully supports Curve Lake First Nation in undertaking an Indigenous Knowledge Study for the DKPL project, which is also supported by the Capacity Funding Agreement. If this information is received prior to the submission of the final ESR, Hydro One can include this information as part of the environmental package. As consultation does not end at the culmination of the Environmental Assessment, Indigenous Knowledge received after the submission of the final ESR can be incorporated into the Project through various means. Hydro One also understands that the Indigenous Knowledge will form part of Curve Lake First Nations' community knowledge base and could also potentially be applied to future Hydro One projects and operations in the area.
Construction	CLFN inquired where explosives would be used and when they will be used during construction.	Hydro One noted for construction purposes and at this time, Hydro One does not believe explosives would be required in the construction of the infrastructure on this Project. Small amounts of explosives may be used to splice conductors together, known as implosive conductor splicing. Information about the potential use of explosives during construction will be provided in the Environmental Study Report and Environmental Management Plan.
Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Report	Comments received by CLFN confirming they concur with the recommendation on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	No response was required.
Field Work	CLFN requested daily field results from 2025 field studies.	The Project team shared Daily Field Reports from natural environment studies in 2025.
	CLFN requested the category results from BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season. CLFN inquired if Hydro One intended to conduct eDNA sampling on inconclusive trees.	The Project team provided a summary of BHAs which included the tree categories. The Project team also confirmed that genetic testing of all Category 2 and 3 trees would be conducted in the fall of 2025. The Project team shared an updated BHA assessment summary with CLFN following the receipt of genetic testing results.
Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report	On April 15, 2025, CLFN's Archaeology Consultant Lead emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the opportunity to CLFN to review the CHEC. CLFN requested an opportunity to include a windshield survey with Elders to the cultural landscape study.	Hydro One responded to confirm their support of CLFN's approach and offered their support. Hydro One requested an opportunity to connect and discuss logistics for a windshield survey with Elders.
Natural Environment Existing Conditions	On February 28, 2025, CLFN emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report, including the adoption of a four-season approach to the field program and recommendations for bat acoustic surveys and call surveys to be completed. CLFN also concluded that the Michi Saagiig should set the protections and regulations for working within wetlands due to their Rights and responsibilities to wetlands on their territory.	Hydro One responded to comments to note that it was understood that more surveys in 2025 were required to characterize existing conditions and to address potential impacts of the Project. Hydro One informed CLFN that bat acoustic surveys were not proposed as part of the 2025 field program, but that tree removals of suitable snags, particularly within bat maternity roosting timing windows, would be avoided, and where and if impacts to bats and their habitats were identified, the requirement for bat acoustic monitoring would be reevaluated. Hydro One also confirmed that the Natural Environment Existing Conditions report would be updated to reflect CLFN protections.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Environmental Study Report	Following advanced review of section 1 and 2 (Introduction and Study Area) of the draft ESR, CLFN identified an opportunity to acknowledge the Treaty Territories where the Project is located and noted that it was crucial to recognize the Mici Saagiig relationship with the lands and waters. CLFN requested clarification as to where Treaty Rights would be addressed in the report.	Hydro One thanked CLFN for their suggestion and proposed language to be included in the Consultation section of the report: “Hydro One acknowledges that the DKPL Project falls within the traditional territory of First Nations including the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga), and the Chippewa of the Anishaabeg. These Nations represent the signatories of The Williams Treaties on which the DKPL Project resides. Hydro One understands that these Nations, among others have been the caretakers of this land since time immemorial.”
	Following advanced review of section 1 and 2 (Introduction and Study Area) of the draft ESR, CLFN noted that it was essential to conduct a thorough Indigenous Knowledge Study to establish a comprehensive baseline of information and fully assess the impacts of development on CLFN Rights, which translated to the well-being of the community.	Hydro One responded that they fully support CLFN undertaking an Indigenous Knowledge Study which was supported by capacity funding. Hydro One advised that, if the information of the Indigenous Knowledge Study is received before the submission of the final ESR, Hydro One could include this information as part of the environmental package. Furthermore, Hydro One confirmed that, as consultation does do not end at the culmination of the Environmental Assessment, Indigenous Knowledge received after the submission of the final ESR can be incorporated into the Project through various means.
	Following advanced review of section 1 and 2 (Introduction and Study Area) of the draft ESR, CLFN commented that a proper baseline study, informed by Indigenous Knowledge, allows for the identification of potential impacts on well-being that may not be captured by traditional western scientific methods. This ensures that the Environmental Assessment (EA) process respects the values, culture, and worldview of the community, while also considering the cumulative effects of development.	Hydro One reiterated their support for the undertaking of an Indigenous Knowledge Study.
	Following advanced review of section 1 and 2 (Introduction and Study Area) of the draft ESR, CLFN advised that the consideration of well-being in the EA process requires a broader approach that looks beyond just biophysical impacts. It must include Indigenous social, economic, cultural, and health factors—all of which are crucial to understanding how development may affect CLFN’s overall well-being. By incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, we can ensure that these diverse factors are considered, leading to better decision-making, stronger community engagement, and more sustainable outcomes for both the community and the environment. CLFN referenced the Mackenzie Valley Review Board’s perspectives paper, <i>Evolving Environmental Impact Assessments in the Mackenzie Valley and Beyond: Perspectives Paper</i> (2020).	Hydro One responded that Planning for this Project is subject to the Class EA for Transmission Facilities, 2024 (Class EA for TF), which is the proponent’s legal compliance mechanism under the <i>Environment Assessment Act</i> . Section 6.5 of the Class EA for TF states: <i>Consideration of Cumulative Effects: All proponents will consider cumulative effects when planning projects. The assessment will include the proposed undertaking and any other proposed undertakings in the immediate project area where documentation is available (e.g., other environmental assessments)</i> . Hydro One intends to assess the cumulative effects of the Project in compliance with this requirement. With respect to broader cumulative effects as a result of development activities, Hydro One would recommend reaching out to the provincial Crown to discuss potential impacts and mitigations.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
	Following advanced review of section 4 (Environmental Inventory) of the draft ESR, CLFN requested that WSP take into consideration that potential points of reception should also include bats and other noise-sensitive species, as they may be indirectly impacted by construction activities. If a bat maternity roost or foraging habitat is identified nearby, mitigation measures should ensure that noise and vibration levels remain below thresholds that could disturb these species.	The Project team responded to inform CLFN that indirect impacts to noise-sensitive species from noise and vibration, as well as other potential sensory disturbances such as light and dust, are anticipated to be minimal given that the vast majority of the Project route (~94%) is within the existing ROW and vegetation removal is expected to be minimal, the bats in the PSA are already exposed to routine maintenance activities along the existing line and other disturbances such as adjacent farming activities, species of bat are known to sometimes roost in crevices under bridges demonstrating they have a certain level of tolerance to sensory disturbance from sound, light, dust and vibrations, the sound generated from tree felling and construction activities is approximately 93 to 110 decibels (dB) (which falls below the 150 dB sound limit BMP guidelines for blasting at bat roosts), and that construction activities would be temporary at any given location as work progresses along the route and would not be conducted at night when bats are foraging. Additionally, the Project team advised that indirect impacts would be localized and negligible at the population level. Mitigation measures to limit both direct and indirect impacts would be implemented during construction and would include lighting recommendations and timing restrictions to avoid sensitive periods for bats. The Project team confirmed that CLFN would be engaged in this process.
	In response to their advanced review of section 4 of the draft ESR, CLFN requested to be provided updated information following the completion of the 2025 field season.	Hydro One confirmed that the fulsome section 4 would be available to all during the 30-day public comment period in the fall of 2025. Additionally, Hydro One confirmed that they would be providing a second revision of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report for First Nation review during the summer of 2025, inclusive of 2025 field work, which would include the natural environment baseline data that would be incorporated into section 4 of the draft ESR
	Comments received from CLFN following their advanced review of section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	Hydro One’s responses to CLFN’s comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .
	During a meeting on September 10, 2025, CLFN inquired if Hydro One would consider compensation for GHG emissions during construction.	Hydro One noted that carbon sequestration could considered as a value-add criterion in the Biodiversity Initiative for the Project but noted that while Biodiversity Initiatives often involve the creation of habitats that will act to sequester carbon, these initiatives focus primarily on habitat values. Hydro One will continue to discuss the topic of potential GHG offsets with interested communities.

3.5.3.6 Hiawatha First Nation

3.5.3.6.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), HFN received an advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

Hydro One met with HFN on December 18, 2023, to discuss the Project, the equity partnership model, and community development. Other topics discussed included HFN's internal development of a Limited Partnership to handle all current energy projects. Hydro One shared their plan for a meeting in January or February 2024 with WTFN communities to discuss their energy portfolio, and challenges with First Nations communities accessing capital. Hydro One committed to coordinating a meeting to discuss next steps and community participation.

Hydro One met virtually with HFN's economic development corporation, Zhooniya Makak Limited Partnership (ZMLP) on February 22, 2024, to discuss next steps for consultation and the equity partnership. Also discussed were updates on Project development, NoC, and the current status of Williams Treaty Partnerships. Additionally, Hydro One and ZMLP discussed equity partnership financing options for First Nations.

On February 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN to request a meeting to introduce HFN to their broader Hydro One team and to discuss the Project. Hydro One and HFN agreed to a meeting on March 21, 2024.

On March 21, 2024, Hydro One met with HFN economic development and consultation to discuss the Project history, route evaluation, the EA process, NoC timelines, and key opportunities for First Nation involvement during the 2024 field season. Hydro One provided information on the environmental consultant, WSP, and next steps for WSP to connect with HFN. HFN indicated their interest in and capacity for participation in environmental and archaeological field monitoring. HFN inquired about the change from the originally communicated date of the NoC. Hydro One clarified the scope change for the Project which resulted in a schedule change. Hydro One discussed next steps for the CFA and requested to be put in contact with HFN's financial team. HFN committed to providing contact details. Regarding collaboration with other First Nations communities, HFN indicated willingness for joint meetings and consultation, and informed Hydro One of the current collaborative approach and establishment of a working group. Hydro One indicated that HFN could take the lead and advise on alignment with the other communities.

On April 11, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN to request their availability for an in-person meeting in May 2024 to continue dialogue. Hydro One suggested holding the meeting in Peterborough and welcomed any suggestions or preferences.

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On April 19, 2024, Hydro One reached out to HFN to inquire about their preference for archaeological consultants in advance of the Request for Proposal.

On April 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed 4D to suggest they connect along with members of HFN regarding the Project, and to bring 4D up to speed if they were representing HFN.

On April 23, 2024, 4D informed Hydro One of their positions representing CLFN and HFN for consultation on the Project. Hydro One and 4D discussed Project timelines, status of agreements, including the CFA to support ongoing Project discussions. Hydro One informed 4D of the meeting planned for May 2, 2024, with MSIFN, AFN, HFN, and CLFN, and recommended reaching out to the meeting facilitator from MSIFN.

Hydro One met virtually with HFN, HFN representation, and other First Nations communities on May 2, 2024, to discuss the Project, in particular Project scope, timelines, invoicing, capacity funding, and equity partnership funding in addition to employment opportunities, procurement, and other Hydro One projects. Hydro One discussed the equity partnership with communities. HFN expressed their concerns with unionized jobs affecting procurement opportunities and recommended a collective list among the WTFN communities. Hydro One recommended having a plan in place where Hydro One would be notified of employment and procurement opportunities *via* a database or list. ZMLP, on behalf of HFN, requested to view the scoring matrix and process for selecting EPCs. Hydro One committed to taking this as an action item to follow up on with the broader team.

Hydro One followed up with a list of action items from their meeting, including commitments from WSP and Hydro One as well as a request for meeting availability to discuss capacity funding.

On May 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN to offer to host a lunch in celebration of the office space rental partnership. Additionally, Hydro One and HFN agreed to cancel a meeting scheduled for May 9, 2024, since they had an opportunity to meet on May 2, 2024.

On May 6, 2024, HFN confirmed their interest in scheduling a lunch to celebrate the office space partnership and inquired if Hydro One would be interested in hosting a lunch on June 8, 2024, for Indigenous Day celebrations.

On May 7, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN to request the key contacts for monitoring opportunities and for invoicing. HFN replied to Hydro One's inquiry regarding archaeological consultants to connect them with their archaeological coordinator.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided HFN with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with HFN.

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Hydro One met virtually with HFN and other First Nations communities on June 10, 2024, to discuss the Project. Hydro One shared that the NoC had been released publicly on June 4, 2024, and provided an overview of the Project timelines and the route alternatives for a 3 km stretch of the line that would be evaluated by an environmental assessment and community and stakeholder input. HFN inquired about the differences between the two route alternatives to which Hydro One provided clarification and indicated that the route selection would be determined via the EA and community input. Hydro One provided an overview of the Multi-Project CFA, highlighting the history of the agreement development and a breakdown of the capacity funding available for each community. HFN inquired about the availability of capacity funding and whether funds allocated in the agreement could be moved between items. Hydro One confirmed there would be flexibility to move funding as needed between legal or professional fees and project engagement lines. Hydro One also discussed upcoming field studies for the Project as well as planned community open houses. Communities inquired about Hydro One's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process and selection.

On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow-up email to HFN and other First Nations communities regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

Between June 13 and 16, 2024, HFN, Hydro One and other First Nations communities confirmed their availability for a joint virtual meeting on July 8, 2024, to continue Project discussions.

On June 19, 2024, WSP reached out to HFN to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and to inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided a fieldwork summary detailing the types of field surveys to take place and estimated schedule. WSP also shared additional details regarding Indigenous monitor participation on Hydro One projects and inquired if HFN had an existing field monitor agreement that they preferred to use.

On July 8, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with HFN, 4D, and other First Nations communities to discuss Project updates including timelines, the Class EA process, fieldwork, opportunities for First Nations involvement, and capacity funding. Meeting attendees agreed to meet in person in Scugog Island on August 12, 2024, for their next meeting. Hydro One shared a copy of the meeting presentation and notes with attendees.

4D responded to WSP on July 8, 2024, to confirm their interest in participating in the Project field studies and inquired about contractor safety requirements and requested a monitoring agreement. 4D also inquired if they could coordinate a site visit to the two route alternatives.

In a response to 4D's reply to WSP, Hydro One reached out to HFN on July 9, 2024, to express their excitement that HFN was interested in participating in field studies and noted that

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WSP would provide a response to their questions. Hydro One requested an opportunity to discuss some of the concerns that were raised during their last meeting to create a better path forward on projects. 4D replied to Hydro One to suggest a separate call or email to address their concerns. Additionally, 4D provided a list of additional surveys and monitoring that HFN's environmental team wished to see take place on the Project.

On July 12, 2024, WSP responded to 4D to inform them that WSP was working on their Indigenous monitor agreement template to be shared with them once available. WSP also provided information on contractor safety requirements, including a safety plan developed by WSP that would be shared following the execution of a monitoring agreement, and a list of the PPE requirements for field monitors. WSP also confirmed that they were working with Hydro One to identify a path forward for 4D to participate in site visits.

On July 24, 2024, WSP shared a Master Subcontract Agreement (MSA) for field monitoring with 4D for their review and an information sheet that outlined the requirements for liability insurance and WSIB clearance.

On August 9, 2024, WSP emailed 4D on behalf of HFN to notify them about upcoming fieldwork planned for August 13 to 16, 2024. WSP provided a description of the surveys and reminded 4D that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement would be required to take part in the fieldwork. WSP also provided a list of PPE required for monitors.

4D emailed WSP on August 11, 2024, to inquire if there was funding available for HFN's legal review of the MSA.

On August 12, 2024, Hydro One met with HFN, HFN representation, and other First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting Hydro One provided an overview of their ECI/EPC process and approach and discussion on Hydro One's approach to the EA process. During the meeting, communities requested greater involvement early on in the EA process. This request was addressed by Hydro One's development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR and DNER chapters.

On August 13, 2024, 4D on behalf of HFN emailed WSP to inform them of concerns with language in the MSA that contradicted the principles of OCAP. 4D provided alternative language for inclusion.

On August 14, 2024, as a follow-up to their meeting, Hydro One emailed HFN, HFN representation, and First Nations communities to share the meeting presentation and a list of action items to be addressed. Hydro One also provided Project Shapefiles.

On August 15, 2024, WSP provided a revised MSA with the requested language from 4D. WSP also apologized for the short notice to HFN regarding the fieldwork notification for August

13 to 16, 2024, and to confirm that a tentative schedule had been shared in July 2024, which was later postponed to August 2024 due to limited property access. WSP informed 4D that they would be planning additional field studies in September 2024 and would commit to providing an update to all communities soon. WSP also reminded 4D that WSIB and liability insurance would be required for field monitors to participate. 4D followed up regarding the additional field studies that had been recommended by HFN environmental staff.

As a follow-up to an action item from their August 12, 2024, meeting, Hydro One emailed 4D on August 16, 2024, to inquire if they had any interest in visiting the Project route alternatives and invited them to a working session for additional field survey opportunities. Hydro One sent an email to HFN, HFN representation and First Nations communities to identify their preferred approach for the workshops and to propose any dates to facilitate these conversations. The site visit was unable to take place in October due to weather and availability.

Hydro One emailed HFN, HFN representation, and First Nations communities on August 19, 2024, to inform them that it intended to award the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 23, 2024, WSP replied to 4D on behalf of HFN regarding the additional recommended surveys to inform them of the justification for not planning to conduct some of the suggested surveys, based on information being captured by other surveys, seasonality, reasonable assumptions, or lack of SAR species identified in the study area. WSP noted that they were open to adding an eDNA program to their workplan.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed HFN, HFN representation and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

4D on behalf of HFN emailed WSP on August 26, 2024, to request a meeting with HFN, HFN representation, and WSP, as email communication regarding the project's field studies was ineffective. 4D requested an in-person meeting on August 29, 2024. WSP was not available to meet in person on the suggested date, and the parties agreed to meet virtually on September 4, 2024.

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On August 27, 2024, Hydro One reached out to 4D on behalf of HFN regarding a previous discussion about HFN providing a Shapefile of areas of significance for Hydro One's consideration for evaluating the two route options for the Project. 4D suggested that Hydro One provide a Shapefile of the Project for HFN to overlay onto the information they had. 4D noted that HFN's Traditional Ecological Knowledge needed to be protected and that they would require permission to share.

Hydro One emailed 4D on behalf of HFN on August 29, 2024, to re-share the Project Shapefiles and to note that they planned to discuss the route evaluation with communities on September 11, 2024. Hydro One also wished to address 4D's concerns about Traditional Ecological Knowledge sharing during their September 4, 2024, meeting.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed HFN, HFN representation, and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

On September 4, 2024, Hydro One and WSP met with HFN and HFN representation to discuss the Field Work Plan, additional surveys requested by HFN, and the Project schedule. WSP provided an overview of the Field Work Plan and 4D provided initial feedback. Discussions focused on the appropriate processes for meaningful consultation with HFN. Attendees decided to schedule a follow-up meeting on September 11, 2024, to discuss the additional surveys recommended by HFN. Hydro One and 4D agreed to a site visit of the route alternatives on September 17, 2024. 4D committed to circulating the latest monitoring agreement for execution.

Hydro One emailed 4D on behalf of HFN on September 5, 2024, to request HFN and HFN representation's preference for regular meetings and thanked 4D for taking the lead on arranging an opportunity to do the ceremony together. Hydro One offered to assist in any way. 4D requested regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, but Hydro One noted that this conflicted with the broader community meeting schedule.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One and WSP met with HFN and HFN representation to discuss the Field Work Plan, upcoming survey programs, and future meetings. 4D confirmed that they would be sending a disposition table with comments from their review of the Field Work Plan. WSP agreed to provide maps of the upcoming site visits on September 17 to 19, 2024 and to determine location for eDNA surveys. Hydro One committed to providing logistics for the site visit on September 17, 2024, and to circulate a meeting invite for an interim meeting before their next monthly meeting. Hydro One followed up with an email on September 12, 2024, to provide the materials shared during their meeting.

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On September 12, 2024, 4D on behalf of HFN emailed WSP to provide monitoring agreement on behalf of HFN, along with WSIB and liability insurance documentation and requested changes to the wording of the agreement.

On September 13, 2024, Hydro One emailed 4D on behalf of HFN to request a call to discuss the rate for the WSP field monitoring agreement. Hydro One and 4D did not have a chance to connect, so Hydro One sent a follow-up email on September 16, 2024. Hydro One noted that they could not accept the hourly rate requested by 4D in the monitoring agreement but that they were open to considering another mutually agreed upon rate. Hydro One also noted that the WSIB and liability insurance provided only covered 4D for field monitoring, and recommended that HFN provide their own insurance documents, and that 4D participate in field monitoring under the contract between HFN and their consultant. 4D provided additional information about their aggregate rates based on their monitors. Hydro One thanked them and noted that they would reach out later in the week to discuss further. Hydro One inquired if they knew which monitor and at what rate would likely be attending the fieldwork between September 17 and 19, 2024. 4D confirmed the rate for the monitor that was planning to attend the fieldwork.

Additionally, on September 13, 2024, WSP emailed HFN, 4D, and First Nations communities to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

On September 16, 2024, WSP emailed HFN and 4D to provide a Work Order and monitoring agreement for review and signature. WSP noted that they would provide the meetup location for the fieldwork once the signed agreement was provided. WSP also inquired if HFN's monitor required any PPE.

WSP provided a Word document version of the agreement to 4D on behalf of HFN on September 17, 2024.

On September 17, 2024, HFN and 4D met with Hydro One and WSP at Clarington TS followed by a site visit of the route alternatives.

On September 18, 2024, HFN emailed a letter to Hydro One regarding consultation. Hydro One replied to HFN to inform them that they received their letter regarding the removal of 4D as consultation for HFN and offered to schedule a meeting on September 19, 2024, in person

to determine how they could best support HFN through this adjustment and to develop a strategy to strengthen their ongoing consultation processes.

4D emailed WSP and Hydro One to inform them that, effective September 17, 2024, they would no longer be representing HFN.

On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed HFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN to thank them for meeting with them on September 19, 2024, and to provide an update on field monitoring and capacity funding. Hydro One noted that WSP would be in touch to revisit the monitoring agreement with HFN and regarding upcoming field studies for the Project.

On September 24, 2024, WSP emailed HFN to provide the Indigenous Organization MSA for field monitoring and a work order for their review. WSP provided a summary of previous discussions on the agreement with 4D, including the additional requested surveys. WSP also noted that all First Nations communities were provided a draft of the Field Work Plan for feedback and that WSP, 4D, and Hydro One had met to discuss their feedback.

On October 3, 2024, Hydro One, HFN, and First Nations Communities agreed to cancel a meeting scheduled previously for October 9, 2024, due to busy schedules.

On October 30, 2024, Hydro One met with HFN, other First Nation communities, and the Rice Lake Plains Partnership to discuss tall grass restoration and protection, an overview of Hydro One Vegetation Management, Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Recovery Information, and for a brief presentation on the DKPL Project.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the Field Work Plan with HFN and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed HFN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions

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Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

Additionally, WSP emailed HFN and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

On November 3, 2024, Hydro One requested input from HFN on the criteria and indicators that would be used to evaluate which alternative route would be selected as the Preferred Route for the Project. Hydro One requested feedback on the route evaluation criteria by November 29, 2024, and shared a link to the survey for feedback.

Hydro One emailed HFN on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025.

HFN replied to Hydro One on November 13, 2024, to request that HFN's Archaeology Coordinator be included on any correspondence regarding archaeology.

Hydro One met with HFN and First Nations communities on November 13, 2024, to discuss project updates. Topics included the Field Work Plan review and upcoming 2025 field season, the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment in 2025, the route evaluation survey for community feedback, and the draft ESR review schedule. On November 14, 2024, Hydro One shared screenshots of the route evaluation survey and reminded attendees that the route evaluation survey closed on November 29, 2024.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN to share a monthly update on the Project. Updates related to DKPL included route evaluation and input from communities required by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024 to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and the development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR chapters in the new year. This development was the result of communities' request for greater involvement in the EA process during the meeting on August 12, 2024.

On December 2, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to cancel their meeting planned for January 8, 2025, due to the challenge with aligning schedules. Hydro One

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informed them that they would schedule individual meetings based on communities' schedules and requested confirmation on the planned approach. Hydro One also committed to sharing a month-end email with important dates and schedules.

On December 11, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with HFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting, WSP presented on the draft ESR review schedule and conducted a SharePoint access walkthrough.

On December 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to share a year-end update and monthly summary of the Project. Hydro One shared information regarding the Field Work Plan and upcoming 2025 field season, the draft ESR reporting schedule, and upcoming community open houses.

On January 6, 2025, Hydro One reached out to HFN to schedule a new meeting for January 2025 and to propose times for regular monthly touchpoints.

On January 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to inform them that WSP was preparing the release of the SharePoint platform to house sections of the ESR for review. Hydro One shared the reporting schedule and requested confirmation on the contacts requiring SharePoint access. HFN responded to confirm their contacts for SharePoint access.

On January 21, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN to discuss updates on the Project, including the ESR schedule and opportunities for input, the archaeological assessments, and the route evaluation. Hydro One and HFN discussed concerns about subcontractor rates. Hydro One committed to providing SharePoint access for ESR sharing and to address any technical issues. Hydro One also committed to clarifying monitor participation expectations and to provide contact points for administrative concerns. A meeting was scheduled for March 2025 to discuss forestry protocols and interim notification plans.

On January 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to share the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report for review and requested feedback by February 23, 2025. Hydro One requested permission from communities regarding the inclusion sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the report and inquired if this information would need to be redacted prior to submission to the public.

On January 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to inform them that they would be available on January 29, 2025, to discuss the agreement processes.

On January 30, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to inquire about best practices for protection of Traditional Knowledge and community-specific information for drafting the ESR. Hydro One also informed HFN that a section of the draft ESR would be shared with them in mid-February 2025.

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On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

On February 12, 2025, Hydro One and WSP met with HFN and First Nations communities to provide an update on southeast projects. Hydro One discussed Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for DKPL, as well as upcoming field monitoring opportunities.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

On February 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to propose rescheduling their March 24, 2025, meeting to April 7, 2025, and also proposed reinstating the March 12, 2025, meeting.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to share project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL and details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 10, 2025, Hydro One and TMHC met with HFN and First Nations communities to discuss archaeology on Hydro One projects. Discussions included comment responses from the DKPL Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, document control, and artifact repatriation protocols.

On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

On March 20, 2025, HFN emailed Hydro One to inquire about a no-go list of consultants from other communities. HFN informed Hydro One that they had not seen the list, were not part of the decision-making of the list, and did not support it. Hydro One responded to share the list of

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archaeological consultants that was circulated by other First Nations communities. HFN thanked Hydro One and noted they had heard of a similar list for other environmental consultants.

On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed HFN and First Nations communities to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified communities that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April.

Ahead of their meeting on March 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to inquire if they were available to offer a traditional opening and greeting at the start of their meeting.

On March 24, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nations communities for their monthly southeast projects' touchpoint. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment rework and property access constraints, enhanced methodologies for pedestrian surveys, field monitoring, and funding provided by the CFA and monitoring agreements.

On April 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to propose skipping their next meeting planned for April 9, 2025, so the community could focus on recovery following a significant winter storm.

On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to provide an update on action items from their meeting on March 24, 2025. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

On April 8, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide another fieldwork memo detailing additional terrestrial and aquatic surveys planned for the 2025 field season. WSP noted that additional survey details would be forthcoming and requested confirmation of interest and availability, and to ensure all documentation, including monitoring agreement, insurance, WSIB certificate, and WSP's Third-Party Verification process, was complete ahead of survey dates.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, 2025, and Ecological Land Classification (ELC) and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability.

On April 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to provide a proposed agenda for their upcoming meeting on May 5, 2025. Hydro One also provided a consolidated summary of the urban forestry strategy for their review.

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On April 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to provide a proposed agenda for their upcoming meeting on May 5, 2025. Hydro One also provided a consolidated summary of the urban forestry strategy for their review.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nations communities to discuss forestry protocols in the Williams Treaty Territory and to provide a monthly update on projects.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nations communities to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to HFN and First Nations communities, expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project, and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. WSP also provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of Section 4 of the ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered HFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to share an updated field schedule for amphibian surveys beginning on May 26, 2025, and welcomed participation of field monitors.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2,

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2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and reminded communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement, an up-to-date WSIB certificate, and liability insurance were required for participation.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

On June 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to provide an update on their capacity funding.

On June 9, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to introduce their new Indigenous Relations team member ahead of their meeting on June 11, 2025.

On June 11, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nation communities to discuss updates and collaborative efforts on Hydro One's transmission projects. Project updates included advanced review schedule for upcoming ESR chapters, development of a tall grass prairie protocol, updates on field studies, biodiversity initiative, funding proposals, Traditional Knowledge studies, and archaeology. HFN requested that archaeology-related communication be directed to their archaeology coordinator. This information was shared with WSP after the meeting for future correspondence.

On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to inform them that BHAs would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide draft Sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate. HFN responded to confirm they did have monitors available to attend the upcoming BHA on July 9, 2025. WSP thanked HFN for their update on capacity.

On July 9, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nations to provide an overview of natural environment field studies, including completed spring surveys and ongoing BHAs. Hydro One also informed communities that chapter 3 of the draft ESR and the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report were expected to become available for advanced review in the coming week. Hydro One provided technical updates and informed communities of two communities involved in the design phase for Early Contractor Involvement.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds. HFN responded to Hydro One to confirm the preferred contact to notify in the event of an archaeological find and additional contacts to notify in the event of sensitive finds. HFN also shared provisions from their participation contract that outlined HFN's expectations around archaeological finds. Hydro One thanked them for the additional information.

On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments to be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on their team staffing.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to request their availability for their monthly Project update meeting in August 2025.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate. HFN responded to inform WSP that they

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did not have monitors available and requested to be informed of the BHA results. WSP confirmed they would provide the BHA results once available.

Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to provide the presentation slides from their meeting on August 15, 2025, and to propose an in-person meeting in fall 2025.

On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP recognized that HFN did not have capacity to participate in the upcoming BHAs.

On August 15, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nation communities to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included monitor training, winter studies, environmental reporting, construction, the biodiversity initiative, ESA permitting, and ongoing archaeology work. Hydro One informed communities that a revised version of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report with updates from the spring 2025 field season would be provided for advanced review, and that final reports were being prepared for public review in October 2025.

On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming Stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide a summary of the results from the BHAs that took place during the 2025 field season.

On September 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to invite them to attend their next Monthly Projects Meeting on September 10, 2025, in-person at Hiawatha First Nation. Hydro One committed to providing an agenda ahead of the meeting and noted that the virtual meeting option would remain available.

On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming Stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 10, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nation communities for their monthly Project update meeting. Topics of discussion included winter studies, feedback on advanced review of the DNER and ESR chapters, targeted studies, habitat definitions in the reports, and the Biodiversity Initiative.

On October 6, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN and other First Nation communities to recommend shortening their upcoming monthly Project update meeting due a small number of

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updates to share. Hydro One also proposed adding a topic to their agenda regarding a platform for confidential file sharing and storage. Hydro One requested confirmation of members that would require access to each community's respective file sharing folders.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and other First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One thanked communities for their input.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

November 12, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nation communities for a monthly project update meeting. Topics of discussion included RFP bid updates, project updates, and community initiatives and ongoing engagement.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed HFN to share an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them. No comments were received from HFN during the draft ESR comment period.

On December 10, 2025, MSIFN copied HFN and other WTFN on an email sent to Hydro One to inform them that a winter study proposal had been selected for Hydro One's review. Hydro One thanked the WTFN communities for their effort and time to bring forward the winter study proposal. Hydro One noted that they would have an opportunity to review and provide feedback in January 2025 due to capacity and efforts to complete the final ESR.

On December 12, 2025, Hydro One emailed HFN and First Nation communities to express gratitude for their effort, insight, and willingness to collaborate on the Project. Hydro One shared a list of action items and updates in lieu of their monthly meeting and wished everyone a nice holiday break.

On January 6, 2026, HFN emailed Hydro One to request that they resend the meeting invite for their monthly projects meeting on January 9, 2026. HFN also introduced their new Archaeology Coordinator to be included on all archaeology correspondence. Hydro One confirmed that they resent the meeting invite and welcomed HFN's new team member.

On January 9, 2026, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nation communities to discuss monthly southeast project updates. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 AA fieldwork and report timing, completion of the final ESR, EPC bid contractor evaluations, and ongoing ground surveying.

3.5.3.6.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

On May 2, 2024, Hydro One held a Project meeting with HFN and First Nations communities and discussed employment and procurement on DKPL.

On June 10, 2024, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. Communities inquired about Hydro One’s ECI process and selection. On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow-up email regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

During a meeting with HFN and First Nations communities on August 12, 2024, Hydro One provided an overview of their ECI/EPC process and approach and discussion on Hydro One’s approach to the EA process.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met with HFN and First Nations communities and included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC and environmental field monitoring.

On January 24, 2025, Hydro One met with HFN to discuss the ECI process and to introduce HFN to their ECI contractor.

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

Table 3-4 provides a summary of HFN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment.

Table 3-4: Summary of Hiawatha First Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Class EA Process	HFN inquired about the differences between the two route alternatives.	Hydro One provided clarification between Route A and Route B as the two route alternatives for the 3 km section of the Project and indicated that the route selection would be determined via the EA and involve community and stakeholder input.
	HFN indicated past concerns with approaches to community open houses and suggested that Hydro One verify their approach with Chief and Council.	Hydro One noted that they would be open to a meeting with Chief and Council to begin discussions. HFN noted that this approach may vary by community.
	4D, on behalf of HFN, felt that Hydro One was missing inclusion of cultural observations in their Project assessments and that they needed to be familiar with Treaty Rights in the areas they were operating within.	Hydro One acknowledged the feedback from HFN and committed to making it a priority to better understand Treaty Rights and to work on partnerships and ongoing discussions.
Environmental Field Studies	4D, on behalf of HFN, inquired about contractor safety requirements for field monitoring.	The Project team provided information on contractor safety requirements, including a safety plan developed by the Project team that would be shared following the execution of a monitoring agreement, and a list of the PPE requirements for field monitors.
	4D, on behalf of HFN, inquired about the timing of field studies and whether the monitoring agreement took into consideration the availability of monitors and support from consultants.	Hydro One noted the timing of field studies was dependent on property access, but that they were aiming for studies to begin in July 2024. Hydro One also confirmed they could continue to discuss the monitoring agreement to consider participation from First Nations’ consultants.
	4D, on behalf of HFN, requested additional field surveys be conducted by WSP, including a Marsh Monitoring program, SAR specific surveys, Headwater Drainage Feature Assessment, botanical assessment across three seasons, a fish community assessment, wetland delineation, wildlife corridor/passage identification, and water quality testing.	The Project team informed HFN of the reasoning for not planning to conduct some of the suggested surveys, based on information already being captured by other surveys, seasonality, reasonable assumptions, or lack of SAR species identified in the study area. As a result of these comments, an eDNA program was added to the program. Additionally, the Project schedule was altered to delay the release of the draft ESR to accommodate a spring 2025 field season to allow for capturing the spring seasonal surveys and a more multi-seasoned approach.

3.5.3.7 Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

3.5.3.7.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), MSIFN received an advanced project initiation email on October 25, 2023, welcoming an opportunity to meet and discuss the Project and partnership model.

On November 2, 2023, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to inform them that MSIFN's Chief met with WTFN Chiefs and economic development staff on November 1, 2023, to discuss energy investment opportunities, including discussion of a collaborative approach to the DKPL Project. Minogi Corp. noted that MSIFN's Chief would be happy to host Hydro One focused meetings with WTFN representatives at MSIFN going forward. Hydro One replied expressing appreciation of the communities offer to host ongoing meetings and requested meeting availability of the communities. Minogi Corp. confirmed they would be looking to book a meeting in January 2024.

On November 13, 2023, Hydro One noted that representation for the CTC had requested a meeting on the week of December 11, 2023, and inquired if MSIFN had any interest in participating.

On January 9, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to follow up on scheduling a meeting with MSIFN to discuss the Project and equity partnership Model. Hydro One and Minogi Corp. scheduled a meeting for January 25, 2024.

On January 25, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN and representation to discuss current energy projects, the DKPL Project, and the equity partnership Model. Hydro One provided a timeline for the Project schedule, the EA, and the NoC. MSIFN and representation discussed a collaborative approach to preliminary capacity funding discussions. Hydro One sent an email to MSIFN and Minogi Corp. following the meeting to provide a presentation on the Equity Model and the DKPL Project.

Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on February 6, 2024, to follow up on their interest in coordinating a meeting to discuss Hydro One projects. Minogi Corp. provided contact information to be included on consultation correspondence going forward and requested Hydro One's availability for a meeting.

Hydro One replied to Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on February 7, 2024, to request clarification as to whether they wanted a meeting focused on energy projects in general or the DKPL Project and equity partnership.

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Hydro One emailed MSIFN and Minogi Corp. on February 8, 2024, to provide the Shapefiles for the Project. Hydro One noted that the study area Shapefile was still in development but would be shared once it was available.

Hydro One emailed MSIFN and Minogi Corp. on March 5, 2024, to follow up on their proposal to schedule a meeting to discuss next steps. Minogi Corp. requested Hydro One's availability and the proposed equity model for review in advance.

Hydro One emailed MSIFN and Minogi Corp. on March 7, 2024, to provide their availability and to express their interest in scheduling an in-person meeting with the broader Hydro One team following their next meeting. Minogi Corp. and Hydro One agreed to a meeting on March 15, 2024. Minogi Corp. noted that they may have a financial advisor and legal counsel present at their meeting. The meeting invite was extended to AFN.

On March 11, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed Hydro One to inquire if they had coordinated a meeting with MSIFN and HFN on March 21, 2024. Hydro One noted that, due to scheduling conflicts, they were unable to coordinate the meeting but that they would continue to meet with MSIFN on March 15, 2024, to review the equity partnership and Project updates.

Hydro One met with MSIFN, Minogi Corp. and AFN on March 15, 2024, to discuss the Project, the equity model policy, and capacity funding. Hydro One explained that the equity partnership for the Project was only being offered to Williams Treaties First Nations. Hydro One also discussed scheduling regular meetings with MSIFN and AFN and sent around a list of action items following the meeting.

Hydro One met virtually with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and other First Nations communities, including representation, on May 2, 2024, to discuss the Project, in particular Project scope, timelines, invoicing, capacity funding, and equity partnership funding in addition to employment opportunities, procurement, and other Hydro One projects. Minogi Corp. inquired about the consultant selection process, to which Hydro One confirmed that consultants were selected through an RFP scoring matrix. Minogi Corp. expressed their interest in working as a collective with the other WTFN for a more streamlined approach. Minogi Corp. also inquired about specific examples of how community led initiative funding has been used on other projects and inquired if the funding could be used for restoration. Hydro One shared examples of how the funding had been utilized on other southwest projects and confirmed the structure and intention of the funding to be used as the Nations saw fit. Hydro One followed up with a list of action items from their meeting, including commitments from WSP and Hydro One as well as a request for meeting availability to review capacity funding.

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On May 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to share action items from their call on May 2, 2024. Hydro One also followed up with communities to request their availability for another meeting in May 2024.

Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on May 16, 2024, to inform them that the Project Shapefiles were still in development but would be shared with them once available. Hydro One also proposed a reoccurring Project meeting series with MSIFN.

Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed Hydro One on May 21, 2024, to thank them for the update on the Shapefiles and to inquire about next steps for capacity funding. Minogi Corp. confirmed their availability for a meeting on June 10, 2024, and suggested setting up regular monthly meetings in July and August 2024.

On May 22, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN responded to a voicemail left by Hydro One to inform them that they did not have field monitors currently available and that they were working closely with AFN regarding archaeology. Minogi Corp. also provided contacts for different aspects of consultation and inquired about Project timelines, EPC selection, and the environmental consultant.

Hydro One responded to Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on May 23, 2024, to provide responses to their questions. Hydro One informed Minogi Corp. that they were waiting for the fieldwork plan from their consultant to provide to MSIFN and First Nations communities in the coming weeks. Hydro One shared an overview of the Project timelines. Hydro One also informed Minogi Corp. that the environmental consultant would be WSP and that they would facilitate introductions in the coming weeks. Hydro One provided a response from earlier meeting discussions regarding their ECI/EPC selection process.

On May 24, 2024, Hydro One provided MSIFN with an advanced NoC for the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project and offered to host an open house in the community to share more Project information and continue dialogue with MSIFN.

On June 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to provide Project Shapefiles.

On June 5, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed Hydro One to confirm their preference to keep their upcoming meetings virtual.

Hydro One met virtually with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and other First Nations communities on June 10, 2024, to discuss the Project. Hydro One shared that the NoC had been released publicly on June 4, 2024, and provided an overview of the Project timelines and the route alternatives for a 3 km stretch of the line that would be evaluated by an environmental assessment and community and stakeholder input. Hydro One provided an overview of the

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Multi-Project CFA, highlighting the history of the agreement development and a breakdown of the capacity funding available for each community. Hydro One also discussed upcoming field studies for the Project as well as planned community open houses. Communities inquired about Hydro One's Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) process and selection. On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow up email to MSIFN and other First Nations communities regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

On June 14, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and other First Nations communities to inform them that their environmental consultant, WSP, would be reaching out to discuss and share field monitoring opportunities, understand interest for participation, community capacity, and to negotiate a field monitoring agreement. Hydro One noted that field studies would begin in summer 2024.

On July 8, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and other First Nations communities to discuss Project updates including timelines, the Class EA process, fieldwork, opportunities for First Nations involvement, and capacity funding. Meeting attendees agreed to meet in person in Scugog Island on August 12, 2024, for their next meeting. Hydro One shared a copy of the meeting presentation and notes with attendees.

Also on July 8, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed Hydro One to request EnCompass Environmental be included in all correspondence related to DKPL, as they would be assisting MSIFN through the EA.

On August 9, 2024, WSP emailed MSIFN and Minogi Corp. to notify them about upcoming fieldwork planned for August 13 to 16, 2024. WSP provided a description of the surveys and reminded Minogi Corp. that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement would be required to take part in the fieldwork. WSP also provided a list of PPE required for monitors.

On August 12, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting Hydro One provided an overview of their ECI/EPC process and approach and discussion on Hydro One's approach to the EA process. During the meeting, communities requested greater involvement early on in the EA process. This request was addressed by Hydro One's development of a SharePoint site to facilitate early review of draft ESR and DNER chapters. Minogi Corp. followed up via email to request the meeting presentations that they were missing from previous meetings and inquired if they could start a SharePoint for shared files.

On August 13, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed WSP to inform them of MSIFN's interest in taking part in field monitoring and requested a field monitoring agreement for review. Minogi Corp. also requested to be informed of upcoming fieldwork dates to coordinate in their calendars. WSP responded to provide a draft Indigenous MSA for field

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monitoring in addition to an information sheet outlining WSIB and insurance requirements. WSP noted that they would continue to work with Hydro One to secure property access to determine their future fieldwork dates and would notify all communities soon.

On August 13, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to confirm they would provide the meeting minutes requested and to note that they were looking into setting up a SharePoint for shared information.

On August 14, 2024, as a follow-up to their meeting, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to share the meeting presentation and a list of action items to be addressed. Hydro One also provided Project Shapefiles.

On August 15, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to provide the meeting minutes previously requested. Minogi Corp. acknowledged receipt of the minutes.

As a follow up to an action item from their August 12, 2024, meeting, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on August 16, 2024, to inquire if MSIFN had any interest in visiting the Project route alternatives and invited them to a working session for additional field survey opportunities. Hydro One sent an email to MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to identify their preferred approach for the workshops and to propose any dates to facilitate these conversations. The site visit occurred on September 24 which Curve Lake attended. Hydro One also hosted a separate site visit with HFN and 4D on September 17.

Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities on August 19, 2024, to inform them that it intended to award the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on August 21, 2024, to inform them that they would send a calendar invite for the Project site visit and to confirm that WSP would be sending a copy of the Field Work Plan to communities for review. Hydro One noted that WSP had completed some field studies and was looking to schedule another round in mid-September 2024, with a proposed schedule to come. Hydro One also noted that they were expecting the Draft Natural Environment Existing Condition Report to be available for review in mid-September 2024.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-

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15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

On August 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to inquire if they had any questions, concerns, or input regarding the Multi-Project CFA, and to request their input on the idea of hosting a community open house in MSIFN to provide the community with an update on the Project.

Additionally, Hydro One sent an email to MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to inform them that it was developing a route evaluation framework to assess the two route options for DKPL. Hydro One noted that they intended to include discussion of the route evaluation at their next monthly meeting on September 11, 2024, and listed potential criteria for the evaluation related to Indigenous Culture, Values, and Land Use. Hydro One requested community feedback on the route evaluation criteria by September 30, 2024.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

On September 6, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed Hydro One regarding ROW vegetation maintenance activities noting that there was interest in reaching an agreement with Hydro One on operational vegetation management for the future DKPL and all ROWs in their territory. Minogi Corp. requested that this be added as an agenda item to their next Project meeting on September 11, 2024. Minogi Corp. also noted they would be reporting on progress and recent observations of vegetation management with MSIFN Chief and Council, as well as other First Nations communities.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to share a monthly Project update. The agenda included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC, environmental field monitoring opportunities, and upcoming field studies. Discussions surrounding remnant Tallgrass Prairie were included in the agenda, at the request of Minogi Corp.

On September 13, 2024, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

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On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On October 3, 2024, Hydro One, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN and First Nations Communities agreed to cancel a meeting scheduled previously for October 9, 2024, due to busy schedules.

On October 4, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN emailed Hydro One to inquire about the amount of liability insurance required by First Nations to participate in field monitoring. Hydro One responded to confirm they were looking into their question internally and to confirm that communities would not require WSIB or insurance to take part in the site visit to view the two route alternatives, as no work would be taking place.

On October 24, 2024, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN provided Hydro One a list of species of interest and noted that the lists were protected.

On October 30, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN representation from Minogi. Corp and EnCompass Environmental, as well as other First Nation communities, and the Rice Lake Plains Partnership to discuss tall grass restoration and protection, an overview of Hydro One Vegetation Management, Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Recovery Information, and for a brief presentation on the DKPL Project.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with MSIFN and Minogi Corp. and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed Minogi Corp. that they planned to delay the draft ESR and project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

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Additionally, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to inform them that they intended to conduct additional field surveys on November 14, 2024, and shared a map of the general area. WSP requested to be informed if any communities wanted to participate in the fieldwork by November 7, 2024.

On November 3, 2024, Hydro One requested input from MSIFN on the criteria and indicators that would be used to evaluate which alternative route would be selected as the Preferred Route for the Project. Hydro One requested feedback on the route evaluation criteria by November 29, 2024, and shared a link to the survey for feedback.

Hydro One emailed MSIFN and Minogi Corp. on November 6, 2024, to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025.

On November 7, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed WSP to indicate MSIFN's interest in participating in the upcoming fieldwork on November 14, 2024, and requested a copy of the monitoring agreement. WSP requested a copy of MSIFN's certificate of insurance and shared a copy of the monitoring agreement for review.

On November 8, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to request the meeting materials from their meeting from October 30, 2024.

On November 11, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed WSP to inform them that they were in the process of obtaining their WSIB in advance of the upcoming fieldwork and noted that they were hoping to address comments on the monitoring agreement. Minogi Corp. also requested changes to the monitoring agreement language.

Hydro One emailed MSIFN to confirm that their colleague from the lifecycle group would share the minutes and materials from their October 30, 2024, meeting.

On November 13, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to request additional contacts be included on all correspondence going forward. Hydro One replied to confirm that they would update their contact list for all future correspondence.

Hydro One met with Minogi Corp. and First Nations communities on November 13, 2024, to discuss project updates. Topics included the Field Work Plan review and upcoming 2025 field season, the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment in 2025, the route evaluation survey for community feedback, and the draft ESR review schedule. On November 14, 2024, Hydro One shared screenshots of the route evaluation survey and reminded attendees that the route evaluation survey closed on November 29, 2024.

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On November 14, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to request Hydro One's vegetation management plan. Hydro One responded on November 15, 2024, to inquire if the plan they were looking for was specific to the DKPL Project.

On November 20, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed WSP to apologize for not being able to attend the fieldwork on November 14, 2024, and requested the field sheets and summaries from the field studies. Minogi Corp. inquired if WSP had any update on the monitoring agreement that they circulated for review of comments.

On November 21, 2024, WSP emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to inform them that the monitoring agreement changes were still under legal review. WSP informed Minogi Corp. the draft Natural Environment Baseline Conditions Report was currently being developed and would summarize information from the 2024 field studies. WSP also noted that the Project team would be providing a schedule for the 2025 field season in the new year.

On November 25, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report.

On November 27, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and Encompass Environmental to share a monthly update on the DKPL Project. Updates included route evaluation and input from communities required by November 29, 2024, the Field Work Plan comment period extension until December 6, 2024, to accommodate communities that had not received the link to the work plan, Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review until December 4, 2024, Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment fieldwork expected to begin in 2025, and SharePoint rollout for review of draft ESR chapters in the new year.

On November 27, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to follow up on the request from MSIFN and AFN regarding the development of a Tallgrass Prairie Strategy Protocol from their meeting on October 30, 2024. Hydro One replied on November 28, 2024, to loop in their lifecycle team to follow up on the request.

On November 29, 2024, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to provide their completed survey for the route evaluation feedback. Minogi Corp. also requested an extension for their review of the Field Work Plan.

On December 2, 2024, Hydro One replied to Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to grant their extension for review of the Field Work Plan until December 16, 2024. Hydro One also confirmed receipt of MSIFN's comments on the route evaluation survey and the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report.

On December 2, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN and First Nations communities to cancel their meeting planned for January 8, 2024, due to the challenge

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with aligning schedules. Hydro One informed them that they would schedule individual meetings based on communities' schedules and requested confirmation on the planned approach.

On December 3, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. to thank MSIFN and AFN for the introduction to the Black Oaks Savannah. Hydro One welcomed the opportunity to meet again to discuss specifics of the potential protocol and proposed a notification procedure to be put in place for maintenance activities. Hydro One noted that the need for better communication was a key takeaway for them from their meeting in October 2024. Minogi Corp. replied to suggest that they move forward with Hydro One's recommendation. Minogi Corp. committed to taking the lead on coordinating an in-person meeting with Hydro One and First Nations communities. Minogi Corp. requested a briefing note on the existing Urban Strategy Protocol to share with other First Nations representatives ahead of their meeting. Minogi Corp. suggested applying similar procedures until a Tallgrass Prairie-specific protocol could be established.

Hydro One responded to Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN on December 4, 2024; to confirm they would compile information with respect to protocol for their next discussion.

On December 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to thank them for their response to the route evaluation survey and to inquire if they could have a call to discuss.

On December 5, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN and Minogi Corp. to discuss the route evaluation survey. The meeting focused on the categorization of supplemental information pertaining to the criteria. Additionally, the topic of protection of Traditional Knowledge and the sharing of information with Hydro One's consultant was flagged to Hydro One. Hydro One and Minogi Corp. arranged a meeting for December 6, 2024, to discuss information sharing.

On December 6, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN and Minogi Corp. to discuss concerns pertaining to the release of Traditional Knowledge to Hydro One's environmental consultant, WSP, via the route evaluation survey for DKPL. Hydro One confirmed the access of the information that was shared, where and how it is stored, discussed the existing confidentiality agreements between Hydro One and WSP, and that Hydro One was permitted to share the information gathered via the survey for the route evaluation. Minogi Corp. shared details of a draft data sharing agreement that would govern the ongoing relationship and data protection between Hydro One, its consultants, and MSIFN.

On December 11, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. During the meeting, WSP presented on the draft ESR review schedule and conducted a SharePoint access walkthrough.

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On December 16, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to follow up on their comments to the Field Work Plan. Minogi Corp. responded with their comments, feedback, and questions regarding the Field Work Plan.

On December 17, 2024, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to inform them that they would follow up in the new year regarding their comments on the Field Work Plan and inquired if their feedback could be shared with Hydro One's consultant, WSP. Minogi Corp. replied to confirm that their comments did not contain sensitive information and could be shared with WSP.

On December 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to share a year-end update and monthly summary of the Project. Hydro One shared information regarding the Field Work Plan and upcoming 2025 field season, the draft ESR reporting schedule, and upcoming community open houses.

On January 9, 2025, WSP emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to provide a copy of the revised monitoring agreement and responses to their comments.

On January 13, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, responded to Hydro One to confirm their contact for SharePoint access.

Hydro One met with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities on January 22, 2025, for a monthly project update.

On January 22, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to request raw field notes and photographs from WSP's 2024 field studies that they were unable to attend, in an effort to be more involved in the Project. Minogi Corp. also requested a copy of the field summary from the survey conducted on November 14, 2025.

On January 24, 2025, Hydro One acknowledged Minogi Corp.'s request for information and noted that would provide a response.

On January 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to share the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report for review and requested feedback by February 23, 2025. Hydro One requested permission from communities regarding the inclusion sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the report and inquired if this information would need to be redacted prior to submission to the public.

On January 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to inquire about best practices for protection of Traditional Knowledge and community-specific information for drafting the ESR. Hydro One also informed Minogi Corp. that a section of the draft ESR would be shared with them in mid-February 2025. Minogi Corp. responded to Hydro One to provide

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their availability on January 29, 2025, to meet and discuss Traditional Knowledge sharing and recommended involving other First Nations communities in the conversation.

On January 29, 2025, Hydro One met with Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to discuss best practices surrounding traditional knowledge and how to further protect information that is shared with Hydro One and its consultants. Hydro One indicated that through public facing reports, some information may need to be shared and wished to clarify with the First Nation the level of information that is acceptable to be shared. Minogi Corp. indicated the importance of sharing information via project development and indicated that keeping the information high - level (themes instead of specific species) is acceptable for these purposes.

On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

Also on January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to provide WSP's field notes from their survey on November 14, 2024, and to recommend a process for requesting survey details following field studies going forward.

On February 3, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to thank them for sharing WSP's field notes and noted that the summary table met their current expectations. Minogi Corp. requested any photos from the field day, inquired about how the identification of SAR would be addressed, and recommended that the watercourse identified be surveyed in the 2025 field season.

On February 7, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to request a deadline extension to February 28, 2025, to provide their comments on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Minogi Corp. also requested references to Indigenous-identified species of significance be redacted for public review. Hydro One confirmed the deadline extension and acknowledged their request regarding redacting sensitive information for public review.

On February 12, 2025, Hydro One, and WSP met with Minogi Corp. and First Nations communities to provide an update on southeast projects. Hydro One discussed Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for DKPL, as well as upcoming field monitoring opportunities.

On February 12, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, followed up with Hydro One regarding any update on the requested Urban Strategy Protocol. Hydro One confirmed the protocol was still in progress and that they hoped to have it ready for circulation by the end of February.

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On February 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to request rescheduling their upcoming meeting on forestry protocols due to one of their key team members being unavailable on March 24, 2025.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed Minogi Corp. and EnCompass Environmental, on behalf of MSIFN, to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

On February 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to provide their responses to MSIFN's comments on the Field Work Plan.

On February 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, and First Nations communities to propose rescheduling their March 24, 2025, meeting to April 7, 2025, and also proposed reinstating the March 12, 2025, meeting.

On February 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, and First Nations communities to address outstanding items from their meeting on February 12, 2025. Hydro One recognized the communities' concerns with the archaeology contractor and committed to hiring a third-party advisor to review the archeological work if the communities found that beneficial. Additionally, Hydro One proposed discussing additional mitigations via an archaeological working group. Hydro One proposed an urgent archaeology meeting on March 10, 2025, and requested the First Nations' availability.

On February 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to share photographs and additional field notes from the November 14, 2024, field survey. Hydro One informed Minogi Corp. that evaluation of potential effects and proposed mitigation on SAR would be included in the draft and final ESR. Hydro One also confirmed that the location of the watercourse had been flagged for inclusion in the 2025 field program, and that the 2025 Field Work Plan was still in progress. Hydro One noted that WSP had previously provided MSIFN with a monitoring agreement on January 9, 2025, and inquired if Minogi Corp. had any questions about it.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On February 26, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to inquire if the draft Field Work Plan for spring 2025 would be released and to request an update on the vegetation management protocol.

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On February 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, to inform them that the draft Field Work Plan was still in progress and would be sent out in March 2025. Hydro One noted that the next steps were determining if communities wished to participate in field monitoring and working through monitoring agreements, for which Hydro One offered their support. Hydro One also noted that they were completing a review of a protocol for corridors in the WTFN territory and that they would share it prior to their meeting on May 5, 2025. Hydro One noted that forestry crews had been advised to withhold from doing any planned maintenance until a plan was developed with First Nations involvement.

On February 28, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to share their comments on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and noted that the comments contained Traditional Knowledge and were subject to OCAP principles. Minogi Corp. requested that Hydro One identify all recipients of the data and disclose where and how their submission would be stored for data tracking purposes. Minogi Corp. also noted that, upon completion, they may request the return or secure destruction of their data from Hydro One or any third-party representatives in alignment with OCAP principles.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., EnCompass Environmental, on behalf of MSIFN, and other First Nations communities to share project updates, including the announcement of the selection of Route B for DKPL, details on the upcoming sections of the draft ESR for community review, and the ongoing review period for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Hydro One also invited feedback on the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and discussed plans for the Stage 2 Archaeology program.

On March 3, 2025, WSP emailed Minogi Corp., and EnCompass Environmental, on behalf of MSIFN, to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 4, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, responded to WSP to request clarification regarding the use of “Indigenous communities” in the ESR. Hydro One responded to Minogi Corp. to inform them that they would commit to the term “First Nations communities” going forward.

On March 7, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed WSP to request clarification on the language in the monitoring agreement. Minogi Corp. and WSP had multiple exchanges to discuss the agreement language, including a request from Minogi Corp. to include clarifying language.

On March 10, 2025, WSP provided a revised monitoring agreement to Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, with the language they had requested.

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On March 10, 2025, Hydro One and TMHC met with MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and other First Nations communities to discuss archaeology on Hydro One projects. Discussions included comment responses from the DKPL Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, document control, and artifact repatriation protocols.

On March 13, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, provided WSP with a signed copy of the monitoring agreement, proof of liability insurance, and a completed supplier information request form.

On March 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, and First Nations communities a copy of the draft Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report for review. Hydro One requested comments back by April 14, 2025.

On March 13, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to inquire if WSP could provide GPS coordinates or the general location of tree species that they identified in their field observations from November 14, 2024. Hydro One responded to provide the coordinates.

Between March 17 and 24, 2025, WSP and Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, had multiple exchanges regarding the void cheque provided by Minogi Corp. for supplier onboarding.

On March 21, 2025, WSP emailed Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, and First Nations communities to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. WSP notified communities that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April. WSP also acknowledged that MSIFN may wish to discuss the Project team's responses to comments and provided their availability to hold a meeting for discussion.

On March 24, 2025, Hydro One met with Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, and First Nations communities for their monthly southeast projects' touchpoint. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment rework and property access constraints, enhanced methodologies for pedestrian surveys, field monitoring, and funding provided by the CFA and monitoring agreements. Minogi Corp. indicated an issue with WSP accepting their void cheque for supplier onboarding. Hydro One committed to following up with WSP on the issue.

On March 24, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed WSP to express confusion with WSP not accepting their void cheque as provided. WSP apologized for the inconvenience caused by the exchange and accepted the void cheque provided by Minogi Corp. for supplier onboarding. On April 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN, to

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propose skipping their next meeting planned for April 9, 2025, so the community could focus on recovery following a significant winter storm.

On April 3, 2025, WSP emailed Minogi Corp. on behalf of MSIFN to provide a copy of the fully signed monitoring agreement.

On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, representation from EnCompass Environmental and Minogi Corp., and First Nations communities to provide an update on action items from their meeting on March 24, 2025. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

On April 7, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. and MSIFN to discuss the inclusion of MSIFN's keystone species list into the Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report to address comments from MSIFN. Hydro One requested confirmation from MSIFN to share the list with WSP. In a separate email, Hydro One provided their responses to MSIFN's comments on the report and confirmed a meeting had been scheduled for April 14, 2025, for WSP and Hydro One to meet with MSIFN to discuss their response to comments. Hydro One confirmed that the information had been shared securely with WSP and would also be shared with Hydro One's Indigenous Relations and Environment teams, emphasizing the importance of handling Traditional Knowledge according to OCAP principles. Hydro One also requested confirmation from MSIFN regarding the inclusion of identified species in the final report.

On April 8, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and EnCompass Environmental to provide another fieldwork memo detailing additional terrestrial and aquatic surveys planned for the 2025 field season. WSP noted that additional survey details would be forthcoming.

On April 9, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and EnCompass Environmental to provide an update on the planned survey dates for amphibian surveys on April 21 to 26, May 20 to 25, and June 16 to 21, 2025, breeding bird surveys on June 10 to 15 and June 24 to 29, 2025, and ELC and general wildlife surveys on June 25 to 28. WSP invited monitors to participate and requested confirmation of availability.

On April 11, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. to inquire about venue booking for their meeting on May 5, 2025, in MSIFN.

On April 14, 2025, Hydro One and WSP met virtually with MSIFN and representation from EnCompass Environmental to discuss Hydro One and WSP's response to MSIFN's comments on the Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. Topics of discussion included the extent of Project components within the ROW and PSA, survey location accessibility, areas of significance for MSIFN, further discussion about surveys conducted by WSP, and recognition

of consent provided by First Nations. During the meeting, EnCompass Environmental expressed concern regarding accessibility influencing survey location and requested a breakdown of ELC survey locations. WSP noted that their goal was to distribute survey points as evenly as possible and committed to providing a summary of ELC types by survey location within the PSA and ROW. MSIFN also noted areas to be flagged for priority during fieldwork, due to potential implications to Treaty Rights, which were acknowledged by WSP and Hydro One. EnCompass Environmental expressed concern over lacking species-specific surveys and unknown thermal regimes of watercourses. WSP explained their conservative approach to applying mitigation measures if a species' absence could not be confirmed and where information on temperature profiles was limited. WSP also confirmed that, in their effects assessment, mitigation measures would be implemented where watercourse crossings may be required. MSIFN also expressed the importance of highlighting Hydro One's commitment to seeking consent and agreement from First Nations as a guide to engagement in the DNER. WSP thanked MSIFN for their feedback and guidance on how to implement this language into the report.

On April 14, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to confirm the venue they booked in MSIFN or their meeting on May 5, 2025. Minogi Corp. requested a draft agenda for the meeting. Hydro One inquired about venue details and provided a draft agenda which included discussions on forestry operations, communication protocols, and updates on Hydro One southeast projects, including DKPL. Minogi Corp. provided venue and catering details to Hydro One, who thanked them for their assistance.

Between April 22 and 28, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide daily field reports for the amphibian surveys that took place each day.

On April 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., EnCompass Environmental, and First Nations communities to provide a proposed agenda for their upcoming meeting on May 5, 2025. Hydro One also provided a consolidated summary of the urban forestry strategy for their review. Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, requested a copy of Hydro One's urban forestry strategy protocol ahead of their meeting.

On April 28, 2025, Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, emailed WSP to provide a document with their comments on the technical fieldwork memo shared with them on April 8, 2025. Minogi Corp. expressed disappointment that Hydro One was not planning to conduct multi-seasonal site visits to support a more comprehensive ELC assessment and botanical inventory. Minogi Corp. noted that Hydro One had previously acknowledged their request to conduct site visits at multiple points in the growing season and requested a transparent and detailed rationale or their decision.

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On April 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. to inform them that the urban forestry strategy protocol was an internal document that could not be shared externally, however they had provided a summary of the main points of the document for transparency to be used as a baseline for conversations regarding the development of a new strategy and communication plan.

On May 2, 2025, WSP emailed Minogi Corp. to thank them for their comments on the fieldwork memo and for taking time to meet with them on April 14, 2025, to discuss the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report comment responses. As a result of the meeting's action items, WSP confirmed they were working to provide a summary of ELC survey types within the PSA and ROW in 2024 and 2025, that they would review contradictions between MNR and MECP regarding critical habitat for Bank Swallows, and that they would work to incorporate requested language into the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. WSP noted that they would provide responses to their comments on the fieldwork memo and Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR.

On May 6, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp., and EnCompass Environmental to inform them about amphibian surveys taking place the week of May 20, 2025. WSP provided details about the timing of the site visits and survey locations, including a map of survey locations. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and requested confirmation of participation for additional details to be shared with monitors.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN, Minogi Corp, EnCompass Environmental, and First Nations communities to discuss forestry protocols in the Williams Treaty Territory and to provide a monthly update on projects.

On May 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, EnCompass Environmental, and First Nations communities to share a list of contacts, including consultants, contractors, and broader teams for all southeast Hydro One projects.

On May 20, 2025, a member of Hydro One's Indigenous Relations team announced their role change to MSIFN, Minogi Corp, EnCompass Environmental, and First Nations communities, expressing gratitude for their collaboration on the Project, and introducing new team members to work with the communities in their place.

On May 20, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to inform them of delays to the amphibian survey program initially planned for the week of May 20, 2025. WSP noted that a new schedule would be provided when survey dates could be confirmed. WSP also provided dates for upcoming Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments and remaining natural environment surveys for 2025. WSP welcomed monitors to join them in the field and provided contacts to inform if they were able to participate.

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On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to inform them that the amphibian surveys previously scheduled for the week of May 19, 2025, would be rescheduled to the week of May 26, 2025. WSP provided survey locations and maps and welcomed monitors to join them in the field. WSP requested to be informed if any monitors were available to attend.

On May 22, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a SharePoint link to the initial draft of Section 4 of the ESR for advanced review. WSP clarified that additional sections that were also planned to be release at that time had been delayed and would be provided in June 2025. WSP requested comments and feedback on section 4 by June 24, 2025. WSP also offered MSIFN the option of submitting comments directly to WSP, instead of adding comments to the file that would be shared with other communities.

On May 26, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide their responses to MSIFN's comments on Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR, as well as responses to comments on the fieldwork memo.

On May 27, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for aquatics and eDNA surveys that were scheduled to begin the week of June 2, 2025, along with maps of survey locations. WSP welcomed participation of field monitors.

Between May 27 and 30, 2025, WSP shared the daily field reports from amphibian surveys with MSIFN.

On June 4, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for 2025. WSP also provided locations for breeding bird surveys beginning the week of June 10, 2025.

On June 4, 2025, Hydro One provided daily summaries of the Stage 2 archaeological program to MSIFN as had been previously requested.

From June 4 to 6, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide the Daily Field Reports from the aquatics fieldwork that took place on June 3, 4, and 5, 2025.

On June 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to provide an update on their capacity funding.

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On June 9, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to introduce their new Indigenous Relations team member ahead of their meeting on June 11, 2025.

On June 9, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide their responses to comments on the field work memo from Hydro One from May 27, 2025.

From June 10 to 13, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Daily Field Reports from the breeding bird surveys that took place on June 10, 11, and 13, 2025.

On June 11, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nation communities to discuss updates and collaborative efforts on Hydro One's transmission projects. This included a discussion of developing tall grass prairie protocol for ROW/vegetation management. Project updates included advanced review schedule for upcoming ESR sections, updates on field studies, biodiversity initiative, funding proposals, Traditional Knowledge studies, and archaeology. MSIFN inquired about Hydro One's commitments to the development of a Tallgrass Prairie protocol, Hydro One mentioned funding for studies and the development of mitigation measures to be discussed with individual communities separately.

On June 12, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to thank them for providing Daily Field Reports from ongoing fieldwork and to note that MSIFN found the reports beneficial to their understanding of the Project as well as for continual relationship building. MSIFN inquired about a potential bird species nest cavity sighting from June 10, 2025, and inquired if there was a plan to confirm the finding and if it would be reported to ECCC. WSP responded to thank them for their email and committed to providing a response regarding the potential nest cavity sighting and any intention of reporting to ECCC.

On June 12, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to inform them of their availability and interest in participating in monitoring for surveys taking place on June 24 and 27, 2025. WSP thanked MSIFN for indicating their availability and committed to providing an update with additional site visit details for coordination.

On June 13, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN in response to their inquiry about a potential nest cavity sighting. WSP confirmed that the potential sighting was located outside of the Project Study Area and was not expected to have any direct effects from the Project, so they were not intending to go back to confirm the use for nesting. WSP also noted that ECCC previously indicated that only trees to be impacted by the Project should be registered and they were not tracking otherwise.

On June 18, 2025, WSP provided site visit details, such as meeting time, location, and field contact information for the surveys they were planning to participate in on June 24 and 27, 2025.

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On June 18, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 23 to July 27. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

From June 19 to 27, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Daily Field Reports from the amphibian surveys, ELC surveys, and breeding bird surveys that took place on June 18, 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2025.

On June 19, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide an updated meeting location for the fieldwork taking place on June 27, 2025.

One June 23, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to inquire if they required any further details ahead of the site visits and requested confirmation of the monitors that would be in attendance.

On June 24, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to apologize that they were unable to deploy a field monitor for the breeding bird surveys that were taking place on the morning of June 24, 2025, but confirmed their attendance for amphibian surveys taking place that evening. MSIFN also requested clarification that there were two crews meeting on June 27, 2025, for ELC surveys. WSP responded to confirm that there were two separate crews and meeting locations planned on June 27, 2025. MSIFN responded to inquire if they could attend the amphibian surveys on June 25, 2025, instead of June 24, 2025. MSIFN also noted which field crew they planned to join on June 27, 2025. WSP confirmed the site visit details for June 25, 2025, for MSIFN to participate.

On June 24, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for June 30 to August 3. WSP provided dates, locations, and maps of upcoming natural environment surveys and invited monitors to participate.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to confirm a new meeting location for the amphibian surveys taking place that evening. MSIFN responded to confirm receipt of the updated location.

On June 25, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to inform them that BHAs would take place on July 9, 2025, and invited monitors to participate. MSIFN emailed WSP to confirm their interest and availability to attend the BHAs on July 9, 2025, and requested to be informed of the site visit details. WSP responded to inform MSIFN that they would confirm details of the site visit with their terrestrial team.

One June 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed Minogi Corp. to discuss the mention of bio-culturally significant species in the ESR. Minogi Corp. thanked Hydro One for their consideration of

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MSIFN's Traditional Knowledge protection requirements and directed them to their Project manager. Hydro One followed up on their request for discussion on June 26, 2025.

On June 27, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide draft Sections 7 and 8 of the ESR for early review. WSP also provided a table for Indigenous culture, values, and land use as part of section 7 for review. WSP requested comments and feedback by July 28, 2025.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Daily Field Report for the natural environment fieldwork that took place on June 27 and June 28, 2025.

On July 2, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 7 to August 10. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to request a meeting to discuss the Project and any concerns or feedback MSIFN had for Hydro One on the consultation process.

On July 3, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to inquire if the Black Ash identified during the field studies on June 26, 2025. WSP noted that they would follow up with the terrestrial team to provide a response to their inquiry.

On July 4, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to confirm that the Black Ash observed on June 26, 2025, showed no signs of emerald ash borer infection, such as exit holes. WSP also noted the presence of several larger, dead or dying ash trees on site.

On July 7, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide site visit details for the upcoming BHA on July 9, 2025. MSIFN replied to confirm that two monitors would be in attendance for the site visit.

On July 8, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 14 to August 17. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 9, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nations to provide an overview of natural environment field studies, including completed spring surveys and ongoing BHAs. Hydro One also informed communities that chapter 3 of the draft ESR and the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report were expected to become available for advanced review in the coming week. Hydro One provided technical updates and informed communities of two communities involved in the design phase for Early Contractor Involvement.

On July 10, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN and representation to discuss engagement feedback ahead of their wider meeting with other communities on July 11, 2025.

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On July 11, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Daily Field Report from the BHAs that took place on July 9, 2025.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed AFN to seek guidance from their community's policies and preferences regarding archaeological finds. Hydro One requested to be informed of who to notify in case of archaeological finds.

On July 15, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 21 to August 24. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 16, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Project team's responses to MSIFN's comments on section 4 of the draft ESR.

On July 17, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to inquire about invoicing for monitor participation in fieldwork. WSP provided guidance on who to submit their invoice to.

On July 18, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide Section 3 of the draft ESR for advanced review and requested comments to be provided by August 15, 2025. WSP also provided an update on their team staffing.

On July 22, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for July 28 to August 31. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On July 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN representation and AFN to follow up with them regarding their interest in winter studies. Hydro One mentioned that deploying trail cameras could be problematic due to the many private properties located along the hydro corridor. Hydro One also presented an opportunity to potentially utilize biodiversity funding for the communities to conduct winter studies and invited both communities to meet with a biologist to develop a scope for the work. Hydro One welcomed their thoughts on the presented approach.

On July 23, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to inform them that they would be providing their comments on Sections 7 and 8 of the draft ESR on August 1, 2025. WSP emailed MSIFN to thank them for confirming the timing for their comments on the draft ESR.

On July 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to request their availability for their monthly Project update meeting in August 2025.

On July 29, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN, Minogi Corp, and EnCompass Environmental to provide a Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 4 to September 7. WSP invited monitors to participate.

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On July 31, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide their comments on Sections 7 and 8 of the draft ESR. WSP acknowledged receipt of their comments and confirmed that they would be shared with the Project team for review and response.

On August 1, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Daily Field Report from the BHAs that took place on July 30, 2025.

On August 5, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 11 to September 14. WSP invited monitors to participate. MSIFN responded to inquire about the reason for additional BHAs on August 21, 2025. WSP responded to confirm that additional trees were identified during the field visit on July 30, 2025, and attached the Daily Field Report with further details. MSIFN requested that their Consultation team be included on all communications related to BHAs. WSP acknowledged MSIFN's request.

Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to provide the presentation slides from their meeting on August 15, 2025, and to propose an in-person meeting in fall 2025.

On August 12, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 18 to September 21. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 13, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Project team's responses to MSIFN's comments on the field work memo from July 9, 2025.

On August 13, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to confirm that they had monitors available to attend the BHAs on August 21, 2025, and requested site visit details once available.

On August 15, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nation communities to discuss Project updates. Topics of discussion included monitor training, winter studies, environmental reporting, construction, the biodiversity initiative, ESA permitting, and ongoing archaeology work. Hydro One informed communities that a revised version of the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report with updates from the spring 2025 field season would be provided for advanced review, and that final reports were being prepared for public review in October 2025. MSIFN requested a summary of reports covering all environmental activities at the completion of study. MSIFN expressed concerns regarding changes to the ESA and uncertainty related to Bill 5. MSIFN also requested to be involved in conversations between Hydro One and MECP regarding the permitting process.

On August 15, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide their responses to the Project team's responses dated July 2, 2025, in relation to the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report.

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On August 17, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide the contact of the monitor who would be attending the BHAs on August 21, 2025, and requested site visit details be shared with them once available. On August 18, 2025, WSP provided the site visit details to MSIFN's monitor.

On August 19, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead detailing upcoming stage 2 archaeology and natural environment field studies for August 25 to September 28. WSP invited monitors to participate.

On August 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to request confirmation that they had permission to share their list of bio-culturally important species with WSP for the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report.

On August 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed representation from MSIFN and AFN in advance of their meeting on August 26, 2025. Hydro One noted that they did not have a structured agenda for the meeting, but that the purpose of the meeting was intended to understand communities' expected outcomes of the winter studies request. Hydro One also confirmed that WSP would be in attendance for support.

On August 25, 2025, MSIFN representation emailed Hydro One to flag concerns with references to the ESA in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and how these references were in conflict to previous discussions regarding new legislation. Hydro One responded to acknowledge their concerns and suggested a separate meeting on August 27, 2025, to discuss further. MSIFN agreed to Hydro One's suggestion for a separate meeting and recommended that the topic also be included on the agenda for their next monthly meeting. Hydro One agreed with their suggestion.

On August 25, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Daily Field Report for the BHAs that took place on August 21, 2025.

On August 26, 2025, Hydro One met with representation from MSIFN, AFN, and WSP to discuss a scope of work for the proposed winter studies and funding. MSIFN suggested monitoring for animal movements within the corridors and the need to study additional wildlife and cultural meadows in spring. The use of trail cameras was suggested for areas where there was tree and vegetation removal anticipated. MSIFN and AFN agreed to provide a scope for the winter work within a month. Hydro One committed to providing a detailed map of public and private lands and areas of potential clearing.

On August 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed representation from MSIFN and AFN to share an overview of action items from their meeting on August 26, 2025, including providing a map of public access lands in the ROW and areas that may have impacts to vegetation and follow up discussion to discuss the mapping and methodologies, with the intent of developing workplan

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to execute in fall and winter of 2025. Hydro One also suggested incorporating discussion on targeted studies to the agenda of their next monthly meeting.

On August 28, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to request coordinates be provided for all trees in the BHA summary.

On August 28, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide their comments on the revised draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. WSP acknowledged receipt and confirmed they would share the comments with the Project team for review and address.

On August 29, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide a summary of the results from the Butternut Health Assessments that took place during the 2025 field season. WSP confirmed that the summary included coordinates, as per their previous request.

On September 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to invite them to attend their next Monthly Projects Meeting on September 10, 2025, in-person at Hiawatha First Nation. Hydro One committed to providing an agenda ahead of the meeting and noted that the virtual meeting option would remain available.

On September 2, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Field Work Look Ahead regarding upcoming stage 2 archaeology for September 8 to October 12, noting that no further natural environment field studies were planned.

On September 2, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to inquire about the results of the BHA summary.

On September 4, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to express their concerns regarding the characterization of specific communities in the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. MSIFN requested raw data, shapefiles, photos, and written rationale to support their detailed review. WSP acknowledged MSIFN's request and committed to providing the requested information.

On September 10, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nation communities for their monthly Project update meeting. Topics of discussion included winter studies, feedback on advanced review of the DNER and ESR chapters, targeted studies, habitat definitions in the reports, and the biodiversity initiative. MSIFN provided background regarding their request for winter studies, noting data gaps following their advanced review of the draft ESR and Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report. MSIFN noted Hydro One's support for communities to conduct the winter studies and obtain information. MSIFN raised concerns from report reviews regarding specific ecological communities' characterization and the need for additional species studies in late fall or early spring. Hydro One noted that the EPC planned to conduct additional surveys to support permitting and detailed design.

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On September 11, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN representation and AFN to provide the requested mapping to support winter studies project development, including a map of woodlots along the ROW. Hydro One noted that the source data may have some inaccuracies and that most of the woodlots showing within the ROW would have been cleared as part of maintenance activities on the corridor.

On September 16, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide responses to MSIFN's questions regarding the BHA results.

On September 23, 2025, MSIFN representation, Hydro One, and AFN exchanged emails regarding the winter studies. MSIFN representation acknowledged receipt of the maps for the winter studies and set an internal deadline of October 9, 2025, to provide Hydro One with a guidance document outlining preferred methodologies for the studies. Hydro One confirmed the deadline and proposed a meeting to review the document. MSIFN representation confirmed interest in a meeting to review the guidance document, and Hydro One agreed to follow up with proposed dates.

Between September 24-25, 2025, MSIFN representation requested winter study map shapefiles from Hydro One, which Hydro One confirmed would be provided once available.

On September 25, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide an invoice for field monitoring. WSP replied on October 1, 2025, to confirm that the invoice had been submitted internally.

On September 26, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN representation to advise that no new station project was planned in Peterborough, and that the work that was underway was part of the Project. Hydro One noted that the nearby wetland would not be directly affected by the work, as outlined in the ESR. Hydro One invited MSIFN to follow up for further clarification if needed.

On October 1, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Project team's responses to their comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR.

On October 1, 2025, EnCompass Environmental, representing MSIFN, emailed Hydro One to follow up on the winter studies map Shapefiles. Hydro One replied to provide the requested Shapefiles.

On October 6, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN, MSIFN representation, and other First Nation communities to recommend shortening their upcoming monthly project update meeting due a small number of updates to share. Hydro One also proposed adding a topic to their agenda regarding a platform for confidential file sharing and storage. Hydro One requested confirmation of members that would require access to each community's respective file sharing folders.

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On October 10, 2025, MSIFN emailed Hydro One to provide a proposal for winter studies. MSIFN copied consultation staff from other First Nation communities for awareness.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and other First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with communities through their internal shared workspace. Hydro One thanked communities for their input.

On October 20, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Project team's responses to MSIFN Consultation's comments on the DNER from August 15 and 28, 2025. MSIFN responded to confirm receipt of the comment responses.

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to inform them that they would be reviewing the winter studies proposal in the coming days and to inquire if MSIFN was available to meet and discuss the proposal on October 30 or 31, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report for review and welcomed comments.

On November 4, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to provide their responses to the Project team's responses to MSIFN's comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR. WSP responded to acknowledge receipt of MSIFN's comments and to confirm they would circulate the comments to the Project team to be addressed.

On November 5, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to inquire if the BHA report was complete and if it could be shared with them.

November 12, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nation communities for a monthly project update meeting. Topics of discussion included RFP bid updates, project updates, and community initiatives and ongoing engagement.

On November 14, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to inform them that the BHA report would be tabled until the Project team could confirm which trees would be impacted by the Project, and to confirm that the report would be shared with MSIFN when complete. WSP shared an updated summary of the BHA previously shared on August 29, 2025, following the receipt of the genetic testing results. MSIFN emailed WSP to request the diameter at breast height (DBH) values for Category 2 and 3 Butternut trees from the assessment summary that was provided to them. MSIFN also recommended that the Project team contact Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA) to determine whether Category 2 and 3 trees should be archived.

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On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them.

On November 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and to request to be informed if they anticipated any issues submitting comments before the deadline.

On November 24, 2025, MSIFN emailed WSP to follow up on the request for savannah communities data from field studies. WSP emailed MSIFN and AFN to inform them that they were still working to compile the requested savannah communities data and that they would be sharing it with them soon.

On November 25, 2025 WSP emailed MSIFN and AFN to confirm that the information requested had been uploaded to Sharepoint for their review. MSIFN emailed WSP to request access to the Sharepoint site and WSP granted access.

On November 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to inquire if the Savannah communities information could be shared with other First Nation communities engaged on the Project. MSIFN replied to confirm Hydro One could share it widely with the other communities. MSIFN also noted that Savannah-related comments and concerns would be provided after the draft ESR comment deadline, which would be reflected in the comment disposition to be provided on November 27, 2025.

On November 27, 2025, MSIFN emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft ESR and to thank Hydro One and their team for their ongoing partnership. Hydro One thanked MSIFN for providing their comments and expressed gratitude for their valued input.

On December 3, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide a PDF with the BHA assessment updated to include DBH values. WSP also noted that Hydro One would contact the FGCA prior to the submission of the BHA report to MECP to confirm their interest in archiving the single Category 3 tree on the Project. WSP also noted that, per MECP, only Category 3 trees were considered archivable. WSP welcomed any questions. On December 10, 2025, MSIFN emailed Hydro One to inform them that a winter study proposal had been selected for Hydro One's review. MSIFN included representation from WTFN on the email for awareness. Hydro One thanked MSIFN and the WTFN communities for their effort and time to bring forward the winter study proposal. Hydro One noted that they would have an opportunity to review and provide feedback in January 2025 due to capacity and efforts to complete the final ESR. MSIFN thanked Hydro One for their response and looked forward to hearing back from them when the time was right.

On December 12, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and First Nation communities to express gratitude for their effort, insight, and willingness to collaborate on the Project. Hydro One shared a list of action items and updates in lieu of their monthly meeting and wished everyone a nice holiday break.

On December 16, 2025, WSP emailed MSIFN to provide the Project team's responses to their comments on section 7 and 8 of the draft ESR received November 4, 2025. On December 17, 2025, Hydro One emailed MSIFN to provide their responses to comments on the full draft ESR received November 27, 2025. Hydro One welcomed any additional feedback and confirmed that they would upload the responses to the shared workspace for sharing with First Nation communities.

On January 9, 2026, Hydro One met with MSIFN to discuss the comments received from MSIFN on the draft ESR received on November 27, 2025, and Hydro One's response to their comments. MSIFN shared their review of Hydro One's responses, confirming those that they agreed with and those that they wished to discuss further. Hydro One and MSIFN came to agreements on items such as commitments during the construction phase, increased protection buffers during construction activities, and commitments for information sharing to the included in the ESR and management plans. MSIFN's comments received during the draft ESR comment period can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On January 9, 2026, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nation communities to discuss monthly southeast project updates. Topics of discussion included Stage 2 AA fieldwork and report timing, completion of the final ESR, EPC bid contractor evaluations, and ongoing ground surveying. On January 13, 2026, Hydro One met with MSIFN to review the proposed revisions and commitments for inclusion in the ESR, resulting from MSIFN's comments received on the draft ESR.

On January 14, 2026, Hydro One emailed MSIFN and AFN to confirm their interest in supporting the one-time winter studies proposal put forth by their hired subcontractor. Hydro One provided conditions for the study and items to be addressed.

3.5.3.7.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

On May 2, 2024, Hydro One held a Project meeting with MSIFN and First Nations communities and discussed employment and procurement on DKPL.

On June 10, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nations communities to discuss the Project. Communities inquired about Hydro One's ECI process and selection. On June 12, 2024, Hydro One sent a follow-up email regarding the ECI process and next steps for the Project.

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During a meeting with MSIFN and First Nations communities on August 12, 2024, Hydro One provided an overview of their ECI/EPC process and approach and discussion on Hydro One’s approach to the EA process.

On September 11, 2024, Hydro One met with MSIFN and First Nations communities and included discussions surrounding ECI/EPC and environmental field monitoring.

On January 24, 2025, Hydro One met with MSIFN to discuss the ECI process and to introduce MSIFN to their ECI contractor.

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

Table 3-5 provides a summary of MSIFN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment.

Table 3-5: Summary of Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
EA Process	Minogi Corp., on behalf of MSIFN, inquired about the consultant selection process.	Hydro One confirmed that consultants were selected through an RFP scoring matrix.
Project Study Area	MSIFN inquired what the anticipated width of the transmission line right- of-way would be in order to evaluate the sufficiency of a 120m PSA, and overall, quantify and understand the extent of direct impacts to plant and wildlife habitat.	Hydro One noted the anticipated width of Project’s right-of-way would be approximately 46 metres (23 metres either side of the centreline). Hydro One clarified that the 120 m PSA was also on either side of the centreline in which the Project anticipates direct effects. Hydro One also highlighted that the Project has a 500 metre LSA.
	MSIFN inquired what the rationale was for the buffer selected for the PSA and LSA.	Hydro One noted the PSA and LSA boundaries were developed and utilized on multiple Hydro One projects to study direct and indirect effects of a transmission line project based on professional judgement and are consistent with study areas used on recent Class EA projects of similar scope.
Effects to Species at Risk (SAR) and Native Plant Species	MSIFN requested field notes and summaries from field studies that took place during 2024.	The Project team informed MSIFN the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report was being developed and would summarize information from the 2024 field studies. Project team committed to providing daily field summaries for 2025 fieldwork.
	MSIFN requested the development of a Tallgrass Prairie Strategy Protocol based on Hydro One’s existing Urban Strategy Protocol	Hydro One proposed a notification procedure to be put in place in to for maintenance activities while they work to develop a protocol for Tallgrass Prairie. Hydro One, MSIFN, AFN, HFN, and representation have continued discussions to develop a strategy and communication plan for vegetation management.
	MSIFN inquired about the low probability of occurrence in the study area of two species of birds in the SAR screening table (Table 3-1) in the DNER, MSIFN suggested that this should be re-assigned as moderate probability	The Project team responded to note that, due to lack of suitable habitat for the two species of birds in the PSA, the probability of these species occurring was determined to be low. The Project team specified that the probability of occurrence assessment would be clarified in the updated DNER.
	MSIFN indicated concerns that Hydro One had not done and did not intend to conduct targeted SAR herptile surveys during the 2025 field season, flagging specific species that could trigger Section 10 contraventions under the ESA. MSIFN requested to be informed of what triggers Hydro One would use to determine if surveys for herptiles were needed following detailed design.	Hydro One responded to note that the specific species referenced by MSIFN required specific habitat requirements to be met. Hydro One confirmed that, once detailed design was confirmed, areas where disturbance was planned would be evaluated against these specific habitat requirements, and targeted surveys would be conducted if suitable habitat conditions were identified.
	MSIFN commented that they oppose the recently proposed interim changes to the ESA, 2025 and proposal to repeal and replace it with the <i>Species Conservation Act, 2025</i> and expressed that the “registration-first” to permitting did not preclude Hydro One’s obligation to fully consult MSIFN regarding SAR matters prior to the onset of disruptive activities.	Hydro One acknowledged MSIFN’s concerns regarding amendments to provincial SAR legislation and remained committed to continually engaging with communities throughout the Project. Hydro One intended to proceed with all work as planned at the outset of the EA process and the inclusion of First Nations input. Hydro One also noted their plans to implement a Biodiversity Initiative, which will seek opportunities to create or enhance habitat to offset any adverse effects to habitats as a result of the Project. Hydro One noted that they would involve interested First Nation communities, including potential incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge where information is willingly provided.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
	MSIFN requested confirmation that any trees of specific species that cannot be avoided would receive a health assessment, assuming that there would be sufficient time to conduct and acquire necessary permits prior to the disruptive activities.	Hydro One confirmed that any trees of a specific species that cannot be avoided will receive a health assessment and no disturbance to the trees will occur until appropriate regulatory approvals are received.
Field Surveys	MSIFN inquired if Hydro One intended to confirm the finding of a potential species nest during a breeding bird survey on June 10 and inquired if they would report the finding to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).	The Project team confirmed that the location of the potential nest was located outside of the PSA and they did not anticipate any direct effects from the Project, so they were not planning to confirm use for nesting. The Project team advised that their data would be shared with the eventual Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractor to include in their considerations during detailed design. The Project team also noted that ECCC indicated that only trees to be impacted should be registered and that they were not tracking otherwise.
	MSIFN inquired if a tree species observed during ELC field studies on June 26, 2025, showed signs of infection.	The Project team responded to MSIFN to inform them that the trees observed did not show signs of infection, though there were observations of other dead trees on site.
	MSIFN requested a summary of results from the tree assessments from the 2025 field season. MSIFN followed up to request clarification about the results and any intention for future genetic testing on the surveyed trees.	The Project team provided a summary of the tree assessment results from the 2025 field season.
	MSIFN requested clarification regarding the tree assessment results and inquired if results from genetic samples had been received. MSIFN also inquired if the FGCA had been notified of trees identified at the site.	The Project team responded to MSIFN to provide clarifications regarding the assessment results. The Project team also confirmed that they planned to proceed with genetic testing of samples in the fall of 2025. The Project team provided an updated assessment following receipt of genetic testing results and informed MSIFN that they would wait to submit a full report to MECP until they had a better idea of which trees would be impacted by the Project. The Project team committed to reaching out to the FGCA to discuss archiving tree specimens and committed to sharing the correspondence with MSIFN. Hydro One and the FGCA connected in January 2026 and committed to future coordination of a site visit in July or August of 2026 to assess a Category 3 Butternut tree.
Traditional Knowledge and Information Sharing	MSIFN expressed concern with sharing protected Traditional Knowledge with Hydro One's consultant.	Hydro One confirmed the access of the information that was shared, where and how it is stored, discussed the existing confidentiality agreements between Hydro One and WSP, and that Hydro One was permitted to share the information gathered via the survey for the route evaluation. MSIFN shared details of a draft data sharing agreement that would govern the ongoing relationship and data protection between Hydro One, its consultants, and MSIFN.
	MSIFN inquired if Hydro One had obtained any publicly available Indigenous Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use data sources.	Hydro One responded to MSIFN inquiry in February of 2025 and at that time had not obtained any publicly available IK/TLRU. Hydro One noted should information be obtained they would consult with First Nation communities on how to understand and incorporate this information into the Project.
Mitigation Measures	Following the results of the November 14, 2024, field survey, Minogi Corp. inquired about how the identification of SAR species from survey would be addressed.	Hydro One informed Minogi Corp. that evaluation of potential effects and proposed mitigation on SAR would be included in the draft and final ESR.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Route Evaluation	As part of the route evaluation process a survey was provided to all First Nation communities on November 1, 2024. The survey requested feedback on the importance of the criteria and indicators used to evaluate Route Alternatives A and B to determine the preferred route. The survey also requested communities provides any missing inputs that they would like to see included in the evaluation. MSIFN response to the survey is detailed in Section 5.3.1 .	Hydro One considered MSIFN survey feedback and added the “Identified Impacts to Treaty Rights” criteria to the evaluation framework. The criterion considers MSIFN assessment of the routes based on impact to their Treaty Rights and preservation of ecosystems. Additionally, traditional use plant species identified by MSIFN were considered as part of the existing “Identified Traditional Use Plants” criterion. This criterion assessed areas of traditional use plants within the PSA based on field observations of species in ELC polygons. Finally, “lands available to WTFN members to practice Treat Rights” and “landscapes of importance” were added to the description of the “Areas of Indigenous Significance” criterion.
Effects to Rightsholders	MSIFN highlighted that accommodations for rightsholders should be identified as a key activity for a Class EA in the Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report.	Hydro One thanked MSIFN for the important comment regarding the need to highlight accommodation for Rightsholders. Hydro One welcomed the opportunity to meet with the First Nations to better understand the potential effects of the Project on the ability to exercise Section 35 rights, as well as explore possible mitigation measures to those effects. Hydro One noted they had updated the Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report to include the identified key activity.
Land Access	MSIFN inquired about the level of effort made to engage property owners to secure access for the field program.	Hydro One noted they work with directly impacted property owners to acquire early access permission to support field studies for the project. These efforts began with the NoC of the Class Environmental Assessment on June 4, 2024, and are ongoing throughout the field program.
Field Work Plan	MSIFN requested additional surveys be complete following their review of the field work plan.	Hydro One acknowledged MSIFN request for additional survey and the field program and a second field season took place in 2025 as a result of their feedback and feedback from other First Nation communities.
	Additional comments received from MSIFN on the Field Work Plan (Technical Memo #2) can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	Responses to comments received by MSIFN on the Field Work Plan (Technical Memo #2) can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .
Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions (DNER)	Comments received from MSIFN following their advanced review of the DNER can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	Hydro One's responses to comments received by MSIFN on the DNER can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .
	During a meeting on September 10, 2025, MSIFN raised concerns regarding specific ecological communities' characterization in the DNER and the need for additional species studies in late fall or early spring.	During the meeting, Hydro One noted that the EPC planned to conduct additional surveys to support permitting and detailed design.
	MSIFN expressed concerns regarding the characterization of specific communities in the DNER. MSIFN requested raw data, shapefiles, photos, and written rationale to support their detailed review.	The Project team compiled raw data, shapefiles, photos, and a written rationale and shared this information MSIFN and AFN. Hydro One inquired if they could share the information with other First Nation communities engaged on the Project to which MSIFN confirmed it could be shared widely with the First Nation communities and noted that they were working with Black Oak Savannah staff on the matter.
Environmental Study Report (ESR)	Comments received from MSIFN following their advanced review of the ESR can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .	Hydro One's responses to comments received by MSIFN on the ESR can be found in APPENDIX A - 5 .

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
	Comments received from MSIFN during the draft ESR comment period can be found in Section 3.12.1 and APPENDIX A - 6 .	Hydro One's responses to comments received by MSIFN during the draft ESR comment period can be found in Section 3.12.1 and APPENDIX A - 6 .
Construction Laydown Areas	MSIFN inquired if any additional areas outside the centreline of the route be required for the construction and operation of this project (e.g., laydown yards, use of certain access roads, etc.)	Hydro One noted laydown and access areas, which are temporary in nature, may be within the PSA and as a result would be included in the Draft and Final ESR for the Project. Hydro One also noted that they did not anticipate the need to establish non-access infrastructure outside of the LSA and if this were to change then more information would be provided during the detailed design phase of the Project.

3.5.3.8 Kawartha Nishnawbe

3.5.3.8.1 Class EA

In addition to the consultation process outlined above (**Section 3.5**), Hydro One emailed KN on January 18, 2024, to provide a letter to inform them about the Project and welcomed an opportunity to share more information.

On June 14, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that their environmental consultant, WSP, would be reaching out to discuss and share field monitoring opportunities, understand interest for participation, community capacity, and to negotiate a field monitoring agreement. Hydro One notified KN that field studies would begin in summer 2024.

WSP emailed KN on June 19, 2024, to introduce themselves as Hydro One's environmental consultant and inquire about their interest in participating in fieldwork scheduled between June and August 2024. WSP provided KN with a fieldwork summary and estimated dates of upcoming field studies. WSP inquired if KN had an existing Indigenous monitoring agreement that they preferred to use.

On August 9, 2024, WSP emailed KN to notify them about upcoming fieldwork planned for August 13 to 16, 2024. WSP provided a description of the surveys and reminded KN that a signed Indigenous monitoring agreement would be required to take part in the fieldwork. WSP also provided a list of PPE required for monitors.

On August 19, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that it intended to award the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 23, 2024, WSP emailed KN and First Nations communities to inform them that the next field studies program was anticipated to take place during the week of September 16, 2024, and that they would be following up to confirm field dates in the coming weeks. WSP reminded all communities that a fully executed Indigenous monitoring agreement and insurance requirements were required to participate in the fieldwork. WSP shared a summary of observations from the previous field program that took place August 13-15, 2024, and noted that the results of the field program would be in the Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and made available to all communities once complete. WSP also shared a link to the Field Work Plan for communities to review.

On August 30, 2024, WSP emailed KN and First Nations communities to confirm the dates of the upcoming fieldwork planned for September 17 to 19, 2024 and requested to be informed if any communities wished to join the fieldwork.

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On September 13, 2024, WSP followed up with KN and First Nations communities to offer PPE for monitors interested in participating in the upcoming fieldwork. WSP sent another email to update communities on the fieldwork studies that would now be taking place on September 17 and 18, 2024. WSP noted that they would provide meeting locations for interested communities and reminded communities of the requirements for participation. WSP also notified communities that additional details about the aquatics fieldwork in October 2024 would be provided once confirmed and requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that were interested in participating.

On September 18, 2024, WSP emailed KN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 2 to 4, 2024. WSP requested to be informed if any communities had monitors that wished to join the fieldwork and reminded all communities that a fully executed monitoring agreement and up-to-date WSIB and Liability Insurance would be required to participate in the fieldwork.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN and First Nations communities to inform them of upcoming fieldwork from October 7 to 11, 2024. WSP provided a map of the survey locations and requested to be informed if any communities wished to attend.

On November 1, 2024, KN emailed Hydro One to inform them of their interest in sending a field monitor to observe any upcoming fieldwork.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One re-shared the link for the DKPL Field Work Plan with KN and noted that, as a result of consultation with First Nations communities, they implemented an eDNA program in October 2024. Hydro One also informed KN that they planned to delay the draft ESR and project schedule to accommodate a Spring 2025 field season based on comments received requesting multi-seasonal visits and to allow for more land access to sites. Hydro One also noted that the details of the Draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report would be shared with First Nations communities for review in January 2024. The report would then be updated following the Spring 2025 field season.

On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN to share an information sheet outlining conditions for field monitor participation, including WSIB, Liability Insurance, and an executed Monitoring Agreement through WSP. Hydro One noted that the 2024 field season was nearly complete, but that they had one more site visit planned for November 14, 2024. Hydro One copied WSP to work with KN on obtaining an executed monitoring agreement.

KN responded to Hydro One to inform them that they had WSIB certification however that they should not require liability insurance for their monitors to attend. Hydro One informed KN Nation that the liability insurance requirement was a policy across all Hydro One Projects. KN provided examples of other projects where this was not required.

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Also, on November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment for the Project was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One also shared that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site that would be assessed in Spring 2025. Hydro One requested that any feedback or questions for TMHC be provided by December 4, 2024.

On November 7, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that they would look into the matter of liability insurance for field monitoring participation.

On December 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed KN and First Nations communities to share a year-end update and monthly summary of the Project. One shared information regarding the Field Work Plan and upcoming 2025 field season, the draft ESR reporting schedule, and upcoming community open house. KN responded to Hydro One to thank them for the Project updates and to provide their availability for consultation bookings.

On January 15, 2025, Hydro One and KN coordinated a meeting on February 11, 2025, to discuss Hydro One southeast projects and opportunities for First Nation involvement.

On January 31, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to share the January 2025 update and monthly summary for Hydro One southeast projects.

On February 11, 2025, Hydro One met with KN to provide an overview of the Project, including scope, timelines, and current status as well as opportunities for First Nation involvement, such as archaeology studies and field monitoring opportunities. Capacity funding to support Kawartha Nishnawbe was also discussed. Hydro One followed up with an email to provide the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report and to propose a time for another meeting in April 2025.

On February 14, 2025, WSP emailed KN to provide initial drafts of Sections 1 and 2 of the ESR for review. WSP requested feedback by April 9, 2025.

Between February 18 and 23, 2025, Hydro One and KN corresponded via email to discuss their review of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report. KN confirmed their availability for their next consultation meeting on February 23, 2025.

On February 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to provide advance notice of the selected preferred route for the Project. Hydro One noted that Route B had been selected as the result of the route evaluation and had scored best on the Indigenous culture, values, and land use criteria.

On March 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to provide a monthly project update. Hydro One acknowledged that most of the information was a review of their meeting in February. Hydro

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One mentioned that future communications would come directly from them to streamline information flow and reduce email volume from multiple consultants.

On March 6, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to provide draft Sections 5 and 6 of the ESR for review. Hydro One requested feedback by April 10, 2025.

On March 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that the release of the 2025 Field Work Memo would be postponed while the Project team addresses comments received on the draft Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report and worked to incorporate comments into the 2025 field program. Hydro One notified KN that the first scheduled surveys for 2025 were anticipated to take place mid-to-late April.

On April 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to provide Project updates. Hydro One proposed rescheduling their April 22, 2025, meeting to April 28, 2025 due to a scheduling conflict. Hydro One offered alternative solutions to field monitoring, suggesting site visits with a Hydro One representative to address insurance barriers KN was experiencing. Hydro One provided a summary of upcoming archaeological and environmental fieldwork, and deadlines for communities to review the CHEC and chapters of the draft ESR.

On May 16, 2025, Hydro One called KN to discuss upcoming archaeology and natural environment field studies. Due to insurance requirements, Hydro One and KN agreed to substitute field visits with a Hydro One representative to be arranged. KN committed to providing their rates for field monitors and Hydro One and KN agreed to meet the following week to review rates, discuss field visits, and updates on DKPL.

On May 16, 2025, KN emailed Hydro One to provide their rates for field monitoring.

On May 23, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to propose a meeting that day to discuss the Project and upcoming field studies. The meeting was agreed to by Hydro One and KN. KN was not in attendance at the scheduled meeting time. Hydro One followed up with KN through text and a phone call was scheduled for May 26, 2025. Hydro One followed up with a meeting invitation for the scheduled time and an overview of their intended discussion items.

On May 26, 2025, Hydro One and KN had a phone call to discuss a site visit and field monitor rates. Hydro One accepted KN's field monitor rates and planned to work towards setting up a site visit. Hydro One noted a staffing change on their Indigenous Relations team.

May 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to express appreciation for their phone call on May 26, 2025, and to discuss coordination for a site visit. Hydro One proposed a site visit in either June or July 2025 and introduced their team's new Indigenous Relations contact.

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On June 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to confirm they would be reaching out in the coming weeks to discuss site visit coordination.

On August 12, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to introduce their new Indigenous Relations coordinator and requested to follow up on the coordination of a field visit with KN. Hydro One also offered to set up a meeting to discuss Project updates.

On August 26, 2025, KN emailed Hydro One to provide their phone number for a call. Hydro One offered to call on August 27, 2025.

On August 27, 2025, Hydro One called KN to offer support for their attendance at archaeological monitoring or a scheduled site visit. KN noted that they would consider the opportunity and would like to establish a Capacity Funding Agreement.

On August 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that they would provide a draft Capacity Funding Agreement in the coming days.

On October 10, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to provide a draft Capacity Funding Agreement, noting that the funding was intended to support KN's participation in the Project and review of the upcoming ESR. KN provided Hydro One with the signed agreement.

On October 17, 2025, Hydro One had a phone call with KN to discuss field monitor participation. Hydro One offered to coordinate an observational field visit which would not require liability insurance.

On October 20, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to provide the ongoing schedule for archaeology fieldwork and requested their availability to coordinate a field visit. Hydro One also informed KN that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with them once available. Hydro One welcomed comments and feedback following their review.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One and KN attended a site visit for the Project to observe archaeological fieldwork taking place.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report on the Project website for review and welcomed comments.

On November 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to request confirmation of their availability for a site visit accompanied by Hydro One. KN confirmed their availability for a site visit on November 6, 2025, and requested site visit details. Hydro One responded to confirm the site visit details.

On November 6, 2025, Hydro One and KN attended a site visit for the Project to observe archaeological fieldwork taking place.

Between November 10 and 12, 2025, Hydro One and KN were in communication to coordinate a site visit to align with ongoing archaeology fieldwork. Hydro One informed KN that fieldwork had been postponed due to bad weather. Hydro One committed to keeping KN informed as to when work would resume so that they could coordinate a site visit.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One and KN attended a site visit for the Project to observe archaeological fieldwork taking place.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed KN to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them. No comments were received from KN during the draft ESR comment period.

3.5.3.8.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

Table provides a summary of KN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment.

Table 3-6: Summary of Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
EA Process	KN informed Hydro One that they should not require liability insurance for their monitors to attend fieldwork. KN provided examples of other projects they participated on where liability insurance was not required.	Hydro One emailed KN to inform them that they would look into the matter of liability insurance for field monitoring participation and offered to have a meeting to discuss further. Hydro One and KN have agreed to arrange site visits with Hydro One escorts as an alternative. On November 6, 2025, Hydro One met with KN at a Project work site to observe archaeological fieldwork.



3.5.3.9 Wendat Nation

3.5.3.9.1 Class EA

As per the Crown's direction to engage Wendat Nation in the consultation process as it specifically relates to archaeological resources, Hydro One emailed WN on August 19, 2024, to inform them that it intended to reward the Stage 1 Archaeology for DKPL to Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants (TMHC) ahead of the award notification.

On August 20, 2024, WN responded to Hydro One to inform them of their updated consultation process and indicate their interest in participating in archaeological fieldwork and receiving copies of draft reports for review and comment. Hydro One forwarded their email to the address identified by WN.

On September 4, 2024, WN emailed Hydro One to confirm their interest in reviewing the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report when complete. WN inquired if Hydro One would provide capacity funding for their review. Hydro One confirmed that capacity funding was available and requested an opportunity to meet to discuss.

Between September 6 and 9, 2024, Hydro One and WN attempted to coordinate a meeting date.

On November 8, 2024, Hydro One emailed WN to inform them that the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report was ready for review and provided a link to access the report. Hydro One noted that TMHC had flagged a known archaeological site and that Hydro One planned to assess the location in the spring of 2025. Hydro One requested feedback or questions to be sent to TMHC by December 4, 2024.

On November 19, 2024, WN emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the draft Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report for review. WN inquired if Hydro One would agree to a cost estimate for WN's review until a consultation agreement was in place. WN also inquired if Stage 2 archaeological fieldwork was planned for 2025 and indicated their interest in participating.

On November 28, 2024, Hydro One provided a signed copy of WN's cost estimate for the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report review and confirmed that Stage 2 archaeological fieldwork was planned for early 2025. Hydro One offered to schedule a meeting with WN in early 2025.

On December 3, 2024, Hydro One forwarded their previous email to the consultation contact for WN.

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On December 4, 2024, Hydro One extended the deadline for WN's review of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report until December 18, 2024. WN confirmed that they should be able to provide comments by the deadline.

On December 20, 2024, WN emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report.

On January 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to confirm receipt of their comments on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report. Hydro One recommended a meeting with WN to discuss the Project, including the EA process, Project updates, and further discussion on capacity funding.

On March 10, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to inform them that they were able to work out issues they were experiencing processing payment and that they should see the funds transfer within the week. Hydro One also noted that they were preparing for Stage 2 Archaeology and offered to connect and introduce WN to their archaeological consultant to discuss the fieldwork plan and upcoming monitoring opportunities. Hydro One requested WN's availability.

On March 14, 2025, WN responded to Hydro One to thank them for the update on the funds and requested an overview of the fieldwork plan for archaeology.

On March 25, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to inform them that they would put WN in contact with WSP to provide the information they requested.

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to inform them that the draft ESR would be posted for public review by October 29, 2025 and would be shared with them once available. Hydro One thanked WN for their support and involvement on archaeology.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to inform them that the draft ESR had been posted for 30-day public review. Hydro One provided a link to access the report on the Project website for review and welcomed comments.

On November 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to remind them that the draft ESR comment period would close on November 27, 2025, and invited any comments to be sent directly to them. No comments were received from WN during the draft ESR comment period.

On November 24, 2025, Hydro One emailed WN to request confirmation on their preferred community name.

3.5.3.9.2 Economic Opportunities – Jobs, Training and Procurement

The Hydro One team is currently engaging with the communities to ensure that the communities have the opportunity to engage in the EPC process and other potential economic benefits.

Table 3-7 provides a summary of WN comments and concerns received on the Project and the responses from Hydro One regarding each comment.



Table 3-7: Summary of Wendat Nation Comments and Concerns Received on the Project

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Archaeological Assessment	WN reviewed the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment report and commented that they found the report to be satisfactory and that they expect the report’s recommendations to be followed by the proponent for next steps of the Project. WN requested to participate in monitoring for Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment and to review associated reports. WN also requested to be consulted on the Project’s development and to review documentation related to the Class EA. WN expressed interest in entering in a consultation agreement with Hydro One to establish common understanding of the consultation process.	Regarding the request for project updates, the EA process, and a consultation agreement, Hydro One offered to set up a meeting to discuss further. Hydro One connected WN with the Stage 2 archaeology consultant, WSP who engaged WN for discussions related to a fieldwork monitoring agreement. Regarding the request for project updates, the EA process, and a consultation agreement, Hydro One offered to set up a meeting to discuss further.

3.6 Federal Government and Agencies

As part of the consultation and engagement program for the Project, the following federal government representatives and agencies were contacted during the Class EA Process:

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO);
- Indigenous Services Canada;
- Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS);
- Transport Canada (TC);
- Canadian National Railway;
- Canadian Pacific Railway; and
- Nav Canada.

Federal agencies provided feedback, but no concerns were raised. Correspondence with federal government and Agencies is included in the Record of Consultation (**APPENDIX A - 5**).

3.6.1 Fisheries and Oceans Canada

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC and notices for the above-mentioned engagement opportunities to DFO. No comments or concerns were raised by DFO.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed DFO the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by DFO.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed DFO to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.6.2 Indigenous Services Canada

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC and notices for the above-mentioned engagement opportunities to Indigenous Services Canada. No comments or concerns were raised by Indigenous Services Canada.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Indigenous Services Canada the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Indigenous Services Canada.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Indigenous Services Canada to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a

public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.6.3 Canadian Wildlife Service

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC and notices for the above-mentioned engagement opportunities to Canadian Wildlife Services. No comments or concerns were raised by CWS.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian Wildlife Services the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by CWS.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian Wildlife Services to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.6.4 Transport Canada

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC as well as an invitation to COH #1. On June 7, 2024, Transport Canada indicated they did not require receipt of all individual or Class EA related notifications and requested Hydro One self-assess if the Project would:

1. Interact with federal property and/or waterways; and
2. Require approval and/or authorization under any Acts administered by TC.

Transport Canada explained that the conditions for the Project would be considered under the *Impact Assessment Act*, and should the conditions not apply, Transport Canada should not be included in any further correspondence regarding the Project's Class EA, and future notifications from Hydro One would not receive a response by Transport Canada. Transport Canada provided an email for correspondence to be sent to and requested that a brief description of TC's expected role be included. Transport Canada provided a list of the most common Acts that have been applied to projects in a Class EA context and asked Hydro One to advise if more information was needed.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Transport Canada the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Transport Canada.

On July 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Ontario Aviation Services branch of TC and Nav Canada to provide an overview of the Project including an approximate timeline for construction, increased voltage, and approximate tower height. Hydro One also shared a link

to the route map. Hydro One requested information on the CBM2 Blackstock/Martyn runway and sought guidance on design considerations relevant to the Project. Hydro One requested a meeting to discuss further.

On September 16, 2025, Hydro One met with Transport Canada to discuss the Blackstock Aerodrome in relation to Hydro One's plans to replace an existing tower line with a new, taller tower line. Hydro One and Transport Canada also discussed the Project right-of-way and associated design considerations.

On September 17, 2025, Transport Canada provided a link to guidance material regarding markings and markers for obstructions, specifically referencing Standard 621 - Obstacle Marking and Lighting under the Canadian Aviation Regulations.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Transport Canada to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.6.5 Canadian National Railway

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC and notices for the above-mentioned engagement opportunities to Canadian National Railway. No comments or concerns were raised by Canadian National Railway.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian National Railway the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Canadian National Railway.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian National Railway to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.6.6 Canadian Pacific Railway

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC and notices for the above-mentioned engagement opportunities to Canadian Pacific Railway. No comments or concerns were raised by Canadian Pacific Railway.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian Pacific Railway the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Canadian Pacific Railway.

On June 9, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian Pacific Railway to inform them about the Project and to note that the line crosses Canadian Pacific Railway infrastructure at the Burketon Bridge location, within the existing Hydro One Corridor. Hydro One noted that their eventual Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor would be responsible for the detailed design and permitting, which was expected to be complete in 2026 with construction to follow in 2027. Hydro One inquired if Canadian Pacific Railway had any questions or required any information about the Project and invited an opportunity to discuss further.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Canadian Pacific Railway to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7 Provincial Government and Agencies

As part of the consultation and engagement program for the Project, the following provincial government representatives and agencies were contacted during the Class EA Process:

- Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP)
 - Dave Smith, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha;
 - Todd J. McCarthy, MPP for Durham
 - Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock;
- Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO);
- Infrastructure Ontario (IO);
- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA);
- Kawartha Conservation;
- Otonabee Conservation;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs;
- Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM);
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Gaming (MTCG);
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade (MEDJCT);
- Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM);
- Ministry of Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Indigenous Affairs;
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH);

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- Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR);
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP);
- Ministry of the Solicitor General;
- Ministry of Transportation;
- Ontario Clean Water Agency;
- Ontario Power Generation;
- Ontario Provincial Police; and
- Ontario Heritage Trust.

Correspondence with provincial government and agencies is included in the Record of Consultation (**APPENDIX A - 5**).

3.7.1 Dave Smith, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed MPP Smith to thank them for joining their roundtable after the Mayor's Breakfast event organized by the Peterborough-Kawartha Chamber of Commerce. Hydro One provided a link to the Project website and a brochure regarding stray voltage. Hydro One also provided contact information for their team dedicated to responding to questions regarding stray voltage.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MPP Smith to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.2 Todd J. McCarthy, MPP for Durham

On March 20, 2025, Hydro One met with the office of MPP McCarthy to provide a high-level overview of the Project. Hydro One directed MPP McCarthy to the Project website for more information about the Project, including the informational panels that would be showcased at the Community Open House on March 20, 2025. Hydro One encouraged MPP McCarthy to reach out to the Project team with any questions or if they required additional details.

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One contacted MPP McCarthy to inform her that the draft ESR will be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025, with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MPP McCarthy to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment

period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.3 Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

On October 22, 2025, Hydro One contacted MPP Scott to inform her that the draft ESR will be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025, with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MPP Scott to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.4 Independent Electricity System Operator

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed IESO to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed IESO to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.5 Infrastructure Ontario

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed IO to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed IO the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by IO.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed IO to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.6 Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On August 30, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to provide notification that Hydro One was looking to refine and finalize the criteria that would be used to determine a preferred route for the Project to be announced in the fall of 2024. Hydro One also inquired if CLOCA had any recommendations or inputs that they considered significant for the preferred route selection and offered a meeting to discuss further.

On September 6, 2024, CLOCA emailed Hydro One to indicate their interest in meeting to discuss the criteria for route selection.

On October 2, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA with availability for a meeting to discuss the current status of the Project and route evaluation. Hydro One also noted that they were preparing an application for boreholes within CLOCA regulated land for the Phase 1 Geotechnical Investigation and would be sending it to another contact at CLOCA once ready. CLOCA followed up on October 2, 2024, to confirm availability to meet on October 16 or 17, 2024.

On October 11, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to provide a description of the Phase 1 Geotechnical Investigation Program for the Project's boreholes located within CLOCA regulated areas. Hydro One noted that work was planned to begin within the next few weeks and requested guidance regarding the applicable permit application for the program. Hydro One also requested a fee schedule or invoice.

On October 17, 2024, CLOCA emailed Hydro One to request GPS coordinates for the borehole locations as part of the Phase 1 Geotechnical Investigation Program. CLOCA noted that their regulated areas had been adjusted with the new legislation and overlapping borehole locations would need to be manually checked until updated mapping was available.

On October 17, 2024, Hydro One and WSP met with members of CLOCA to discuss the Project. Items discussed included an overview of the Project, natural environment field studies completed to date and planned for spring 2025, route evaluation criteria and preferred route selection process, and the Project schedule. During the route evaluation discussion, CLOCA identified the opportunity for future restoration on their regulated lands and their preference for the transmission line to utilize the alternative route option not on CLOCA land. Hydro One suggested the inclusion of a category for "restoration opportunity" to the route evaluation criteria in response to CLOCA's feedback. Following the discussion, Hydro One emailed

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CLOCA to provide a copy of their existing easement agreement as well as contact details if they had any questions or concerns. CLOCA thanked Hydro One.

On October 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to provide a KMZ file with the planned Phase 1 borehole locations within CLOCA regulated areas. On October 22, 2024, CLOCA emailed Hydro One and requested a revision of the permit application to include only boreholes that are within CLOCA regulated areas.

On October 28, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA noting that they were working through an updated map book with borehole locations and would be in contact again shortly. Hydro One provided the revised report with applicable boreholes to CLOCA on October 28, 2024. CLOCA provided Hydro One with the permit application to be filled out and sent back. Following the permit application, CLOCA noted that they would then provide payment information.

On October 29, 2024, WSP emailed CLOCA to share the draft minutes recorded in the meeting between WSP, Hydro One, and CLOCA on October 17, 2024, for review. WSP requested any comments or changes be provided by November 11, 2024.

On October 31, 2024, Hydro One provided a completed copy of the permit application and requested payment information from CLOCA.

On October 31, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to request clarification on the reasoning for the required borehole permit type. CLOCA followed up with Hydro One on November 1, 2024, clarifying that a Minor Permit B fee would be required for the borehole work due to its proximity to wetlands, and provided further explanation as to when Minor Permit A fees would apply. Hydro One replied to CLOCA on November 1, 2024, identifying that the invoice for the permit fee had been processed.

On November 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed CLOCA inquiring about the timelines for the next steps of the permitting process. CLOCA responded on November 5, 2024, clarifying that they were currently working on the permit and plan to provide it to Hydro One by the end of the week.

On November 4, 2024, CLOCA sent the unsigned permit to Hydro One for review. CLOCA also requested that Hydro One provide additional applicant details and return the signed permit to CLOCA for final execution. Hydro One followed up with CLOCA on November 5, 2024, to provide the signed permit with updated applicant details. Hydro One also noted that a second round of geotechnical boreholes were being planned for spring 2025 and a communication would be provided to CLOCA once the locations of boreholes were confirmed. CLOCA later provided the fully executed permit to Hydro One.

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On November 11, 2024, WSP emailed CLOCA as a reminder that November 11, 2024, was the final day to submit comments or revisions to the draft minutes from the meeting that took place on October 17, 2024. WSP followed up again with CLOCA on November 13, 2024, to provide the final meeting minutes from the meeting that took place on October 17, 2024, between WSP, Hydro One, and CLOCA.

On November 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to request feedback on the importance of the criteria and indicators used to evaluate the route alternatives and to select the Preferred Route. Hydro One also noted that they included “restoration opportunity” as an additional criterion in response to the comments provided by CLOCA. Hydro One also requested any information that could be fed into the restoration criteria, such as policies or plans for the property. Hydro One shared a link to a survey to solicit feedback on the route evaluation criteria and noted that the survey would close on November 29, 2024.

On December 12, 2024, CLOCA emailed Hydro One and WSP to request an extension to submit the route evaluation survey as they were unsure if the completed survey had been submitted to Hydro One. Hydro One followed up on December 12, 2024, confirming to CLOCA that the completed route evaluation survey had not been received. Hydro One re-opened the survey for CLOCA to re-visit and requested a completion date by December 13, 2024.

On December 16, 2024, CLOCA emailed Hydro One confirming that the route evaluation survey had been completed, noting that references and supporting documentation were not exhaustive due to limited characters and number of files that could be uploaded. CLOCA recommended that Hydro One consult the resources listed on their website and provided a direct link to access.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed members of CLOCA the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. CLOCA expressed gratitude to Hydro One for their email update and acknowledged the incorporation of their inputs to the preferred route selection. CLOCA appreciated Hydro One's critical consideration of the information they provided. Hydro One emailed CLOCA to thank them for their feedback.

On April 3, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to CLOCA thanking all those who attended the recent open houses on March 18 and 20 for the Durham Kawartha Power Line project. This email encouraged those who missed the Open Houses to visit the project website for the most recent information and project updates.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to inform them that they were still working on developing the Biodiversity Initiative that will be undertaken for the DKPL project, as per a discussion they had during the Community Open House in March 2025. CLOCA responded on May 16, 2025, to express appreciation for their update.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLOCA regarding upcoming geotechnical and archaeological work to take place in the coming months. Hydro One mentioned that they had requested permits for geotechnical work in 2024 that may not have been required since boreholes within CLOCA regulated limits were not within the limits of a wetland, watercourse, or valley. Hydro One's understanding was that they would only be required to follow best practices laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Conservation Ontario and that no further approval would be required for boreholes or archaeological test pitting in the area. Hydro One shared a copy of the MOU for reference and offered to set up a meeting if further discussion was needed.

On May 22, 2025, CLOCA responded to Hydro One to confirm that they had reviewed Hydro One's MOU and agreed that the upcoming geotechnical work would not require a permit, based on the requirements in the MOU. Hydro One confirmed that the MOU guidelines had been shared with the archaeological and geotechnical consultants and that they would commit to following them. Hydro One and CLOCA confirmed their alignment through email.

On June 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to inform them that the Project team planned to host a workshop to introduce its Biodiversity Initiative following the completion of the Class EA in late 2025 - early 2026, which would involve Hydro One funding for habitat creation and enhancement projects to offset net habitat loss from the Project. Hydro One shared the proposed requirements for participation and noted that the program was still in development. Hydro One noted that CLOCA would be invited to the workshop following the Class EA and invited any questions in the interim.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed CLOCA to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.7 Kawartha Conservation Authority

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One sent a letter to impacted property owners, including Kawartha Conservation notifying them of the Project and potential impact to their property, along with the NoC and an invitation to attend COH #1.

On July 17, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA.

Hydro One reached out to impacted property owners, including Kawartha Conservation after the NoC to discuss the project. During these meetings, both organizations decided to hold a meeting in September 2024.

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On August 26, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed Hydro One a proposed meeting agenda including items of interest to be discussed during the meeting scheduled on September 23, 2024. On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to inquire if the plan was to meet virtually or in person and that some of Hydro One's representatives were available to join in person, if preferred. Kawartha Conservation replied to Hydro One to inform them that they could attend virtually or in-person. Hydro One confirmed they would attend the meeting in person.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One met with Kawartha Conservation and gave an overview of the DKPL project, including a description of the routes and evaluation process, the planned studies, and high-level schedule. Kawartha Conservation shared details of a project they had planned for restoration within the ROW. They also shared details of the area, including information about trails, memorials, and previous issues with trespassing in the area.

On September 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation noting that the shapefiles they had of Kawartha Conservation's regulation limits were out of date with the latest legislation changes. Hydro One inquired if Kawartha Conservation could share up-to-date regulation limits and acknowledged that data sharing agreements can be signed, if required.

On September 30, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed Hydro One confirming that updated regulation limits can be shared. Kawartha Conservation also asked if Hydro One wanted to provide a specific study area file to clip the regulated area limits to. Hydro One followed up with Kawartha Conservation on September 30, 2024, and provided a KMZ file for clipping. Kawartha Conservation also requested that wetland area delineations within the eco corridor be shared with Hydro One.

On October 2, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed Hydro One a Data Licence Agreement (DLA) to be signed prior to sharing updated regulation limits and inquired if an Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) File Geodatabase was acceptable or if a shapefile specifically was required. On October 4, 2024, Hydro One confirmed that shapefiles would be required, and Kawartha Conservation provided a PDF agreement for signature, confirming that the shapefiles would be sent once the agreement was signed. Hydro One thanked Kawartha Conservation.

On October 4, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed the shapefiles for the updated regulation limits to Hydro One and noted for Hydro One to follow up if there were any issues. Kawartha Conservation also noted that the director had been informed that the Data Licensing Agreement was signed, and a copy would be provided to Hydro One once it had been fully executed by Kawartha Conservation. On October 7, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed Hydro One to provide the fully executed Data Licensing Agreement.

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On October 16, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to request confirmation of the permitting contact that was previously provided. Hydro One noted that they were ready to request approval for the Phase 1 Geotechnical Investigations Program for boreholes located within Kawartha Conservation Authority's regulated areas, as recommended by their MOU with Conservation Ontario. Hydro One also provided a description of the program and locations of the planned boreholes within Kawartha Conservation Authority's regulated areas and requested guidance regarding applicable permit applications for the program.

On October 21, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed Hydro One to provide them a contact to reach out to regarding their permit application. On October 25, 2024, Kawartha Conservation emailed Hydro One to inform them that they forwarded Hydro One's email and attached documents to their permitting team and provided Hydro One with their contact information.

On November 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to provide an updated Project description and borehole locations. Hydro One also requested clarification of the timeline required for Kawartha Conservation to process the permit request.

On November 13, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to follow up on the permit request and anticipated timeline required for processing according to the MOU with Conservation Ontario. Hydro One also noted that a change had been made to the original permit submission, however no response had been received back. Kawartha Conservation followed up with Hydro One on November 13, 2024, confirming receipt of their permit application and noted that it would be reviewed shortly.

On November 19, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to request an estimated timeline for when they would have permits in hand. Kawartha Conservation provided Hydro One with the permit on November 19, 2024, requesting Hydro One's review of the conditions and a start date for the proposed works. Hydro One followed up on November 19, 2024, noting that Kawartha Conservation would be informed in advance of the start date.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to notify them of the start dates for geotechnical work, confirming that the two boreholes in the conservation area would be drilled on Monday, December 2, and Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed members of Kawartha Conservation the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Kawartha Conservation.

On May 8, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to inquire about a memorial cross located on one of the existing transmission line towers. Hydro One requested to know the exact location of the cross and for contact information of the owners of the cross to coordinate

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its removal and replacement when Hydro One relocates the tower. Hydro One also inquired about the restoration work previously indicated by Kawartha Conservation and requested a species list.

On May 16, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation Permits regarding upcoming geotechnical and archaeological work to take place in the coming months. Hydro One mentioned that they had requested permits for geotechnical work in 2024 that may not have been required since boreholes within Kawartha Conservation regulated limits were not within the limits of a wetland, watercourse, or valley. Hydro One's understanding was that they would only be required to follow best practices laid out in the MOU with Conservation Ontario and that no further approval would be required for boreholes or archaeological test pitting in the area. Hydro One shared a copy of the MOU for reference and offered to set up a meeting if further discussion was needed.

On May 16, 2025, Kawartha Conservation Permits replied to Hydro One to thank them for the information they provided and to inform them of changes to their staffing and permitting processes. Kawartha Conservation flagged that only one of the geotechnical boreholes was located within their regulated area and confirmed that they would issue a modified permit to include standard best practices. Kawartha Conservation inquired about Hydro One's timeline for geotechnical work to ensure timely permit processing and to avoid delays.

On May 20, 2025, the Interim Director of Planning and Development Services at Kawartha Conservation acknowledged receipt of Hydro One's email concerning archaeological and geotechnical work not requiring permits. Kawartha Conservation noted they would review internally and provide a response by the end of the week.

On May 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation Permits and Kawartha Conservation Planning and Development Services in one email to inform them that geotechnical work would begin in July 2025 and inquired if the modified permit could be issued in time for work to commence. Hydro One also provided details regarding intrusive (hand digging) archaeological work and ploughing beginning in late May 2025 within Hydro One's ROW and inquired if that work would require a permit. Kawartha Conservation Planning and Development Services responded to inform Hydro One that they would not require a permit for hand-digging, as they did not consider it to be intrusive. Kawartha Conservation advised that a permit would be required for any large earthworks where erosion could become a concern for wetlands.

Kawartha Conservation Permits responded to Hydro One's email on May 27, 2025, to inform Hydro One that they could issue a draft permit for the borehole work before work commenced in July 2025, but that an additional permit would also be required for the archaeological work.

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Kawartha Conservation Permits suggested separate permits for the work and requested supporting documentation from Hydro One so they could begin drafting the permits for issuance once payment was received.

Hydro One also sent an email to Kawartha Conservation to follow up on their outstanding request regarding the memorial cross location and Kawartha Conservation restoration works. Kawartha Conservation responded to provide a shapefile for the locations of Butternut trees planted in 2019 with a photo for reference and noted that over 200 companion trees and shrubs had also been planted in the vicinity. Kawartha Conservation also shared a map of the Bobolink and Meadowlark restoration areas for Hydro One's records. Regarding the memorial cross, Kawartha Conservation committed to putting Hydro One in contact with the owners of the cross for coordination and provided an image referencing the location of the tower that the cross was resting against. Kawartha Conservation requested that Hydro One replace the cross once the work had been completed.

On July 2, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation Permits to note that a previous email from Kawartha Conservation Planning and Development Services confirmed that permits would not be required for upcoming archaeology and to inquire if permits would be required for geotechnical borehole work. Hydro One confirmed that the borehole was not located within a wetland.

On July 3, 2025, Kawartha Conservation Permits called Hydro One to confirm that no permits were required for the geotechnical borehole work and followed up with an email to reiterate this confirmation.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Conservation to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.8 Otonabee Conservation Authority

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Otonabee Conservation to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On September 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed Otonabee Conservation to follow up on the initial email sent as notification of the Class EA for the Project. Hydro One provided further Project details and informed Otonabee Conservation of the criteria that Hydro One would use to evaluate and determine the Preferred Route, recognizing that the route evaluation was not within Otonabee Conservation boundaries but still welcomed any feedback. In addition, Hydro One requested shapefiles of Otonabee Conservation's regulated areas to overlay on internal

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maps and noted that they were planning a fall geotechnical program to gather early design information and would like to review the proposed geotechnical locations against regulation limits to determine next steps. Hydro One offered to coordinate a meeting with Otonabee Conservation to provide a Project overview, discuss next steps, and answer outstanding questions.

On September 23, 2024, Otonabee Conservation emailed Hydro One to provide a Data Sharing Agreement and inquired if Hydro One requires copies of floodplain and regulation limits, or if a web service would work. In addition, Otonabee Conservation shared mapping to denote Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) for the EA process. Otonabee Conservation noted that they were working to access some of their lands that are on the Project route.

On September 25, 2024, Hydro One requested copies of floodplain and regulation limits, noting that a Hydro One representative would be filling out and returning the Data Sharing Agreement. Hydro One also acknowledged that Otonabee Conservation's real estate team was in contact with property owners to discuss access. Hydro One thanked Otonabee Conservation for providing copies of mapping for PSWs and welcomed further discussion and feedback.

On September 26, 2024, Otonabee Conservation emailed Hydro One noting that the regulated areas and floodplain layers were already shared with Hydro One for regulatory and permit purposes.

On October 2, 2024, Hydro One confirmed that they had located the data provided in June 2023 and inquired if it was the most up-to-date data. Otonabee Conservation noted that the regulated area was updated in 2024 and provided updated data files. Otonabee Conservation also noted that an existing Data Sharing Agreement existed and would be updated to reflect that new data was shared. On October 2, 2024, Hydro One thanked Otonabee Conservation for the updated data.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Otonabee Conservation the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Otonabee Conservation.

On May 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed Otonabee Conservation regarding upcoming geotechnical and archaeological work to take place in the coming months. Hydro One noted that the work they would be conducting within Otonabee's regulation limits would involve intrusive works within a wetland. Therefore, they would only be required to follow best practices laid out in the MOU with Conservation Ontario and that no further approval would be required for boreholes or archaeological test pitting in the area. Hydro One shared a copy of the MOU for reference and offered to set up a meeting if further discussion was needed. The

following day, Otonabee Conservation emailed Hydro One to confirm they had no concerns with the approach. Otonabee Conservation invited Hydro One for a discussion regarding Dobbin station in June 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Otonabee Conservation to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.9 Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed OMAFRA to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

3.7.10 Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MCM (formerly the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport) to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. On July 3, 2024, MCM responded to the Notice of Commencement with a reminder of Hydro One's responsibilities under the Ontario Heritage Act and Environmental Assessment Act, including the timing and sequencing of completion of technical cultural heritage studies.

On June 6, 2024, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport was divided into two new Ministries; the MTCG, and the MCM.

On December 17, 2024, AECOM emailed MCM to introduce AECOM's role on the Project, requesting a review of the Project map to verify Provincial Heritage Properties and/or Provincial Heritage Properties of Provincial Significance adjacent to the Study Area. In addition, AECOM inquired if there were provincial plaques nearby, noting that the route passed through the Municipality of Clarington, the Township of Scugog, the City of Kawartha Lakes, the Township of Cavan-Monaghan, and the Township of Selwyn.

On December 27, 2024, MCM emailed AECOM to share the screening checklists that was developed to assist property owners, developers, and consultants in identifying known and potential cultural heritage resources. MCM provided responses to screening questions, confirming that no properties within the Study Area had been designated as being of cultural heritage, and they do not have records of any Provincial Heritage Properties within or adjacent to the Study Area. MCM also noted that if the lands were owned or controlled by an Ontario Ministry or Prescribed Public Body on behalf of the Crown, they may have responsibilities under the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties. MCM

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also noted, regarding other protected heritage properties and provincial plaques within or adjacent to the study area, AECOM should contact the Ontario Heritage Trust, Provincial Heritage Registrar, and the associated municipal planner.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MCM to provide a Notice of Preferred Route Selection and an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for March 18 and 20, 2025.

On March 26, 2025, MCM emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the Notice of Preferred Route Selection and to provide an update regarding contact information for their office. MCM noted that their records indicated that a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment had been submitted to MCM and was under review. MCM inquired about the status of the Cultural Heritage Report and requested that Hydro One send it to them for review. MCM also requested additional information regarding the route selection.

On April 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed MCM to confirm that they updated their project contact list with the contact information previously provided. Hydro One informed MCM that the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions (CHEC) report was currently drafted and has been provided to the Indigenous communities for review and comment. Hydro One also provided MCM a copy of the CHEC and noted that the final CHEC would be appended to their draft and final versions of the ESR which is intended to go for public review in October 2025. In addition to the CHEC, the panels and Chapter 5 of the draft ESR, containing details on preferred route selection, were provided to MCM.

On June 6, 2025, MCM emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the draft copy of the CHEC for the Project. MCM provided an attachment with their comments.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MCM to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

On November 27, 2025, MCM emailed Hydro One to inform them that they were finalizing their comments following their review of the draft ESR and that they anticipated being able to submit the comments to Hydro One on the week of December 1, 2025. Hydro One replied to thank MCM for confirming that their comments were forthcoming.

On December 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed MCM to follow up on their submission of comments for the draft ESR. MCM responded to Hydro One to inform them that their comments on the draft ESR had been delayed and inquired if they could receive an extension to submit comments by December 10, 2025.

On December 8, 2025, Hydro One emailed MCM to thank them for the update on the status of their comments on the draft ESR and welcomed receipt of MCM's comments by December 10, 2025. MCM thanked Hydro One for their patience and accommodation.

On December 10, 2025, MCM emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft ESR. MCM's comments received during the draft ESR comment period can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On December 22, 2025, Hydro One emailed MCM to thank them for their comments on the draft ESR and to provide a table with their response to MCM's comments. Hydro One welcomed any questions or requests for clarification. MCM responded to thank Hydro One for providing their responses to MCM's comments on the draft ESR. MCM advised that they would review and get back to them in the new year. Hydro One's responses to MCM's comments can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

3.7.11 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

On June 6, 2024, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport was divided into two new Ministries; the MTCG, and the MCM.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MTCG to provide a Notice of Preferred Route Selection and an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for March 18 and 20, 2025.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MTCG the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by MTCG.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MTSG to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.12 Ministry Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MEDJCT to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MEDJCT the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by MEDJCT.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MEDJCT to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period

from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.13 Ministry of Energy and Electrification

On October 19, 2023 the MEE (formerly MOE) provided Hydro One an Order in Council to amend the conditions of Hydro One's license to require it to develop and seek all necessary approvals for three priority projects, including DKPL.

On December 29, 2023, MEE (formerly MOE) emailed Hydro One to provide a delegation letter for the Project.

On January 3, 2024, MEE (formerly MOE) emailed Hydro One to note they were experiencing technical issues with the delegation letter and provided a scanned copy of the delegation letter. MEE advised that they would ensure the community consultation advisors of the First Nations also had the scanned notification letter. Hydro One replied to inform MEM that they could not open the attachment. MEE provided a PDF attachment that Hydro One was able to open.

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MEE (formerly MOE) to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On June 6, 2024, MOE was renamed to the Ministry of Energy and Electrification (MEE) and Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM).

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MEE the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by MEE.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MEE to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.14 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MMAH to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MMAH the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by MMAH.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MMAH to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.15 Ministry of Natural Resources

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MNR (formerly MNRF) to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. On June 5, 2024, MNR emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the NoC and provided a response outlining MNR's areas of interest.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MNR to provide a Notice of Preferred Route Selection and an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for March 18 and 20, 2025.

On March 26, 2025, MNR emailed Hydro One to thank them for the Notice of Preferred Route Selection. MNR noted that the Project appeared to overlap with many of MNR's interests. MNR noted that the Enfield Wetlands Complex Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) appeared to be missing from Hydro One's mapping tool and that it was unclear whether Hydro One was aware of it when conducting the route evaluation. MNR requested more information on the existing conditions inventories, evaluation of impacts of each route alternative, and proposed mitigation measures relative to their interests. MNR also provided an updated Areas of Interest package for further consideration.

In response, Hydro One emailed MNR on April 3, 2025, via email confirming receipt of MNR's initial response to the NoC. In their reply, Hydro One acknowledged reviewing the datasets identified by MNR and emphasized that the Enfield Wetland Complex played a significant role in their decision to select Route B as the preferred route.

To support this, Hydro One provided a copy of the drafted chapter on the Identification and Evaluation of Route Alternatives that would be included in the draft ESR, which was intended to go for public review in October 2025. They also provided an overview of the routing and evaluation process, including the decision to utilize an existing corridor for 50 km of the preferred route to minimize vegetation clearing and to avoid additional crossings of environmentally significant areas, such as Oak Ridges Moraine and Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs). For the remaining 3 km of the route, Hydro One detailed the evaluation process that led to the selection of Route B. This route received the highest scores in key categories such as Indigenous culture, values and land use, natural environment, technical feasibility, and cost. Additionally, Hydro One included a project map image via email, illustrating the locations of wetlands and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs). They noted that while the route intersects portions of the wetland, tower placements have not yet

been finalized and will be determined during the detailed design phase. The intent is to span the wetlands rather than place towers within them.

Hydro One also noted that they were still compiling the existing conditions inventory and effects assessment and mitigations chapters and welcomed an opportunity to meet and discuss further. Lastly, Hydro One thanked MNR for providing the updated Areas of Interest Package and advised that they would review and let MNR know if they had any questions.

MNR emailed Hydro One on April 4, 2025, to thank them for providing the requested information and to note that they would wait for the draft ESR to become available for their review. MNR flagged a patch of PSWs that may be crossed by the preferred route alternative and wondered if it was taken into consideration for the route evaluation. MNR provided a screenshot of DKPL webviewer tool that faintly showed the ANSI boundaries north of Regional Road 3 and a screenshot of the Land Information Ontario (LIO)³ GIS layers showing the PSW boundaries. Hydro One emailed MNR to provide additional context for the reason that the selected route traversed through the area that MNR was concerned about. Hydro One noted that the proposed transmission line paralleled an existing transmission line corridor in the section of interest. Hydro One clarified that they had not begun the detailed design phase which would include tower placements but that, based on best practices and feedback received during the environmental assessment, their goal would be to span over wetlands to avoid placing towers in wetlands wherever possible. MNR emailed Hydro One to thank them for the clarification and noted that the selection was clearer and more understandable.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MNR to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

On November 24, 2025, MNR emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft ESR. MNR noted that they did not have concerns with the project generally, however, they pointed out a discrepancy between the overlap with Enfield Provincially Significant Wetland Complex along the preferred alternative route in a table and figure in the ESR. MNR also noted that there were a few references in the text their old ministry name that should be removed. MNR's comments received during the draft ESR comment period can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On December 18, 2025, Hydro One emailed MNR to provide their responses to comments received on the draft ESR. Hydro One provided an explanation regarding the discrepancy that

³ Now GeoHub Ontario.

MNR noted in a table of the ESR, noting that the table provided a comparative evaluation of Routes A and B, not other sections of the line. Hydro One provided a figure with calculations to clarify the intersections and confirmed that additional calculations would be added to the final ESR. Lastly, Hydro One thanked MNR for pointing out references to MNRF in the draft ESR and committed making a correction, while noting that any references to MNRF publications dated prior to the ministry's name change would remain unchanged in accordance with their style guide. Hydro One welcomed any questions or requests for additional information. Hydro One's response to MNR's comments can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On December 31, 2025, MNR emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing clarification in response to their comment on the draft ESR and to thank them for their commitment to update the final ESR with text to support this clarification.

3.7.16 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MECP to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On June 7, 2024, MECP responded to Hydro One's NoC to thank them for the update on the Project and to share information regarding the ministry's interest with respect to the Class EA process.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MECP the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by MECP.

On June 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed MECP to inform them that they were in the final stages of the Class EA and that they expected to submit a draft ESR to stakeholders in October 2025 for a 30-day public comment period. Hydro One noted that they would soon be beginning their detailed design process for the Project and inquired if MECP had any new feedback to consider for either the Class EA or the detailed design. Hydro One also requested confirmation of the appropriate regional contact for Project notices. On the same day, MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for the update and to note that they did not have any feedback to be considered for detailed design as they had not received any report or materials to review. MECP suggested that, because the Project spanned two regions, Hydro One send notices to both regional inboxes for completeness.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MECP to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

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On November 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed MECP to inquire if they should anticipate any comments from the ministry on the draft ESR. MECP replied to Hydro One to thank them for their patience and to confirm that they would submit their comments on November 28, 2025.

On November 28, 2025, MECP emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft ESR and supporting documents. Hydro One thanked them for their review and feedback on the draft ESR. MECP's comments received during the draft ESR comment period can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On December 17, 2025, Hydro One attempted to contact MECP via phone and left a voicemail requesting an opportunity to discuss their comments on the draft ESR. Hydro One followed up with an email informing MECP that they left a voicemail and requested confirmation that they had the correct phone number to reach them. Hydro One noted that they intended to discuss one of their comments on the draft ESR regarding Indigenous consultation.

On December 18, 2025, MECP emailed Hydro One to inquire about which comments they wanted to discuss so they could include the appropriate reviewers in their discussion.

On December 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed MECP to inform them that they wished to discuss MECP's comment regarding inclusion of all consultation records with First Nations in the draft ESR Appendix A. Hydro One advised that they did not include all correspondence in the appendix due to concerns with the release of sensitive information in public-facing materials, and that obtaining approval for release of sensitive information or redacting the comprehensive record would require significant effort. Hydro One noted that their approach was to include key correspondence in the ESR with consultation summaries, and if MECP required additional correspondence beyond what was included in the ESR, they propose providing those documents directly to MECP upon request to help maintain confidentiality. Hydro One requested to be informed of the specific communications they required so that they could prepare accordingly. Hydro One's response to MECP's comments can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On December 22, 2025, MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for their response to MECP's comments and to confirm that they would share the response internally for review.

On December 23, 2025, MECP emailed Hydro One to request access to the link they provided to their comment responses. Hydro One replied to MECP to inform them that they provided access to the EA Notification email address and should not require a password. Hydro One inquired if MECP could try accessing the link again and confirmed they would seek alternative options for access if unsuccessful.

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On January 7, 2026, Hydro One emailed MECP to follow up on their ability to access and download the Natural Environment report following their email on December 23, 2025. Hydro One advised that WSP would also send the report to MECP via their file transfer system due to the size of the report. WSP emailed MECP to send the Natural Environment Report via web transfer file for download.

On January 13, 2026, Hydro One emailed MECP to inform them that they would be including First Nation correspondence consistent with the approach recently confirmed by MECP's southwest review team in the final ESR, including emails for the Notice of Commencement. Hydro One noted that any additional correspondence could be provided directly to MECP upon request.

On January 19, 2026, MECP emailed Hydro One to note that they were satisfied with majority of Hydro One's responses, except for those related to noise and vibration, as MECP did not support deferring the noise and vibration assessment to the detailed design phase of the Project. MECP believed that the ESR was the appropriate stage to evaluate potential noise and vibration impacts and identify mitigation measures, particularly for a transmission project of the scale and complexity of DKPL. MECP advised that predictable worst-case scenarios should be assessed at this time, in accordance with MECP guidelines, to ensure transparency and allow stakeholders to understand potential impacts before the project advanced. MECP also noted that their staff were still reviewing Hydro One's response to their comments on Indigenous consultation and they would share feedback once available.

On January 21, 2026, Hydro One emailed MECP to acknowledge concerns regarding noise and vibration assessments. Hydro One asserted that a fully compliant predictive noise assessment was not feasible at the ESR stage because detailed engineering inputs required for such assessments were not yet available, as the project has not advanced to detailed design. Hydro One emphasized that operational noise levels from similar projects have consistently met MECP thresholds and that noise exceedances beyond the right of way have not been observed. Hydro One's plan to defer detailed noise and vibration modeling until the detailed design phase had been accepted by the MECP on other projects. Hydro One committed to evaluating noise and vibration guidance as design progressed, completing assessments when engineering details are available, and incorporating design measures to minimize noise. Hydro One noted that the Project was a provincial priority and must advance to the detailed design stage to meet its mandated in-service date. Between January 29 and 30, 2026, MECP emailed Hydro One to request additional details regarding the nature of their confidentiality concerns. Hydro One responded to provide additional detail regarding their approach for protecting Indigenous Knowledge. On February 5, 2026, Hydro One and MECP spoke on the phone and confirmed Hydro One's approach to consultation in the ESR and the deferment of additional noise assessments to detailed design.

3.7.17 Ministry of the Solicitor General

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Ministry of the Solicitor General to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ministry of the Solicitor General the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by Ministry of the Solicitor General.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MMAH to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.18 Ministry of Transportation

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed MTO to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On June 20, 2024, MTO emailed Hydro One to inform them that their NoC was circulated to the wrong regional area and to advise that MTO's had launched a new streamlined approval process. MTO directed Hydro One to submit their Class EA as a non-site-specific land development through their website.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed MTO the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by MTO.

On June 27, 2025, Hydro One received an automatic reply from MTO informing them that their request for a pre-consultation submitted on June 27, 2025, was received and that a member of the Highway Corridor Management staff would be in contact with them.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed MTO to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.19 Ontario Power Generation

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed OPG to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed OPG the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised by OPG.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed OPG to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.20 Ontario Provincial Police

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed OPP to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA and invitation to the upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed OPP the Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. On March 7, 2025, the OPP emailed Hydro One with their latest contact information for updating the Project contact list. Hydro One emailed OPP to acknowledge receipt of this update and updated their contact list accordingly.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed OPP to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.7.21 Ontario Heritage Trust

On December 13, 2024, AECOM emailed Ontario Heritage Trust to introduce their role as the cultural heritage consultants on the DKPL Project. AECOM provided a map of the Project and inquired if any properties within or adjacent to the study area were of interest to Ontario Heritage Trust.

On December 30, 2024, Ontario Heritage Trust emailed AECOM to provide information on two properties located within the PSA that were protected by Ontario Heritage Trust. Ontario Heritage Trust recommended reaching out to local municipalities to confirm heritage status.

On January 2, 2025, AECOM emailed Ontario Heritage Trust to thank them for the information they provided and to request additional details regarding two Ontario Heritage Trust properties

in the vicinity of the PSA. AECOM requested additional information about one of the properties.

On January 9, 2025, Ontario Heritage Trust emailed AECOM to provide information about a property they requested additional information on. Ontario Heritage Trust noted that this property may have generalized sensitive areas as per Kawartha Conservation's East Cross Forest Natural Heritage Study and requested various mitigation measures to protect some sensitive areas on the property.

On January 15, 2025, Ontario Heritage Trust emailed AECOM to provide a GIS Shapefile for the property and to inform them that they protected the property via a heritage conservation easement agreement.

On May 23, 2025, AECOM emailed Ontario Heritage Trust to request the heritage conservation easement agreement for the Happe Property.

On May 27, 2025, Ontario Heritage Trust emailed AECOM to provide the requested heritage conservation easement agreement for the Happe property.

On May 28, 2025, AECOM emailed Ontario Heritage Trust to thank them for providing the heritage conservation easement agreement for the Happe Property. AECOM noted that a new easement along the ROW would be required between Hydro One and the property owner and that the towers would need to be relocated within the easement following the removal of existing towers. AECOM provided their opinion that a CHER may not be warranted as there were no cultural heritage attributes to assess or mitigate and requested Ontario Heritage Trust confirm whether they agreed with this approach.

On June 2, 2025, Ontario Heritage Trust informed AECOM via email that the easement could be shared with the Hydro One environmental team. Ontario Heritage Trust stated that the Heritage Conservation Easement Agreement (HCEA) was established to protect the natural heritage features of the Happe Property and indicated no awareness of cultural heritage features on the property. They acknowledged AECOM's assessment that a CHER may not be required due to the absence of identified cultural heritage features.

3.8 Municipal Governments

As part of the consultation and engagement program for the Project, the following municipal governments were contacted:

- Regional Municipality of Durham;
- Municipality of Clarington;

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- Township of Selwyn;
- City of Peterborough;
- County of Peterborough;
- City of Kawartha Lakes;
- Township of Scugog; and
- Township of Cavan Monaghan.

For each of the aforementioned, the Mayor, Ward Councillors, Chief Administrative Office (CAO), Clerk, and/or key department staff (e.g., Engineering, Public Works, Planning) were contacted, where appropriate. Correspondence with Municipal Governments is included in the Record of Consultation (**APPENDIX A - 4**). This record includes all consultation until the end of April 2025. The final draft ESR for public review will include consultation until the end of October 2025.

3.8.1 Regional Municipality of Durham – Municipal Staff

On June 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Regional Municipality of Durham - Planning and Economic Development Department and the Durham Regional Police Department to provide the NoC for the Project, including an invitation to COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Regional Municipality of Durham to re-introduce the Project and request an opportunity to connect with technical staff to align on the requirements for Project design. Hydro One requested availability for a time to meet in the coming weeks or in early 2025 to gain a better understanding of regional requirements for road crossings, tower setbacks, foundation requirements. On November 27, 2024, the Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division emailed Hydro One to provide their availability in December for a meeting. They noted that they had active relocation work being completed by Hydro One along the corridor and copied the lead for the work from Hydro One to be included in the discussion. Through several correspondences, Hydro One and the Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division confirmed to meet on December 17, 2024.

On December 17, 2024, Hydro One met virtually with technical staff from the Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division of the Regional Municipality of Durham to discuss the Project. Hydro One provided an overview of the Project and key timelines. Other topics of discussion included other Hydro One projects in Durham Region, technical requirements for the potential underground section of the line, and Durham Region projects in the area.

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On January 14, 2025, WSP emailed Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division to share the draft meeting minutes from their meeting on December 17, 2024. WSP also provided a copy of the meeting presentation a map of the Project within Durham Region, and a picture of another Hydro One Project area. WSP requested feedback on the draft minutes for finalization by January 24, 2025. No feedback was provided. On January 24, 2025, WSP emailed the Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division to share the final meeting minutes from their meeting on December 17, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division and Durham Regional Police Department a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On March 14, 2025, Hydro One emailed Works Department – Transportation Infrastructure Division in line with a previous request for a copy of the Project's design. Hydro One provided an update on the Project design for the Regional Road 3 underground crossing and requested a preliminary design of the area around Regional Road 3 and intersection of Langmaid Road to use as a basis for their design.

On July 3, 2025, Hydro One emailed technical staff from the Regional Municipality of Durham to request a meeting to present proposed design and construction methods for the underground work at Regional Road 3, and to discuss road construction timing and seek feedback on design and construction methods. The Regional provided their availability to Hydro One and a meeting was scheduled for July 14, 2025.

On July 14, 2025, Hydro One met virtually with technical staff from the Regional Municipality of Durham to discuss the rehabilitation schedule for Regional Road 3, Hydro One's proposal for contractor crossings to support underground 230 kV services, and opportunities for future collaboration. The Region agreed to consult with its construction and commercial teams to determine whether Hydro One's scope could be incorporated into the tender documents. Hydro One committed to providing a scope of work for installing two parallel pipes across the road and to entering into a cost-sharing agreement for the installation and any resulting road settlement.

On July 15, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Regional Municipality of Durham to summarize action items from their meeting. The Region responded to inform them that an update on the contract drawings scope would be provided by August 8, 2025. Hydro One acknowledged the timing of the contract drawings to be provided.

On August 7, 2025, the Regional Municipality of Durham emailed Hydro One to confirm that the Region was willing to move forward with the plan to install two parallel pipes under

Regional Road 3 during road construction to facilitate the proposed DKPL crossing. The Region requested that Hydro One provide a written memo detailing the scope of work and a written memo committing Hydro One to compensate the Region of Durham for any costs associated with installation before granting formal approval and incorporating the installation into the construction tender. Hydro One responded to confirm that the written memo would be provided and inquired about the required timing of the memo. Hydro One noted a requirement for a third pipe to be added to the crossing plan and inquired whether the adjustment raised any concerns. The Region replied to confirm that they did not have any concerns regarding the adjustment and requested that the memo be provided by mid-September 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Regional Municipality of Durham municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.2 Regional Municipality of Durham – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Regional Municipality of Durham Chair John Henry and Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Baxter-Trahair to notify them of the Project and to request a virtual meeting in February. Through several correspondences, Hydro One and the Regional Municipality of Durham confirmed the participants' availability to meet on February 16, 2024.

Hydro One met with Regional Chair John Henry, Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Baxter-Trahair, and Executive Administrator Mark Sheriff on February 16, 2024, to introduce the Project. Items discussed included the mandate for the Project, looking at existing Hydro One corridors being explored, proposed timelines for the Project, engagement approach, and more. During the meeting, the officials noted that their Official Plan was recently completed for consideration and inclusion in the environmental assessment activities.

On June 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed Regional Chair John Henry, Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Baxter-Trahair, and Executive Administrator Mark Sheriff to provide the NoC for the Project, including an invitation to Community Open House events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. Hydro One informed them that members of the community would also receive the NoC and that ads would be published to disseminate the Project information. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing with the officials and requested their availability. Through several correspondences, Hydro One and the Region of Durham officials confirmed their availability for July 3, 2024, virtual meeting.

On July 3, 2024, Hydro One met with the Regional Chair and CEO of Durham on the Project, discussing Project scope refinements, the NoC, the environmental assessment process, and upcoming community open houses, while also addressing questions and gathering local insights.

3.8.3 Municipality of Clarington – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Municipality of Clarington Planning Department to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On September 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Engineering Services Department and Planning and Infrastructure Department to follow up on their initial email to inform them of the Class EA for the Project. Hydro One provided details of the Project, including a map of the route alternatives. Hydro One wished to provide a technical introduction and overview of the EA to the Municipality of Clarington staff and to discuss the initial design for the Project. Hydro One welcomed any feedback regarding developments in the area and any information the Planning and Engineering departments may have for consideration. Hydro One shared names of key contacts at Hydro One to potentially be included in their meeting and requested the Municipality of Clarington's availability. No feedback was received.

On November 21, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Engineering Services Department and Planning and Infrastructure Department to request technical and engineering support from the Municipality regarding Project design and requirements related to towers and road crossings for transmission lines. Hydro One also inquired if the Engineering Services Department was aware of any planned projects or developments that Hydro One should be made aware. Through several correspondences, the technical staff from the Engineering Services Department, Planning and Infrastructure Department, and Hydro One confirmed to meet virtually on December 20, 2024, to discuss the Project.

On December 17, 2024, AECOM, on behalf of Hydro One, emailed Clarington Heritage to introduce their role on the Project and to request their review of the Project map to verify whether there were any properties designated or listed on their municipal heritage registrar within the PSA. The Municipality of Clarington emailed AECOM to confirm receipt of their email.

On December 20, 2024, Hydro One provided an overview of the Project and key timelines to the Engineering Services and the Planning and Infrastructure Departments. Other topics of

discussion included other Hydro One projects in Durham Region, technical requirements for the potential underground section of the line, and Durham Region projects in the area.

On January 21, 2025, WSP emailed the Engineering Services Department and Planning and Infrastructure Department to share the draft meeting minutes from the December 20, 2024, meeting, as well as a copy of the meeting presentation. WSP requested feedback on the draft minutes for finalization by January 31, 2025. The Engineering Services Department emailed Hydro One and WSP on January 22, 2025, to clarify in the minutes that the notification that they provided during the meeting was in relation to the Enfield TS project, and not the DKPL Project. The Engineering Services Department also provided the contact information for the Region's Project Manager on the file for Hydro One to consult on their design. WSP replied to acknowledge that the changes would be reflected in the meeting record and informed that the information they provided was circulated to the Project Development team for awareness. On January 31, 2025, WSP emailed the Engineering Services Department and Planning and Infrastructure Department to share the final meeting minutes from their meeting on December 20, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed members of Planning and Infrastructure and Public Services Department a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Municipality of Clarington municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.4 Municipality of Clarington – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Municipality of Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster and Chief Administrative Officer Mary-Anne Dempster to notify them of the Project and to request a virtual meeting in February 2024. Through several correspondences, Hydro One and Mayor Foster confirmed their availability to meet on February 2, 2024.

Hydro One met with the Mayor Adrian Foster and Regional Councillor (Wards 3 and 4) Willie Woo on February 2, 2024, to introduce the Project. Items discussed included the mandate for the Project, looking at existing Hydro One corridors being explored, proposed timelines for the Project, engagement approach, and more. The officials mentioned that they were aware of community investment opportunities and mentioned that community investment/partnership agreement was how the Municipality and Hydro One can work together.

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On May 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Mayor Adrian Foster, Chief Administrative Officer Mary-Anne Dempster, and Executive Administrator Heather Anderson to provide an update on the Project and the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Class EA. Hydro One informed them that members of the community would also receive the NoC and that ads would be published to disseminate the Project information. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing at their convenience. On May 31, 2024, Executive Administrator Heather Anderson provided Hydro One a quote from Mayor Foster for use in publications, indicating his support for the Project and encouraging residents to engage with the Project.

On June 12, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Mayor Adrian Foster, Chief Administrative Officer Mary-Anne Dempster, and Executive Administrator Heather Anderson to follow up on their email from May 29, 2024, and to request an in-person or virtual meeting ahead of the planned COHs on June 25 to 27, 2024. Hydro One noted that the NoC for the Project was made public on June 4, 2024, to community members in the study area. Hydro One requested the Municipality of Clarington's meeting availability. The Municipality of Clarington emailed Hydro One to confirm the Mayor's availability for a virtual meeting on June 14, 2024, to discuss the Project.

On June 14, 2024, Hydro One and the officials discussed details of the Project, including scope refinements, engagement approach with affected property owners and Hydro One's EA process. Hydro One discussed encouraging community members to come out to upcoming open houses later in June 2024 to share their input. The Mayor noted that they had not heard anything from the community about the Project. After the meeting, Hydro One emailed the officials to thank them for their time to discuss the Project. Hydro One noted the upcoming open houses at the end of June 2024 and requested that the invitation be extended to the councillors. Hydro One noted that individual briefings could also be arranged.

On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Mayor Adrian Foster, Chief Administrative Officer Mary-Anne Dempster, and Executive Administrator Heather Anderson to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One shared a postcard to be sent broader community in the coming weeks to remind them about Project milestones and ways to stay involved. Hydro One noted that they would be hosting another series of open houses in spring 2025 to update the community on the preferred route selection, which they were working closely with impacted property owners to inform the evaluation process. Hydro One also requested availability for a meeting to discuss potential investment opportunities.

On February 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Adrian Foster, Chief Administrative Officer Mary-Anne Dempster, and Executive Administrator Heather Anderson to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One noted that Route Alternative B was chosen as the preferred route following extensive community engagement and a thorough

evaluation as part of the Class EA assessment. Hydro One also issued the Notice of Open House #2, which includes details for the COHs on March 18 and 20, 2025, along with an updated Project map. Additionally, Hydro One provided an update on future engagement and communication activities with the public, stakeholders, and directly affected property owners. Lastly, Hydro One welcomed the opportunity to schedule a meeting to discuss the Project.

On October 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Adrian Foster to inform them that the draft ESR would be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025 with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

3.8.5 Township of Selwyn – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn Building and Planning Department to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn to thank them for joining their roundtable after the Mayor's Breakfast event and to share the link to the Project website. Hydro One provided a brochure with information about stray voltage and contact information for the team available to address additional questions on the topic. Hydro One noted that they would connect the Township of Selwyn with their Distribution planning team regarding growth, expansion, and connection needs as well as potential community investment opportunities.

On December 17, 2024, AECOM, on behalf of Hydro One, emailed the Building and Planning Department to introduce their role on the Project and to request their review of the Project map to verify whether there were any properties designated or listed on their municipal heritage registrar within the Project Study Area. The following day, the department emailed AECOM to share the Project map with listed properties identified.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Building and Planning Department a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.6 Township of Selwyn – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn Mayor Sherry Senis to notify them of the Project and to request a virtual meeting in February. Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley confirmed their availability for a meeting on February 5, 2024.

Hydro One met with the Township of Selwyn Mayor Sherry Senis, Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley, and Municipal Clerk Angela Chittick on February 5, 2024, to introduce the Project. Items discussed included the mandate for the Project, looking at existing Hydro One corridors being explored, proposed timelines for the Project, engagement approach, and more. The Mayor inquired about a couple of items, such as whether the lines would be buried, what projects were covered under community investment, and how many impacted property owners live within the Township of Selwyn. Hydro One informed the Mayor that generally most of Hydro One's transmission lines are above ground. In select sections of line there may be instances where line must be buried. However, when a line is buried, there is an extensive cost Hydro One mentioned that they need to be mindful and prudent for the cost of the Project to all rate payers in Ontario. Hydro One informed the Mayor that ideally projects would benefit the entire community (e.g., community centre upgrade, park refurbishment).

On May 30, 2024, Hydro One emailed Mayor Sherry Senis and Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley to provide an update on the Project. Hydro One shared an advanced copy of the NoC which included details about the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA process, a map of the Project area, and information on the upcoming community open houses that would be sent to community members in the study area the week of June 4, 2024, in addition to media ads. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing about the Project and requested preferred dates and times after June 5, 2024, to meet. The Project was previously communicated in the early briefings as East GTA.

On June 12, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn Mayor Sherry Senis and Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley to follow up on their email from May 30, 2024, and to request an in-person or virtual meeting ahead of the planned COHs on June 25 to 27, 2024. Hydro One noted that the NoC for the Project was made public on June 4, 2024, to community members in the study area. Hydro One requested the Township of Selwyn's meeting availability.

On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn Mayor Sherry Senis and Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One shared a postcard to be sent broader community in the coming weeks to remind them about Project milestones and ways to stay involved. Hydro One noted that they would be hosting another series of open houses in spring 2025 to update the community on the preferred route selection, which they were working closely with impacted

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property owners to inform the evaluation process. Hydro One also requested availability for a meeting to discuss potential investment opportunities. Through several correspondences, Mayor Sherry Senis, Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley and Hydro One confirmed their availability to meet virtually on November 14, 2024, to discuss the Project and community investment opportunities. During this meeting, Hydro One informed the officials their plans to host COHs in February to update on the Project and the 3 km section outside Clarington Transformer Station. The importance of Hydro One's partnership in local communities was emphasized, and the Mayor and CAO were encouraged to reach out with community initiatives for potential support related to the Project. Shortly after the meeting, Hydro One emailed the Township of Selwyn to thank them for taking the time to meet to discuss potential community investment opportunities. Hydro One provided an overview of community engagement with property owners along the proposed route including Hydro One's plan to host community open houses in February and March of 2025. As a takeaway from their meeting, Hydro One requested information on any community-focused initiatives or programs that they could consider supporting as part of the Project.

On February 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Sherry Senis and Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One noted that Route Alternative B was chosen as the preferred route following extensive community engagement and a thorough evaluation as part of the Class EA assessment. Hydro One also issued the Notice of COH #2, which included details for the COHs on March 18 and 20, 2025, along with an updated Project map. Additionally, Hydro One provided an update on future engagement and communication activities with the public, stakeholders, and directly affected property owners. Through several correspondences, Hydro One and the officials agreed to a meeting on March 3, 2025. On the same day, Hydro One sent the officials an invitation for a virtual meeting.

On October 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Sherry Senis and Chief Administrative Officer Janice Lavalley to inform them that the draft ESR would be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025 with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

3.8.7 City of Peterborough – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the City of Peterborough Manager of Communication Services and the Peterborough Police Service to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming Community Open House events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed the City of Peterborough's Manager of Communication Services and the Peterborough Police Service a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the City of Peterborough municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.8 City of Peterborough – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the City of Peterborough Mayor Jeff Leal and Chief Administrative Officer Jasbir Raina to notify them of the Project and to request a virtual meeting in February 2024.

On May 29, 2024, Hydro One emailed the City of Peterborough Mayor Jeff Leal and Executive Assistant to the Mayor Jeremy Istead to provide an update on the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project and the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA. Hydro One informed them that members of the community would also receive the NoC and that ads would be published to disseminate the Project information. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing at their convenience.

On June 12, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Mayor Jeff Leal and Executive Assistant to the Mayor Jeremy Istead to follow up on their email from May 29, 2024, and to request an in-person or virtual meeting ahead of the planned COHs on June 25 to 27, 2024. Hydro One noted that the NoC the Project was made public on June 4, 2024, to community members in the study area. Hydro One requested the City of Peterborough's meeting availability. The City of Peterborough confirmed their availability for a meeting on June 20, 2024. A virtual meeting was held on June 20, 2024, to discuss the Project.

On June 20, 2024, Hydro One met with Mayor Jeff Leal to share additional details about the Project scope refinements, engagement approach, and environmental assessment process. Hydro One shared details of the upcoming COHs and encouraged community members and councillors to come out to share their input.

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On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed Mayor Jeff Leal, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Jeremy Istead, Chief Administrative Officer Jasbir Raina, and Councillor Lesley Parnell to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One shared a postcard to be sent to the broader community in the coming weeks to remind them about Project milestones and ways to stay involved. Hydro One noted that they would be hosting another series of open houses in spring 2025 to update the community on the preferred route selection, which they were working closely with impacted property owners to inform the evaluation process. Hydro One also noted that they took back their discussion regarding park redevelopment plans to their team to determine how Hydro One could support and requested availability for a meeting to further discuss.

On November 15, 2024, Hydro One sent a virtual meeting invite to the City of Peterborough Executive Assistant to the Mayor Jeremy Istead, Government Relations Advisor Sarah McDougall Perrin, Chief Administrative Officer Jasbir Raina, and Councillor Lesley Parnell for November 15, 2024. During the meeting, City of Peterborough officials discussed the Project and its community investment for the Bonnerworth Park redevelopment. Additional information on the timeline and milestones for the redevelopment was requested to align efforts and coordinate announcements. Shortly after the meeting, Hydro One emailed the City of Peterborough to thank them for meeting with them to discuss the Project and associated community investment opportunities to support the Bonnerworth Park redevelopment project.

On November 21, 2024, Hydro One participated in a mayor's breakfast event hosted by the Peterborough-Kawartha Chamber of Commerce, followed by a roundtable with local officials and MPP Dave Smith. The discussion covered the DKPL project, its progress, engagement with First Nation communities, the EA process, property owner engagement, community investments, and plans for COHs in early 2025.

On November 26, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Mayor Jeff Leal and City of Peterborough staff, to thank them for joining their roundtable after the Mayor's Breakfast event and to share the link to the Project website. Hydro One provided a brochure with information about stray voltage and contact information for the team available to address additional questions on the topic. Hydro One noted that they would connect the Township of Selwyn with their Distribution planning team regarding growth, expansion, and connection needs as well as potential community investment opportunities.

On March 27, 2025, Hydro One Community Relations met with Mayor Jeff Leal to share additional details about the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project scope refinements, engagement approach, and environmental assessment process. Hydro One shared details of the upcoming COHs and encouraged community members and councillors to come out to share their input.

On October 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Jeff Leal and Chief Administrative Officer Jasbir Raina to inform them that the draft ESR would be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025 with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

3.8.9 County of Peterborough – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Peterborough County to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Peterborough County a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On March 12, 2025, Hydro One received a call from County of Peterborough County Planning & Public Works – Engineering and Construction office to inquire about the DKPL project in response to the recent notice shared. Discussion included a general Project description and the EA process and the Project characteristics including reuse of an existing corridor to support new towers and circuits. Peterborough County confirmed two County roads that the Project crossed and committed to sharing their set back requirements for Hydro One to consider when designing. Shortly after the call, the Engineering and Construction office emailed Hydro One to request detailed information and documentation regarding the proposed work on County Roads 10, 9, and 3. The email included a map to accurately identify these locations and provided contact information for a County representative who can offer insights on the County's setback requirements.

On March 14, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to Peterborough County Planning & Public Works – Engineering and Construction office to express their gratitude for their time. They also informed the supervisor that Hydro One would be in touch during the Project's design phase to incorporate any setback information provided by the County. Hydro One welcomed any questions from the staff.

On March 17, 2025, Peterborough County Planning & Public Works – Engineering and Construction office emailed Hydro One general comments on the County's typical setback and noted that a formal setback commentary would be provided once the proposed transmission tower locations could be shared. The Engineering and Construction office also noted that some existing transmission towers, which would be utilized by the Project, were closer to the road than the setbacks provided. In this case, the staff noted that the new transmission towers

could also be closer, so long as they were no closer to the road than the existing towers. The Engineering and Construction office informed Hydro One that they were currently updating the setback policy and that increased setback distances were not anticipated but were still a possibility. Hydro One emailed the Engineering and Construction office to thank them for the information received.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the County of Peterborough municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.10 County of Peterborough – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed Peterborough County Warden Bonnie Clark to notify them of the Project and to request a virtual meeting in February 2024.

3.8.11 City of Kawartha Lakes – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Development Services Office, Planning Services Office, and Kawartha Lakes Police Services to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On December 17, 2024, AECOM emailed the Economic Development Officer - Heritage Planning to introduce their role on the Project and to request their review of the Project map to verify whether there were any properties designated or listed on their municipal heritage registrar within the PSA.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Development Services Office, Planning Services Office, Chief Building Official, and Kawartha Lakes Police Services a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised. Development Services Office emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the notice.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the City of Kawartha Lakes municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025

3.8.12 City of Kawartha Lakes – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Doug Elmslie, Chief Administrative Officer Ron Taylor, and Executive Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer Jane Pyle to provide notification of the Project and propose virtual meeting times in February to introduce Project details and discuss any preliminary concerns. Hydro One met with the City of Kawartha Lakes on February 5, 2024, to introduce the Project. Items discussed during this meeting include mandate for the Project, exploration of existing Hydro One corridors, proposed Project timelines, and the planned engagement approach. The Mayor inquired about the types of projects that were to be considered for community investment, and Hydro One indicated that these would be initiatives that are community focused to align with the Hydro One values. The Mayor suggested using direct mail to reach older residents. Hydro One acknowledged this recommendation and added that they would also consider radio, registered mail, and door-to-door outreach.

On May 30, 2024, Hydro One emailed Mayor Doug Elmslie and Chief Administrative Officer Ron Taylor to provide an update on the Project. Hydro One shared an advanced copy of the NoC which included details about the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA process, a map of the Project area, and information on the upcoming community open houses that would be sent to community members in the study area the week of June 4, 2024, in addition to media ads. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing about the Project and requested preferred dates and times after June 5, 2024, to meet. The Project was previously communicated in the early briefings as East GTA.

On June 6, 2024, City of Kawartha Lakes Councillor Tracy Richardson emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the Project NoC and requested a detailed map of the Project. Hydro One emailed the Councillor to direct them to the Interactive Map function on the Project website for a detailed map of the Project.

On June 10, 2024, Hydro One emailed City of Kawartha Lakes Councillor Tracy Richardson to suggest a meeting prior to the COHs planned for June 25 to 27, 2024 to discuss the Project. Hydro One provided their availability for a meeting and suggested to invite Mayor Doug Elmslie and Chief Administrative Officer Ron Taylor in the call. Over the phone, the Councillor and Hydro One confirmed their availability and met on June 14, 2024, to discuss the Project.

Hydro One and City of Kawartha Lakes Councillor Tracy Richardson met virtually on June 14, 2024, to discuss the Project. Hydro One informed the Councillor of their plans to inform residents of the upcoming COHs. The Councillor informed Hydro One that they intended to attend the COH.

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On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed the City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Doug Elmslie, Chief Administrative Officer Ron Taylor, and Councillor Tracy Richardson to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One shared a postcard to be sent broader community in the coming weeks to remind them about Project milestones and ways to stay involved. Hydro One noted that they would be hosting another series of COHs in spring 2025 to update the community on the preferred route selection, which they were working closely with impacted property owners to inform the evaluation process. Hydro One also requested availability for a meeting to discuss potential investment opportunities.

On November 27, 2024, the City of Kawartha Lakes Councillor emailed Hydro One to confirm they would like to discuss a community investment opportunity. Hydro One emailed the City of Kawartha Lakes Councillor to inform them that they could set up a virtual meeting for a discussion and requested their availability. Through several correspondences, Hydro One and the officials confirmed their availability to meet on December 4, 2024.

A virtual meeting was held on December 4, 2024, between the City of Kawartha Lakes and Hydro One's Community Relations Team to discuss the Project and community investment opportunities. Hydro One plans to host COHs in February to update on the Project's progress, particularly regarding a 3 km section outside Clarington Transformer Station. The conversation emphasized the importance of Hydro One's partnership in local communities, encouraging the Mayor, CAO, and council members to reach out with community initiatives for potential support related to the Project. Shortly after the meeting, Hydro One emailed the City of Kawartha Lakes to thank them for meeting with them to discuss the Project and potential community investment opportunities. Hydro One noted that they had been engaging with directly impacted property owners along the proposed route to gather feedback and that conversations with the Rustlewood Avenue community were progressing well. Hydro One informed the City of Kawartha Lakes that they were planning a series of COHs in February 2025 to provide updates on the Project's progress and the selected route. Hydro One requested to be informed of any community-focused initiatives or programs for consideration.

On February 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Doug Elmslie, Chief Administrative Officer Ron Taylor, and Councillor Tracy Richardson to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One noted that Route Alternative B was chosen as the preferred route following extensive community engagement and a thorough evaluation as part of the Class EA assessment. Hydro One also issued the Notice of COH #2, which includes details for the Open Houses on March 18 and 20, 2025, along with an updated Project map. Additionally, Hydro One provided an update on future engagement and communication activities with the public, stakeholders, and directly affected property owners. Lastly, Hydro One welcomed the opportunity to schedule a meeting to discuss the Project.

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On March 27, 2025, Hydro One Community Relations met with Councillor Richardson to share additional details about the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project scope refinements, engagement approach and environmental assessment process. Hydro One shared details of the upcoming COHs and encouraged community members and councillors to come out to share their input. On April 3, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to a Councillor Richardson thanking all those who attended the recent open houses on March 18 and 20 for the Durham Kawartha Power Line project. This email encouraged those who missed the COHs to visit the Project website for the most recent information and Project updates.

On April 3, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to Councillor Richardson thanking all those who attended the recent open houses on March 18 and 20 for the Project. This email encouraged those who missed the COHs to visit the Project website for the most recent information and Project updates.

On October 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Doug Elmslie, Chief Administrative Officer Ron Taylor, and Councillor Tracy Richardson to inform them that the draft ESR would be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025 with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

3.8.13 Township of Scugog – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Scugog Planning Services to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On December 17, 2024, AECOM emailed the Committee Coordinator Associate for the Township of Scugog Heritage Register to introduce their role on the Project and to request their review of the Project map to verify whether there were any properties designated or listed on their municipal heritage registrar within the PSA.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Planning Services a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Township of Scugog municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.14 Township of Scugog – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Scugog Mayor Wilma Wotten and Chief Administrative Officer Warren Marr to provide notification of the Project and propose virtual meeting times in February to introduce Project details and discuss any preliminary concerns.

On May 30, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Scugog to provide an update on the Project and the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA. Hydro One informed them that members of the community would also receive the NoC and that ads would be published to disseminate the Project information. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing at their convenience.

On May 30, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Mayor Wilma Wotten and Chief Administrative Officer Warren Marr to provide an update on the Project. Hydro One shared an advanced copy of the NoC which included details about the EA process, a map of the Project area, and information on the upcoming community open houses that would be sent to community members in the study area the week of June 4, 2024, in addition to media ads. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing about the Project and requested preferred dates and times after June 5, 2024, to meet.

On June 12, 2024, Hydro One emailed Mayor Wilma Wotten and Chief Administrative Officer Warren Marr to follow up on their email from May 30, 2024, and to request an in-person or virtual meeting ahead of the planned COHs on June 25 to 27, 2024. Hydro One noted that the NoC for the Project was made public on June 4, 2024, to community members in the study area. Hydro One requested the Township of Scugog's meeting availability.

On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed Mayor Wilma Wotten and Chief Administrative Officer Warren Marr to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One shared a postcard to be sent broader community in the coming weeks to remind them about Project milestones and ways to stay involved. Hydro One noted that they would be hosting another series of open houses in spring 2025 to update the community on the preferred route selection, which they were working closely with impacted property owners to inform the evaluation process. Hydro One also requested availability for a meeting to discuss potential investment opportunities.

On February 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Wilma Wotten and Chief Administrative Officer Warren Marr to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One noted that Route Alternative B was chosen as the preferred route following extensive community engagement and a thorough evaluation as part of the Class EA assessment. Hydro One also issued the Notice of Open House #2, which includes details for the COHs on March

18 and 20, 2025, along with an updated Project map. Additionally, Hydro One provided an update on future engagement and communication activities with the public, stakeholders, and directly affected property owners. Lastly, Hydro One welcomed the opportunity to schedule a meeting to discuss the Project.

On October 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Wilma Wotten and Chief Administrative Officer Warren Marr to inform them that the draft ESR would be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025 with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

3.8.15 Township of Cavan Monaghan – Municipal Staff

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Cavan Monaghan Public Works Department to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. No comments or concerns were raised.

On December 17, 2024, AECOM received an automatic reply from the Township of Cavan Monaghan with an out of office message.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Public Works Department a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. No comments or concerns were raised.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed the Township of Cavan Monaghan municipal staff to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.8.16 Township of Cavan Monaghan – Elected Officials

On January 23, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Cavan Monaghan Mayor Matthew Graham and Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to provide notification of the Project and propose virtual meeting times in February to introduce Project details and discuss any preliminary concerns.

On March 30, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Cavan Monaghan to provide an update on the Project. Hydro One shared an advanced copy of the NoC which included details about the EA process, a map of the Project area, and information on the upcoming COHs that would be sent to community members in the study area the week of June 4, 2024, in addition

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to media ads. Hydro One welcomed an in-person briefing about the Project and requested preferred dates and times after June 5, 2024, to meet.

On June 12, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Cavan Monaghan to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. Hydro One noted that the NoC for the Project was made public on June 4, 2024, to community members in the study area. Hydro One requested the Township of Cavan Monaghan's meeting availability.

On July 19, 2024, Hydro One emailed the Township of Cavan Monaghan Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to thank them for their attendance at the community open house in June 2024. Hydro One shared a link to the Project website for open house materials and regular Project updates.

On November 6, 2024, Hydro One emailed Mayor Matthew Graham and Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One shared a postcard to be sent broader community in the coming weeks to remind them about Project milestones and ways to stay involved. Hydro One noted that they would be hosting another series of open houses in spring 2025 to update the community on the preferred route selection, which they were working closely with impacted property owners to inform the evaluation process. Hydro One also requested availability for a meeting to discuss potential investment opportunities.

On November 19, 2024, Hydro One emailed the general contact list, including Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley, and COH #1 attendee list about COH #2 in the spring of 2025, to share updates on the preferred route for the 3 km section extending from the Clarington Transformer Station, and to provide information on the EA process. Hydro One shared a postcard with the Project update information.

On December 12, 2024, Hydro One followed up with Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley offering to discuss community investment opportunities in a virtual meeting. Hydro One also referenced ongoing community engagement and project updates.

On December 16, 2024, Executive Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer Jennifer Steen responded to Hydro One to suggest a virtual meeting with the Township of Cavan Monaghan on January 23, 2025. Hydro One followed up with a Teams meeting invite.

On January 23, 2025, Hydro One met with Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley and Executive Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer Jennifer Steen. Hydro One provided updates on the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project, including upcoming spring COHs. Hydro One also expressed interest in community investment opportunities, leading to discussions on

potential local initiatives. The Township of Cavan Monaghan representatives agreed to propose initiatives supporting their community, and all parties looked forward to future collaboration.

On February 28, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Matthew Graham and Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to share an update on the Project and community engagement. Hydro One noted that Route Alternative B was chosen as the preferred route following extensive community engagement and a thorough evaluation as part of the Class EA assessment. Hydro One also issued the Notice of COH #2, which includes details for the Open Houses on March 18 and 20, 2025, along with an updated project map. Additionally, Hydro One provided an update on future engagement and communication activities with the public, stakeholders, and directly affected property owners. Lastly, Hydro One welcomed the opportunity to schedule a meeting to discuss the Project.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Chief Administrative Office Yvette Hurley a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025. On April 3, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to thank all those who attended the recent open houses on March 18 and 20 for the Durham Kawartha Power Line project. This email encouraged those who missed the COHs to visit the Project website for the most recent information and Project updates.

On April 3, 2025, Hydro One sent an email to Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to thank all those who attended the recent open houses on March 18 and 20 for the Project. This email encouraged those who missed the COHs to visit the Project website for the most recent information and Project updates.

On October 21, 2025, Hydro One emailed Mayor Matthew Graham and Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Hurley to inform them that the draft ESR would be released for public review from October 29 to November 27, 2025 with copies available at specified library locations and online. Hydro One outlined the methods employed to notify the community including distributing notices, along with newspaper, radio ads, and social media outreach. Hydro One invited any further questions.

3.9 Potentially Affected and Interested Groups, Businesses, School Boards, and Utilities

Consultation and engagement opportunities were provided to potentially affected and interested groups, businesses, school boards, and utilities throughout the Class EA process. Approximately 20 potentially affected and interested groups, businesses, school boards, and utilities were contacted during the Class EA process. A complete list of the interest groups is

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provided in **APPENDIX A - 1**. The following potentially affected and interested groups, businesses, school boards, and utilities were contacted:

- Ontario Federation of Agriculture;
- Enbridge Gas Inc.;
- Capstone Infrastructure;
- Votorantim Cimentos;
- Durham Catholic District School Board;
- Durham District School Board;
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board;
- Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board;
- Durham Region Field Naturalists;
- Kawartha Field Naturalists;
- The Peterborough Field Naturalists;
- Nature Conservancy of Canada;
- North Durham Nature;
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust;
- Ontario Nature;
- Trans Canada Trail;
- Peterborough Airport;
- Selwyn Public Library;
- Moccasin Trails;
- Ganaraska Snowmobile Club;
- Heart of Ontario Snowmobile Club;
- Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs;
- Port Perry Snowmobile Club;
- The Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club;
- The Long Sault Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club;
- ConstructConnect;
- Kawartha Land Trust; and
- Forest Gene Conservation Association.

3.9.1 Ontario Federation of Agriculture

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed OFA to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024. Later that day, OFA emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing information on DKPL.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed OFA a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed OFA to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.2 Enbridge Gas Inc.

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Enbridge Gas Inc. to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming Community Open House events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Enbridge Gas Inc. a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to Community Open Houses happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On June 27, 2025, Hydro One emailed Enbridge to inform them that they were in the final stages of the Class EA and that they expected to submit a draft ESR to stakeholders in October 2025 for a 30-day public comment period. Hydro One noted that they would soon be beginning their detailed design process for the Project and inquired if Enbridge had any feedback to consider for either the Class EA or the detailed design.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Enbridge Gas Inc. to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.3 Capstone Infrastructure

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Capstone Infrastructure, a business with windfarms located in the City of Kawartha Lakes, to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Capstone Infrastructure a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Capstone Infrastructure to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.4 Votorantim Cimentos

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Votorantim Cimentos to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Votorantim Cimentos a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Votorantim Cimentos to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.5 Durham Catholic District School Board

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the DCDSB to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

3.9.6 Durham District School Board

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the DDSB to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

3.9.7 Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

3.9.8 Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed the PVNCCDSB to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

3.9.9 Durham Region Field Naturalists

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Durham Region Field Naturalists to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Durham Region Field Naturalists a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Durham Region Field Naturalists to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.10 Kawartha Field Naturalists

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Field Naturalists to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Field Naturalists a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Field Naturalists to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.11 The Peterborough Field Naturalists

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed The Peterborough Field Naturalists to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming Community Open House events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed The Peterborough Field Naturalists a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed The Peterborough Field Naturalists to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.12 Nature Conservancy of Canada

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Nature Conservancy of Canada to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming Community Open House events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Nature Conservancy of Canada a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Nature Conservancy of Canada to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.13 North Durham Nature

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed North Durham Nature to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed North Durham Nature a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed North Durham Nature to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.14 Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.15 Ontario Nature

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Ontario Nature to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ontario Nature a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ontario Nature to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.16 Trans Canada Trail

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Trans Canada Trail to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Trans Canada Trail a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Trans Canada Trail to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

On November 7, 2025, Trans Canada Trail emailed Hydro One to note that a part of the Project crosses over one of their registered trails. Trans Canada Trail requested additional details on the construction timeline for this section of the Project and any expected disturbance to the trail, such as realignment or temporary closures, and timing. Trans Canada Trail also requested to be notified prior to any trail disturbances so that they could update their mapping accordingly.

On December 5, 2025, Hydro One responded to Trans Canada Trail in response to their comment on the draft ESR comment period. Hydro One informed Trans Canada Trail that construction activities would be conducted sequentially along the transmission corridor starting in 2027 and that short-term, temporary impacts were anticipated along the corridor. Hydro One noted that, once detailed design was complete, they would have a better understanding of the impacts to the area identified by Trans Canada Trail and that they would be able to provide notice prior to construction or potential disturbance to the area.

3.9.17 Peterborough Airport

On June 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Peterborough Airport to provide the NoC for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project Class EA, including an invitation to upcoming COH events planned for June 25 to 27, 2024.

3.9.18 Selwyn Public Library

On June 12, 2024, The Selwyn Public Library emailed Hydro One to inquire about their interest in supporting the Selwyn Public Library Golf Fundraiser and provided additional details. Following the email, Hydro One's sponsorship team worked with the Selwyn Public Library.

3.9.19 Moccasin Trails

On June 27, 2024, Moccasin Trails attended a community open house in Bethany. Moccasin Trails spoke with Hydro One and discussed their business.

On July 4, 2024, Hydro One emailed Moccasin Trails to follow up on their discussion during the COH in Bethany on June 27, 2024, and committed to actioning their request with their supply chain team. Hydro One hoped to continue discussions with Moccasin Trails.

On July 18, 2024, Hydro One emailed Moccasin Trails to request a brief meeting with their Indigenous procurement group to address their inquiry regarding moving things ahead with Moccasin Trails. Moccasin Trails responded to Hydro One to explain that their business had an existing relationship with Hydro One and requested to pre-qualify their business partner to do business on their behalf. Hydro One thanked them for the clarification and noted that they intended to connect them with the Indigenous procurement team to ensure discussion continued with respect to their business partner.

3.9.20 Ganaraska Snowmobile Club

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ganaraska Snowmobile Club a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ganaraska Snowmobile Club to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.21 Heart of Ontario Snowmobile Club

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Heart of Ontario Snowmobile Club a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Heart of Ontario Snowmobile Club to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a

public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.22 Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.23 Port Perry Snowmobile Club

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed Port Perry Snowmobile Club a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed Port Perry Snowmobile Club to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.24 The Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club (OFSC District 2)

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed The Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club (OFSC District 2) a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed The Kawartha Lakes Snowmobile Club (OFSC District 2) to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.25 The Long Sault Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club

On March 4, 2025, Hydro One emailed The Long Sault Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club a Notice of the Preferred Route Selection and Invitation to COHs happening on March 18 and 20, 2025.

On October 29, 2025, Hydro One emailed The Long Sault Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club to provide Notice of Completion of the draft ESR. Hydro One informed them that the report was available for a public comment period from October 29 to November 27, 2025 and could be

viewed on the Project website. Hydro One welcomed feedback to be submitted by November 27, 2025.

3.9.26 ConstructConnect

On October 30, 2025, ConstructConnect emailed Hydro One to inquire if the Project's detailed design would be completed in-house or if it was being done by an external firm.

ConstructConnect inquired if Hydro One would be publicly tendering any of the work for the Project, or if a construction manager would be engaged for the procurement phase.

ConstructConnect's comments received during the draft ESR comment period can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On November 5, 2025, Hydro One emailed ConstructConnect to inform them that they were in the process of retaining an engineering contractor for the Project work, including procurement and detailed design. Hydro One noted that, once a contractor was selected, they would begin working with directly affected property owners for any property specific considerations.

ConstructConnect thanked Hydro One for their response. Hydro One's response can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

3.9.27 Kawartha Land Trust

On October 30, 2025, Kawartha Land Trust emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the draft ESR. Kawartha Land Trust applauded Hydro One's commitment to enhanced Community Benefit, mitigation measures, and biodiversity initiatives. Kawartha Land Trust expressed interest in how Hydro One planned to offset impacts and opportunities to improve the surrounding land and engage with communities. Kawartha Land Trust inquired if there were opportunities to support initiatives to offset loss of agricultural land, noting that there were existing initiatives in the community to this effort. Kawartha Land Trust offered additional suggestions for offsetting and mitigating impacts and offered to discuss their ideas further. Kawartha Land Trust's comments received during the draft ESR comment period can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On December 19, 2025, Hydro One emailed Kawartha Land Trust to thank them for their comments on the draft ESR. Hydro One expressed gratitude for their recognition of Hydro One's efforts to minimize impacts by using the existing transmission corridor and their support for the Enhanced Community Benefit, mitigation measures, and Biodiversity Initiatives. Hydro One provided responses to Kawartha Land Trust's comments regarding compatibility of agricultural land and transmission lines and effects management of loss, temporary loss and restoration of vegetation, wood fibre utilization and plant rescue, recreational assets and temporary disruption, and their approach and application of the Biodiversity Initiative. Hydro One offered to include Kawartha Land Trust on future outreach for the Biodiversity Initiative if

they were interested. Hydro One's response can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

On January 5, 2026, Kawartha Land Trust emailed Hydro One to thank them for their thorough response to their comments on the draft ESR and to share further input and suggestions. Hydro One committed to reaching out to Kawartha Land Trust to further discuss their suggestions.

On January 22, 2026, Hydro One responded to Kawartha Land Trust to thank them for sharing their valuable ideas and commented that they were aligned with the broader goal of improving biodiversity. Hydro One offered to meet with Kawartha Land Trust during the detailed design phase of the project to discuss options and determine where collaboration might be appropriate. Hydro One also confirmed they would keep Kawartha Land Trust on the contact list for biodiversity initiatives and inform them as opportunities arose.

3.9.28 Forest Gene Conservation Association

On January 9, 2026, WSP submitted an online communication form and email to the FGCA to confirm their interest in archiving the Category 3 Butternut tree at Clarington TS. FGCA responded to confirm their interest in a site visit to look at tree in July/August 2026, as it sounded like a good candidate for their archiving program. WSP confirmed that they would put FGCA in contact with Hydro One to coordinate a site visit.

On January 13, 2025, Hydro One emailed FGCA and requested to connect in the spring to coordinate a site visit for July/August 2026. FGCA agreed with Hydro One's request and confirmed that they would reach out to initiate coordination in the spring.

3.10 Property Owners/Residents/General Members of the Public

Within the LSA, property owners, residents, and general members of the public were provided Project notifications by means of email, Canada Post admail, advertisements in local newspapers, radio, social media, and the Project website. Property within the PSA received notification by means of the above and hand delivered notices for the community open houses and Notice of Commencement.

Two admail campaigns with over 6,000 recipients in each campaign were delivered throughout the Class EA process. Hydro One also received feedback and comments by phone and email to their Community Relations team. Before COH # 1 and #2, Hydro One sent packages to potentially affected property owners along each route alternative noting the specific property affected and specific route alternative(s) traversing the properties. The packages included an invitation to the open house, tile maps, links to interactive maps and contact information for any further questions. These were delivered via registered mail campaigns and hand delivery by

Hydro One representatives. Further, refinements to some of the alternative routes were done prior to COH #2. The property owners affected by these refinements were sent a second package with a letter and mapping noting the specific change, which were delivered via registered mail.

For the Notice of Completion, Hydro One emailed notices to members of the public that requested to be included on the Project contact list informing them of the 30-day public review period of the draft ESR. Hydro One hand-delivered notices to residences within the PSA and coordinated a third admail campaign intending to reach over 6,000 recipients between November 7 and 14, 2025.

During the draft ESR comment period, Hydro One received comments from members of the public. These comments can be found in **Section 3.12.1** and **APPENDIX A - 6**.

Throughout the Class EA process, Hydro One had over 770 interactions with property owners, residents, and general members of the public via phone, email, and virtual/in-person meetings.

Table 3-8 in **Section 3.11** summarizes the frequent comments received and the responses provided by Hydro One through the Class EA process.

3.11 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Concerns

Table 3-8 provides a consolidated summary of the comments and concerns raised from the interested parties throughout the Class EA consultation process.

Table 3-8: Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Concerns

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Project Information (General)	I received a notice of the Project via mail. Is my property impacted?	Hydro One worked with property owners during the Community Open House to determine if they were impacted property owners by using both table maps and the Project interactive map on tablets. Impacted property owners discussed next steps with Hydro One Real Estate representatives. Interactive maps are also available to the public on the Project website where property owners could put in their address to check the proximity of their property to the proposed Project area.
	When was the Project conceived?	In December 2022, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) published the Gatineau Corridor End-of-Life (EOL) Study which examines transmission equipment reaching EOL in the Gatineau transmission corridor along with forecast reliability concerns in the areas supplied by those transmission circuits, Peterborough to Quinte West and Ottawa. One of the study recommendations was to reinforce Dobbin TS in Peterborough with a new double circuit 230 kV transmission line from either Cherrywood TS (Pickering, ON) or Clarington TS (Clarington, ON). In July 2023, MEE (formerly MOE) proposed to support critical transmission infrastructure in Northeast and Eastern Ontario by prioritizing transmission projects and designating Hydro One as the transmitter to develop the projects, including the Peterborough Area Transmission Reinforcement. An Order in Council was subsequently issued in October 2023 that amended Hydro One’s licence to develop the proposed Durham Kawartha Power Line.
	Why have I not heard about the Durham Kawartha Power Line until now?	Hydro One released the NoC for this Project in June 2024 and actively reached out to all interested people and businesses through notices, social media, newspaper ads, radio ads, door-knocking, and Community Open Houses in affected communities. Affected property owners also received the notice through Canada Post mail as well as hand delivery of the notice to mailboxes. Hydro One Real Estate representative also spoke directly with impacted property owners. Despite a wide range of efforts, property owners outside of the LSA (lands within 500 m of the Project) or with outdated property owner information may have been unintentionally missed on attempts for outreach. All affected property owners were engaged with through out the course of the EA.
	Will the Project restrict development?	The majority the Project is proposed within an existing ROW. The Project will restrict development within the ROW to compatible uses such as agricultural activities. Land uses outside of the transmission line ROW will not be restricted.
	What is the route for Durham Kawartha Power Line? How was the route identified?	The proposed line extends from Clarington TS (Clarington) to Dobbin TS (Peterborough). The majority of the line will use an existing Hydro One corridor as much as possible and will aim to stay within its existing transmission corridor boundaries. Utilizing an existing corridor for majority of this line will minimize environmental effects compared to building a new transmission line corridor. However, for a 3 km section north from Clarington TS, two route alternatives were considered. The proposed preferred route and two route alternatives A and B are the only viable options identified that meet the needs of the Project. These were identified using technical, environmental, and social/economic considerations within the study area.
	Will there be an environmental assessment completed for this Project?	The release of the NoC on June 4, 2024, initiated the beginning of an EA of the Project. Hydro One will be conducting a Class EA for Transmission Facilities which is approved under Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act. The Class EA is used to help guide the planning and design process to ensure Project planning is conducted in an environmentally acceptable manner. Through this process we will evaluate the route(s) and identify potential project effects on the basis of natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous Traditional Land Use, and technical/cost factors.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
		The EA will also provide guidance on the collection of data and characterization of the existing environment, the notification and consultation process, and the identification of environmental effects and selection of high-level mitigation measures to address those effects.
	Where can I find an interactive map of the Project?	To access the Project interactive map on their personal devices and learn more about the Project, attendees were directed to the Project website at: https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha . The website houses all Project-related information including Project need, the EA process, an interactive map, and how to stay involved.
	What happens to the power when it gets to Dobbin TS? Where will the power come from and where is it going?	The power flows in both directions depending on the generation/load on the system. This new transmission line will provide additional paths for power mainly generated by the nuclear facilities in Central Ontario to Eastern Ontario. Once completed, this new transmission line will increase resiliency and increasing capacity in eastern Ontario by over 400 MW.
	Will there be any impact to personal electricity use?	There will be benefits to the overall system, and these benefits will be experienced by individual households within the system upon Project completion.
	Is the Durham Kawartha Power Line a federal project?	DKPL is not a federal project. This Project is part of the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) electricity plans to address future growth in eastern Ontario.
	Where can I learn more about the Project?	Interested parties can learn more about the Project by visiting the Project website at: https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha . Members of the public can also email Community.Relations@HydroOne.com to join the project contact list to receive updates via email.
	How is the IESO involved in the Project?	The Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO), the organization responsible for planning the province's future energy needs, identified several system changes that will impact the transmission line network. This Project is part of the IESO's electricity plans to address future growth in eastern Ontario. Electricity demand in eastern Ontario is expected to grow rapidly over the next 20 years from Peterborough to Quinte West and extending into the Ottawa region. Much of the electricity system that serves this region was built in the 1930s and 40s. The IESO has identified that we need to invest now to support the growing electricity demands of communities, industries and businesses.
Project Need	What is the need for this new transmission line?	Eastern Ontario is expecting significant growth in the next 20 years. We need to invest in the transmission system today to ensure the region continues to have clean and reliable power along with the resiliency and capacity to support future growth. Much of the electricity system that serves this region was built in the 1930s and 1940s. Through this investment, Hydro One is building a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Clarington Transformer Station (TS) to Dobbin TS. Once completed, this new transmission line will increase resiliency to the Peterborough area, while also increasing capacity in eastern Ontario by over 400MW.
	I was previously impacted by the Darlington Connect Project. Is this Project related to the Darlington Connect Project? What is the status of that project?	This Project is not connected to the Darlington Connect Project. The Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO), the organization responsible for planning the province's future energy needs, identified several system changes that will impact the transmission line network throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and as a result Hydro One was asked to pause the engagement of that project.
Natural Environment	What about my concerns for species at risk or an area of ecological significance?	Hydro One encouraged property owners to notify them if they were aware of any species at risk within the Project area. During COHs, Hydro One welcomed an opportunity for property owners to identify locations of wildlife sightings using table maps and the interactive map on tablets. Hydro One is committed to working closely with government agencies to follow all applicable legislation, and acquire any permits, approvals and/or authorizations prior to beginning any work that would affect natural

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
		habitat. Completing environmental studies along the corridor will identify any mitigation measures which may be required to address potential effects to the natural environment and species at risk.
	How many trees will be cut? Will you replant trees?	Use of the existing Hydro One corridor will help to lessen the effects on the natural environment as well as minimize the need for vegetation removal, as the existing corridor is already subject to the vegetation management required to maintain safe and reliable operation of the existing transmission lines. However, some additional vegetation removal may be required during construction. More detailed information about vegetation removal and post-construction restoration plans will be available once the design work and construction plans are completed.
	What will happen to the mature trees in the ROW?	The construction contractor may need to remove the vegetation along ROW of incompatible vegetation for construction that restrict construction access or interfere with the safe operation of the overhead line.
	What natural environment surveys will be done on my property?	Over the course of the EA, Hydro One will focus on updating existing data and collecting new data from a variety of sources, conducting environmental surveys and technical assessments, and holding engagement opportunities to gather input and feedback. At this stage of the EA, certain properties will have different surveys targeted for them depending on the natural features present.
	What is the vegetation clearing cycle for the corridor?	Transmission lines are typically maintained at a 6-year cycle, however in some instances emergency work may take place if a tree comes in close proximity to the overhead line between cycles. More detailed information about vegetation removal and restoration plans will be available once the design work is completed.
	I have concerns about the wellbeing of existing vegetation located on my property during the Project.	Hydro One Real Estate team will discuss property specific features with impacted property owners, including existing vegetation.
	I would like to make Hydro One aware of the significance of the Pigeon River watershed.	Hydro One will be assessing natural features surrounding the Project study area during the EA and that they will be engaging with Conservation Authorities throughout the Project to learn more.
	Will Hydro One use herbicides?	Hydro One's right-of-ways are often maintained by selectively treating plants with a low volume, direct application of federally and provincially approved herbicides. Potential effects of herbicides will be considered in the EA as part of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.
	Fleming College has been conducting aquatic surveys in the vicinity of the Project. These surveys may be a good source of information to look into.	If there is an opportunity to leverage data from existing studies, Hydro One can investigate this during the EA.
	Will water samples be taken? Can property owners access environmental data collected during the environmental assessment?	Hydro One conducted fish and surface water assessments in the summer of 2024 and spring of 2025. These assessments included stream flow measurement, channel geometry, and in-situ water quality measurements. Data collected from field work completed as part of the EA will be compiled in the draft and final Environmental Study Report which will be made available on the Project website: https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha .
	What will happen to trees on the idle line?	Vegetation may have to be removed to allow for the safe construction and operation of the proposed line. Hydro One has standards that outline how close vegetation can be to our infrastructure. These standards incorporate various factors including but not limited to the voltage equipment operates at, the potential future growth and species of vegetation. More detailed information about vegetation removal and restoration plans will be available once the design work is completed.
	I have trees that were planted in the existing corridor that I would like to transplant out prior to construction.	Hydro One anticipates construction will begin in late 2026 and be completed by end of 2029. Given that this is an existing and operating transmission line corridor, incompatible vegetation is not permitted

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
		within the ROW. Although this Project will not begin construction until 2026, our forestry management program may come in before this as part of maintaining the existing lines' safety and reliability.
	I have concerns about a quaking bog and areas of ecological significance.	Hydro One investigated the area of ecological significance and determined that the location of the quaking bog was outside of the PSA and would not be impacted by the Project.
	Will the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) be available to the public? How will I be able to access it?	The ESR will be available to the public in late 2025.
Socio-Economic Environment	Will towers be placed on my property and will owners be able to identify a preferred location for towers on our property?	Tower locations are not yet known for the Project. We understand property owners who have the preferred route traversing their property may have questions and concerns, and we will continue to work closely with each property owner to get their input on the unique features of their land. As Hydro One moves into designing the line, flexibility may be considered on a property-by-property basis to best mitigate impacts to properties traversed by the line where practical and feasible.
	How can I determine how the Project will impact my property?	Hydro One's Real Estate team contacted directly affected property owners along the preferred route. Impacted property owners were encouraged to attend community open houses to speak with members of Hydro One's Project Team. Members of the public were also directed to visit the Project website where they could access an interactive map of the Project route.
	The route parallels existing infrastructure and replaces it in some parts; does Hydro One still need to acquire land rights?	Though the Project area includes existing transmission corridor easements, new land rights are required as the land rights for the existing line are not able to be used for construction of the new line. Hydro One will aim to stay within its existing corridor boundaries; however, in some cases a wider corridor will be required to accommodate the new 230 kV line as we need to ensure clearances between infrastructure are safe and adhere with the North American Electric Reliability (NERC) standards.
	Will you need access to my property?	Hydro One Real Estate will be in contact with property owners where access is required to complete environmental surveys and field work.
	What types of jobs are there and how do I apply? How many jobs will there be?	Understanding what resources are required to construct the new line is part of the planning process. As planning progresses Hydro One will share additional labour-related information with local communities. Hydro One will know more details on the number of jobs as planning progresses. It is a priority for Hydro One to support the local labour market by building capacity in the region. Building the Durham Kawartha Power Line will create spin-off opportunities by bringing more electricity to the eastern region to support planned industrial growth.
	Will the Project limit access to walking trails along the easement?	Hydro One understands our corridors can be an important space for community use, and we are happy to work with property owners to provide them with more information on safe ways to use the corridor based on the consent of the existing property owners and that are compatible with overhead power lines. Walking trails can be continued under the right-of-way after the line is built. They are considered a compatible use once the line is built.
	Can new biking and walking trails be built in the corridor during construction? Bike trails contribute to healthy living, green commuting, and increased tourism.	Hydro One understands how important greenspaces are in communities. The hydro corridors allow crews to access towers and high voltage lines for routine maintenance and in emergency situations. Where possible Hydro One aim to balance the needs of a safe and reliable system while accommodating requests for secondary use of the area through the Provincial Secondary Land Use Program (PSLUP).
	What impacts will the new line have on my health?	Hydro One takes safety very seriously and we design and operate our equipment in accordance with all regulatory requirements to account for safety. Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) are found everywhere electricity is used, including homes and workplaces. EMFs are invisible forces that surround electrical equipment, power cords, and wires that carry electricity. With regards to health concerns, we look to health experts such as Health Canada.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
	What if my crops are damaged during construction?	Where Hydro One cannot avoid damaging crop, Hydro One will employ a project specific crop loss/crop lands out-of-production program to compensate property owners who experience crop damage or crop loss from Hydro One's pre-construction, construction as well as post-construction activities. During construction, if a property owner's ability to plant crops is affected, Hydro One will compensate property owners for out of production land. The compensation will be based on gross commodity rates, benchmarked to market prices and in direct consultation with the property owners themselves.
	I use large equipment on my land. Will there be enough clearance to continue using it?	Farming and most agricultural activities can be continued under the right-of-way after the line is built. They are considered a compatible use within the corridor. Safety is a top priority at Hydro One and we strongly encourage operators to exercise caution in and around the transmission infrastructure on their property. Hydro One has included language related to liability in our easement agreements. This language would release property owners from any liability in the event of a potential accidental contact with Hydro One infrastructure on their property during routine agricultural operations.
	Can I continue to farm under the right-of-way after the line is built?	Farming and most agricultural activities can be continued under the right-of-way after the line is built. They are considered a compatible use within the corridor.
	I have plans to subdivide my land.	Hydro One Real Estate will work with directly impacted property owners on the unique features of their property.
	What impacts from the Project would exist outside of the Right-of-Way?	For the most part, only properties along the ROW will be impacted by the Project directly, with the exception of access roads and laydown areas which would be negotiated with owners closer to construction by the contractor.
	Will the existing line be removed?	The majority of the line will use an existing Hydro One corridor as much as possible, removing existing infrastructure and replacing with the new DKPL. To accommodate the new transmission line, the existing 44 kV distribution line will be relocated onto municipal owned lands near roads. Hydro One will be working with affected property owners and road authorities in advance of final design and construction. For a 3 km section north from Clarington TS, two route alternatives were considered during the Class EA. One of these routes is considered 'greenfield' whereas the other would require expansion of the right of way including additional effects to abutting natural areas.
	We are planning to sell our property within the next year. Will the Project impact property values? What is the process for property owners compensation?	Hydro One's dedicated Real Estate representatives work with directly impacted property owners who have a section of the corridor on their property. When there is a loss in the value to the remaining property that isn't impacted by the right-of-way, known as "Injurious Affection", Hydro One will compensate for such as deemed by an independent third-party appraiser.
	Will the new transmission line increase noise levels?	The level of static noise emitted by transmission lines relates to a number of different factors, such as weather conditions and how heavily the line is loaded. For example, during regular weather, our lines are typically almost silent, but during more severe weather like thunderstorms, the noise levels can be raised. As well, during summertime when air conditioners are running full strength, the lines can emit more noise. Noise will be considered during the EA process and Hydro One will share information with concerned residents on a case-by-case basis.
	What will the cost to customers be and when will they see it on their bills?	Hydro One knows every dollar we spend comes from our hard-working customers and we are committed to reducing costs as we become the most efficient utility. An estimate is being developed during project planning and will be submitted to the Ontario Energy Board for approval via a Section 92 submission. Final route specific factors such as real estate needs and final tower/line design will factor into the estimate.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
Technical and Design	How many towers will be added, where will they be located, and how big will they be?	Following selection of a preferred route, Hydro One will begin the engineering design which will determine the final size, location and number of towers required, as well as the right-of-way width. The tower base footprint can range from 6 metres x 6 metres to 12 metres x 12 metres. The tower height can range between 30 metres and 60 metres, which is influenced by environmental conditions like topography. The typical distance between towers will be between 350 meters and 400 meters, however it could change at certain locations where there are technical and environmental constraints. Hydro One will welcome feedback from the community during the early stage of the Project regarding design.
	How wide will the right-of-way be?	The right-of-way corridor typically required for a 230-kilovolt transmission line is approximately 46 metres in width.
	I would like to make Hydro One aware of a planned development in the Project area that has the potential to interact with the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project.	Hydro One thanks members of the public for these inputs and commits to looking into them to assess if they will interact with the Project.
	What work will you do in the corridor?	Hydro One will remove the old towers in the corridor. We will be relocating the distribution line along municipal road allowances and will aim to use existing distribution corridors as much as possible. We are still in the early design phase and work closely with the municipalities as we continue our technical studies. We aim to have more details on the distribution line relocation by our next community open house in the fall.
	Do the transmission lines also have communication functions? Will the Project increase my internet bandwidth?	Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) will be installed on the new line; this OPGW has communications capabilities that are used by Hydro One to operate the transmission system, with excess capacity (if available) occasionally utilized by other telecommunications services. Hydro One is not an internet service provider so we can not speak to increased bandwidth for residential internet customers.
	Is this Project going to eliminate power surges at my property?	If you're experiencing issues with your local distribution, Hydro One recommends reaching out to your local distribution provider. If you have questions about development in your area, Hydro One recommends speaking directly with your municipality.
	What is the route for Durham Kawartha Power Line?	Hydro One worked with these attendees during the COH to communicate and share the planned Project routes and alternatives using both table maps and interactive maps. The proposed line extends from Clarington TS (Clarington) to Dobbin TS (Peterborough). The majority of the line will use an existing Hydro One corridor as much as possible and will aim to stay within its existing transmission corridor boundaries. However, for a 3 km section north from Clarington TS, two route alternatives were considered during the Class EA.
	Why are alternatives routes being considered?	For a 3 km section north from Clarington TS, two route alternatives were being considered during the Class EA. Route Alternative A would use an existing lower-voltage Hydro One corridor which would require widening to accommodate the new line. Route Alternative B is a viable alternative on agricultural land. Hydro One will be evaluating and selecting the preferred route for this section using socio-economic; environment; Indigenous culture, values and land use; and technical and cost criteria, as a part of the EA process.
	Will new towers be built in line with existing towers within the corridor?	As Hydro One designs the new transmission line, we will work to align the towers with existing towers. There will be some cases where this alignment may not be possible due to landscape characteristics such as road crossings or creeks. The final tower locations will be determined during our detailed engineering design and take into consideration other factors including cost and construction efficiency.

Theme	Question/Comment	Response
	What is a “double circuit” line?	A double circuit line is two independent 3-phase runs on the same tower structure.
	How far apart are a parallel run of towers?	Hydro One plans to use the same corridor utilized by the southernmost tower run at the back of your property. The new towers will be approximately 15 feet further north than the southern tower run and will have similar spacing as the current towers. The old tower run will be removed to make room for the new tower run.
Construction	When will construction take place and what time of year? Will access roads need to be built?	Hydro One anticipates construction will begin in late 2026 and be completed by the end of 2029. Hydro One will determine the need for access road construction and the seasonality of starting construction during the design phase of the Project.
	Will we be notified about the commencement of construction activities?	Hydro One and their land agents will be working with impacted property owners throughout the planning and construction process and will keep them apprised of any construction activities. Additionally, the Project aims to have a construction open house prior to beginning construction of the line for other stakeholders.
	Will there be job opportunities within the community for the new towers that are being constructed?	Understanding what resources are required to construct the new line is part of the planning process. As planning progresses Hydro One will share additional labour related information with local communities.
Indigenous Cultures, Values, and Land Use	Will there be revenue sharing opportunities with First Nation communities?	This Project presents new opportunities for collaborations, capacity building and partnerships with First Nation communities. Hydro One is committed to working closely with First Nation communities to share information and gather valuable input and local knowledge throughout the Project.
	What is Hydro One's equity model with First Nation communities?	We are continuing our engagement and discussions with local First Nations to the Durham Kawartha Power Line to advance our partnership and economic reconciliation as we work to build the electricity grid of the future, together. As part of the company's pathway towards Reconciliation, Hydro One will offer local First Nations impacted by the Project a 50 percent equity stake in the transmission line component of the Project and is committed to advancing the Project in true partnership.
	What First Nation communities is Hydro One working with?	Hydro One is committed to working closely with First Nation communities to share information and gather valuable input and local knowledge throughout the Project. We are continuing our engagement and discussions with First Nations on the Durham Kawartha Power Line to advance our partnership and economic reconciliation as we work to build the electricity grid of the future, together.
COH Feedback	I do not like the format of the community open houses.	COHs are a critical part of Hydro One's consultation and engagement plan for the Project. Open dialogue with the public offers opportunities to identify and address potential concerns and issues throughout the planning process to help us ensure the final project is considerate of community interests. The Project team is also available through other avenues such as the Project website, Community Relations phoneline and inbox to discuss the Project and any questions or concerns directly.
	For the next COH location, I'd like if there was more parking available.	Hydro One will consider venue parking limitations for future engagement events.
	I found the open house helpful for understanding the Project. My questions were answered by staff.	No response required.

3.12 Final Notification and draft ESR Review Period

Hydro One provided a 30-day review period from October 29, 2025, to November 27, 2025, to allow sufficient time for review and comment on the draft ESR. Comments regarding the draft ESR were due to Hydro One no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 29, 2025., addressed to:

Rhona Scott, Environmental Planner, Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street, North Tower, 14th Floor, Toronto, ON M5G 2P5
Phone: 1-877-345-6799 (community relations hotline)
Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

The draft ESR was able to be viewed electronically on Hydro One’s website at www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha.

To help aid those without access to a computer, copies of the draft ESR was also available for on-site review at the following locations:

The Bethany- Kawartha Lakes Public Library 1474 ON-7A, Bethany ON (705) 324-9411	The Cavan Monaghan – Bruce Johnston Branch Library 2199 Davis Rd., Cavan- Monaghan, ON (705) 741-1253	The Bowmanville Library 163 Church St., Bowmanville, ON (905) 623-7322

On October 27, 2025 the Notice of Completion of draft ESR was distributed to all interested parties including First Nation communities, municipal, provincial, and federal government officials and agencies, potentially affected and interested persons, and interest groups presented in **Section 3** (see contact list in **APPENDIX A - 1**). The notification indicated that the draft ESR was complete, and that the public review and comment period would run between October 29, 2025, and November 27, 2025. The notice was published in the Lakefield Herald, Orono Weekly Times, Peterborough Examiner, and The Durham/Kawartha Standard during the week of October 27, 2025. Radio ads for the notice were played on CKGEFM (Clarington), CJKXFM (Oshawa, Scugog), CKWVFM (Peterborough), CKWFFM (Cavan-Monaghan), CKQMFM (Kawartha Lakes) during the week of October 27, 2025. Hydro One hand-delivered letters to impacted property owners and flyers to properties located within the PSA, as well as coordinated an admail campaign of the notice to be delivered to over 6,000 residences along the Project route. The notice was also posted in social media advertisements and on the Project website: www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha (See **APPENDIX A - 2** for the notice and newspaper ad).

Durham Kawartha Power Line Class Environmental Assessment Final Environmental Study Report

Comments and concerns received by Hydro One during the draft ESR review period were reviewed, addressed and documented in the final ESR as required by the Class EA process. Hydro One has made best efforts to respond to and resolve issues raised by concerned parties during the public review period. The ESR has been finalized for the proposed Project in accordance with the Class EA for Transmission Facilities.

The final ESR has been filed with the MECP and is available on the Project website. The Project is considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR.

During the public comment period, a request can be submitted to the MECP for an order that mandates a more comprehensive level of study, (i.e., requiring comprehensive EA approval before proceeding). Additionally, a request may be made to impose conditions, such as the need for further studies, but only if it can be demonstrated that the order would help prevent, mitigate, or address negative impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. The MECP will not consider requests based on other grounds.

Requests were to be submitted in writing or email to the MECP and include:

- Requester's contact information, including full name;
- Project name;
- Proponent name;
- The type of order that is being requested (comprehensive EA or a request for conditions)
- How an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights;
- Information about efforts to date to discuss and resolve concerns with the proponent; and
- Any other information in support of the statements in the request.

The request were to be sent in writing or email to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation
and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7 A 2J3
Email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and
Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
Email: EABDDirector@ontario.ca

Requests were also be copied to Hydro One per the contact information provided above.

3.12.1 Draft ESR Review Period

Comments received on the draft ESR, and subsequent responses provided by Hydro One, are captured in **Table 3-9** through **Table 3-11**.

Table 3-9: First Nations Comments on Draft ESR

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
1.1	4/11/2025	MSIFN	We appreciate that HONI will incorporate the provided list of criteria for the evaluation of “culturally significant” woodlands within the ESR. We also accept the use of the term “culturally significant” woodlands within the ESR as a way to differentiate between our perspectives and provincial policy. We recommend that HONI also use the criteria provided and available baseline information (e.g., ELC and botanical survey results, general wildlife and habitat survey results, etc.) to evaluate which woodlands within the Project study areas may be “culturally significant”. These findings should then be provided to MSIFN Consultation for review and confirmation prior to finalization. This should be included in the in the next version of Draft ESR Section 7.	Given that MSIFN has defined a culturally significant woodland as meeting one or more of the stated criteria, and since several common tree and woodland wildlife species have been identified as important to MSIFN, Hydro One will precautionarily assume that all woodlands in the study areas are culturally significant and appropriate mitigation and offsetting will be developed for any woodlands subject to clearing, in consultation with First Nations. Through collaborative discussions on mitigations, Hydro One seeks to eliminate potential impacts to culturally significant sites for First Nations. It is important to note that the Project is not anticipated to have measurable effects on woodlands given that clearing will be confined to the existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW), thereby avoiding new disturbances to woodlands (loss of wooded area or transition of mature woodlot to lower growing vegetation communities). These details will be added to the final ESR and NER.
1.2	4/11/2025	MSIFN	We appreciate HONI’s efforts to enhance the characterization of potential rights impacts pathways connected to woodland loss and look forward to reviewing this in the next version of the Draft ESR. In addition, we request that HONI provide additional information on woodlands that will be removed for the purposes of the Project, including the total area, % of affected woodlands within the study areas, and specific locations. While we appreciate HONI’s project design and efforts to minimize vegetation loss and acknowledge that this may not be substantive, more concrete information will help us identify any potential red flags or concerns regarding the loss of woodlands and potential rights impacts pathways.	Thank you for your feedback and for acknowledging our efforts to minimize vegetation loss. We understand the importance of having clear information on woodland removal to support your review. It is important to note that the Project is not anticipated to have measurable effects on woodlands given that clearing will be confined to the existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW), thereby avoiding new disturbances to woodlands (loss of wooded area or transition of mature woodlot to lower growing vegetation communities). At this stage, we do not yet have finalized details on the total area of woodlands to be removed, the percentage of affected woodlands within the study areas, or specific locations. These details will become clearer during the detailed design phase, when construction footprints and access routes are confirmed. We do not currently anticipate any removal of woodlands due to construction outside of the ROW. If this changes, that will be communicated with MSIFN in our more specific construction plans. We remain committed to minimizing vegetation loss and will continue to share updated information as it becomes available through design refinement and environmental planning. We appreciate your understanding and will keep you informed as the Project progresses.
1.3	4/11/2025	MSIFN	We appreciate HONI’s efforts to enhance the characterization of potential rights impacts pathways connected to wetland impacts or loss, and look forward to reviewing this in the next version of the Draft ESR. In addition, we request that HONI provide additional information on wetlands that will be altered or removed for the purposes of the Project, including the total area, % of affected wetlands within the study areas, and specific locations. While we appreciate HONI’s project design and efforts to avoid siting permanent project components within wetlands,	Thank you for your feedback and for recognizing our efforts to minimize wetland impacts. We understand the importance of providing clear information on potential wetland alteration or loss to support your review. It is important to note that the Project is not anticipated to have measurable long-term effects on wetlands. The work will occur within an existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW), which avoids new disturbances to woodlands and minimizes changes to vegetation structure. Where wetlands are present, even the installation of new

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			and acknowledge that this may not be substantive, more concrete information will help us identify any potential red flags or concerns regarding the alteration or loss of wetlands and potential rights impacts pathways.	transmission structures will not alter the overall hydrologic function of these features—they will continue to function as wetlands. Temporary construction-related disruptions will be minimized through established best practices, including: Foundation Installation: Use of helical piles wherever feasible to avoid excavation and dewatering. Where augered footings are required, any dewatering will be short-term and mitigated by measures such as timing concrete pours immediately after augering, preventing cavities from filling with water, and discharging pumped water through filter bags to adjacent areas. Access Management: Constructed access routes will be used to prevent rutting and channelization, reducing soil disturbance and maintaining wetland integrity. Restoration: Post-construction restoration will include wetland seed mixes and other measures to promote recovery of native vegetation. When combined with these practices and our commitment to avoid permanent project components within wetlands wherever possible, potential effects are expected to be short-term and temporary. This approach aligns with the impact pathways assessment and demonstrates that long-term hydrologic and ecological functions will remain intact.
1.4	4/11/2025	MSIFN	We appreciate HONI's efforts to enhance the characterization of potential direct and indirect effects to wildlife and habitat and look forward to reviewing this in the next version of the Draft ESR. In addition, we request that HONI provide additional information on significant wildlife habitats that will be removed or altered for the purposes of the Project, including the total area, % of affected SWH (by type) within the study areas, and specific locations. While we appreciate HONI's project design and efforts to minimize vegetation loss and acknowledge that this may not be substantive, more concrete information will help us identify any potential red flags or concerns regarding the loss of SWH and potential rights impacts pathways.	Thank you for your feedback and for recognizing our efforts to minimize potential effects on wildlife and habitat. We understand the importance of having clear information on significant wildlife habitats (SWH) that may be altered or removed to support your review. V It is important to note that the Project is not anticipated to have measurable effects long term impacts on SWH given that clearing will be confined to the existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW), thereby avoiding new disturbances to woodlands (loss of wooded area or transition of mature woodlot to lower growing vegetation communities). There may be temporary impacts to habitats within the ROW. At this stage, we do not yet have finalized details on the total area of SWH that may be affected, the percentage by habitat type within the study areas, or specific locations. These details will become clearer during the detailed design phase, when construction footprints and access routes are confirmed. We remain committed to minimizing vegetation loss and avoiding impacts to SWH wherever possible. There may be temporary impacts to habitats within the ROW, at this stage, we do not yet have finalized details on the total area of SWH that may be affected, the percentage by habitat type within the study areas, or specific locations. These details will become clearer during the detailed design phase, when construction footprints and access routes are confirmed. We remain committed to minimizing vegetation loss and avoiding impacts to Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) wherever possible. The Project design leverages the existing transmission corridor, which significantly reduces the potential for long-term habitat change compared to creating new ROWs. This approach helps maintain the overall structure and function of adjacent natural communities.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
				At this stage, the primary unknowns relate to temporary construction access requirements, which will be finalized during detailed design. While temporary access may result in short-term disturbance to vegetation and soils, these effects will be carefully managed through mitigation measures such as: Use of constructed access routes and matting to prevent rutting, soil compaction, and channelization in sensitive areas. Timing and sequencing of work to minimize disruption during critical periods for wildlife and vegetation. Erosion and sediment controls to protect wetland and riparian areas during construction. Importantly, these effects are temporary. Following construction, disturbed areas will be restored using native seed mixes, including wetland and meadow species where appropriate, to promote recovery of vegetation and habitat functions. Combined with our commitment to avoid permanent project components in sensitive areas (where practical), these measures ensure that long-term ecological integrity is maintained. We will continue to share updated information as design refinement progresses and provide opportunities for review and input. The full comment response table can be found in APPENDIX A - 6.
2	24/11/2025	AFN	We are confirming that we have no further comments. Thank you for reaching out.	Thank you to the AFN team for confirming no further comments.
3.1	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Hydro One stresses the importance of open and interest-based engagement with First Nation communities to determine each individual community’s interests by sharing information early and often.</i> The response provided to MSIFN Consultation on April 7, 2025 (Comment #34 in our submission on the draft NECR) should be included in the ESR. Specifically: “It remains Hydro One’s goal to achieve the agreement and support, articulated in UNDRIP as “Free Prior and Informed Consent”, of Indigenous peoples. We will use FPIC as a goal and a guide in every engagement. We understand that UNDRIP and FPIC are an important lens to view our relationship with Indigenous people, along with the evolving law, practices, and the guidance of Indigenous communities in Ontario.”	Thank you for your input. Section 3.5 of the final ESR will be updated to incorporate the statement previously made to MSIFN. Hydro One stresses the importance of open and interest-based engagement with First Nation communities to determine each individual community’s unique interests by sharing information early and often. It remains Hydro One’s goal to achieve Free Prior and Informed Consent as articulated in UNDRIP.
3.2	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Environmental DNA Surveys</i> <i>Environmental deoxyribonucleic acid (eDNA) samples were collected to aid in determining the fish and freshwater invertebrate community assemblages.</i> The Final Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report (October 2025) does not include a description of the primers	As confirmed in the October 20th response, the invertebrate primer was not selected for the 2024 or 2025 sampling. The 2025 eDNA sampling focused on the freshwater fish and freshwater vertebrate bioassay primers. The report was subsequently updated with the following changes to reflect this statement. <i>Methodology:</i> “Environmental deoxyribonucleic acid (eDNA) samples were collected to aid in determining the freshwater fish and freshwater vertebrate community assemblages”.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			used for eDNA sampling. As there was uncertainty regarding whether a primer for invertebrates (e.g., molluscs, crustaceans, worms) was used, this information should be included in the methodology section. Please notify MSIFN Consultation where species specific surveys for mussels will be conducted and the timing for these surveys.	<i>Field Survey Results:</i> "... submitted to NatureMetrics for analysis against the freshwater fish and freshwater vertebrate primers." And "The primers used for testing did not target freshwater mussels (Unionid); therefore, none were detected through eDNA analysis." As captured in the October 20th responses, species-specific surveys may be required for project interactions that affect the footprint or habitat below the highwater mark, such as culvert water crossings or fording locations. Surveys may also be necessary for impacts to riparian areas within protective buffer zones, like towers placed less than 30 meters from the high-water mark or where permitting and notifications are required. Throughout these surveys, particular consideration will be given to any mussel specimens observed. As described in the ESR, overhead transmission lines are able to span over watercourses, thus generally avoiding the need for any construction activities within aquatic substrates. During construction planning, we will prioritize the use of existing watercourse crossings where practical.
3.3	27/11/2025	MSIFN	It has been stated that several project components (i.e., watercourse crossings, access roads, laydown areas etc.) will be finalized during the detailed design phase. MSIFN Consultation requests the opportunity to review this information, once available. If additional fieldwork/surveys are required during detailed design, we request the opportunity to participate and review results.	Thank you for your comment and for sharing your request. Yes, the EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review information on project components finalized during the detailed design phase, such as watercourse crossings, access roads, and laydown areas, which will be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for construction and associated supporting documentation. If additional fieldwork or surveys are required during detailed design, our EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to participate and review the results. We value your input and look forward to continuing collaboration as the project progresses.
3.4	27/11/2025	MSIFN	We understand that some of the concerns raised by MSIFN Consultation will be addressed in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). We would like to review the EMP, and associated sub-plans, to provide input, helping to ensure that our rights, values and interests are protected in the management and mitigation of potential project impacts.	Thank you for your comment and for sharing your request. Yes, the EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and associated sub-plans once they are available. We value your input and agree that your participation will help ensure rights, values, and interests are considered in the management and mitigation of potential project impacts. We look forward to working together on this as the project progresses.
3.5	27/11/2025	MSIFN	The response provided to MSIFN Consultation on October 1, 2025 (Comment #4 in our submission on preliminary review of Sections 7 and 8) should be included in the ESR and/or the EMP.	Thank you for your input. Section 7.1.3 of the final ESR will be updated to incorporate the response provided to MSIFN Consultation on October 1, 2025.
3.6	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>In addition to the above noted regulators and municipalities, Hydro One will continue to work with First Nation communities to discuss mitigation measures for implementation during construction.</i> MSIFN Consultation requests notification of spills and details on clean-up, including any analytical results from confirmatory sampling, figures, and photos, where applicable.	Hydro One acknowledges MSIFN's request for notification of spills and provision of clean-up details. Hydro One will implement the following measures during construction: - MSIFN will be notified of any significant spills (i.e., those requiring a report to the MECP Spills Action Centre) that may pose a risk to the environment or require formal remediation. - For spills where confirmatory sampling is deemed to be necessary by Hydro One or the regulator, analytical results will be shared along with supporting figures and photographic documentation, where applicable.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
				Minor spills that are promptly contained and cleaned up in accordance with standard procedures, and that do not trigger regulatory reporting requirements, will not typically involve confirmatory sampling or detailed reporting to external agencies. Due to the minor and contained nature of these spills, we would suggest that these spills not be subject to notification to MSIFN.
3.7	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>A Construction Water Management Plan will be developed prior to construction and implemented appropriately...</i> MSIFN Consultation requests to review and provide input to the Construction Water Management Plan.	Thank you for your comment and for sharing your request. Yes, the EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and associated sub-plans once they are available.
3.8	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Where applicable and possible, vegetative buffers will be;</i> It appears that this sentence is incomplete. Could you please confirm and provide the full wording? It is important that buffers and setbacks are identified at this stage of the project to help inform the development of the EMP.	Thank-you for identifying this typo. The wording will be updated to state the following: Where applicable and possible, vegetative buffers will be maintained. In addition, the ESR has been updated to clarify that machine clearing and grubbing will be restricted within 10 m of watercourse and waterbody banks/riparian areas (and only hand clearing will be permitted within this setback).
3.9	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Vegetation removals will be minimized to the extent practical. Compatible vegetation will be retained within riparian areas adjacent to watercourses and waterbodies.</i> Thank you for the additional information. MSIFN Consultation will review, and provide comments on, the vegetation management plan as part of the Environmental Management Plan review. We request that HONI document (i.e. photographs and description) site conditions prior to clearing to help inform the vegetation management plan.	Thank you for your comment and for sharing your request. Yes, the EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and associated sub-plans once they have been drafted, and prior to commencement of construction. Site conditions have been extensively documented throughout the Environmental Assessment process, including photographs, detailed descriptions, and other supporting information. This documentation has been shared with communities through the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR), the Draft Natural Environment Report (DNER), and during field surveys where attendance opportunities were provided. Additional documentation, such as environmental surveys conducted by the EPC during implementation, will similarly include site condition information. Hydro One appreciates MSIFN's continued engagement and remains committed to transparent communication and collaboration throughout the project.
3.10	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Cleared vegetation will be relocated to designated areas away from water features</i> We understand that an Invasive Species Program will be developed as part of EMP. We request the opportunity to review the EMP once it becomes available and provide input to help ensure appropriate measures are in place for invasive species management.	Thank you for your comment and for sharing your request. Yes, the EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and associated sub-plans once they are available.
3.11	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Machine clearing and grubbing will be restricted near sensitive environmental areas; hand clearing will be required within watercourse and waterbody banks/riparian areas;</i> HONI has indicated in previous responses to MSIFN Consultation's comments that "vegetation will be largely	Thank you for your comment and for referencing our previous response. Yes, we will amend the wording in Section 7.7.3 – Surface Water Resources to reflect what was stated earlier: "Vegetation will be largely removed by mechanical means, except within 10 m of a watercourse or wetland. In these areas, vegetation will be removed manually, using

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			removed by mechanical means, except within 10 m of a watercourse or wetland. In these areas, vegetation will be removed manually, using chain saws and other hand-held equipment, while leaving the under growth and duff layer undisturbed to prevent erosion.” Will HONI provide further information in the EMP? Will this include specific buffers? MSIFN Consultation looks forward to reviewing the document when it becomes available.	chain saws and other hand-held equipment, while leaving the undergrowth and duff layer undisturbed to prevent erosion.” Per our responses above and as previously communicated, the EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and associated sub-plans once they are available and prior to the commencement of construction.
3.12	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Refuelling areas will be located outside of Source Water Protection (SWP) areas to the extent practical. If refuelling must occur within SWP areas, additional protective measures (emergency spill trays, etc.) may be employed as necessary</i> Given the sensitivity of SWP areas, would it be more appropriate for this language to specify that such measures will be employed rather than may be? “Refuelling areas will be located outside of Source Water Protection (SWP) areas to the extent practical. If refuelling must occur within SWP areas, additional protective measures (emergency spill trays, etc.) may be employed as necessary.” HONI indicated on October 1, 2025, that the wording would be changed to “will be.” However, this update was not reflected in the October 27, 2025, version of the ESR. Please revise the report to incorporate the agreed upon wording.	Thank you for your comment and for noting the discrepancy. Yes, we will revise the wording in Section 7.7.4 to reflect the agreed-upon language: “Refuelling areas will be located outside of Source Water Protection (SWP) areas to the extent practical. If refuelling must occur within SWP areas, additional protective measures (emergency spill trays, etc.) will be employed.” We appreciate your attention to detail and will ensure this update is incorporated into the final ESR.
3.13	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Adequate dewatering and discharge plans would be developed prior to construction, and collected water would be contained and tested prior to disposal, if required.</i> MSIFN Consultation requests to review and provide input to dewatering and discharge plans even if dewatering is < 50,000 L/day. This includes, but is not limited to, identifying appropriate discharge locations. Collected water shall be tested before disposal. Additionally, HONI shall document and report discharge volumes, quality results, and monitoring frequency with Rights-holding First Nations.	Thank you for your comment and for outlining your requests regarding dewatering and discharge plans. Yes, our EPC contractor will provide MSIFN with the opportunity to review and provide input on these plans, even if dewatering volumes are less than 50,000 L/day. Plans for construction management of water will be included in the EMP and will generally cover these plans and will include discharge locations if known ahead of time. We also confirm that collected water will be tested prior to disposal. In addition, Hydro One will document and share discharge volumes, water quality results, and monitoring frequency with Rights-holding First Nations as part of our commitment to transparency and environmental protection. We appreciate your input and look forward to working together on these important aspects during the detailed design and construction phases.
3.14	27/11/2025	MSIFN	Woodlands are culturally significant for First Nations as they support elements required for the continued practice of culture and rights (p.337) We appreciate HONI’s addition of MSIFN Consultation’s definition of culturally significant woodlands	Given that MSIFN has defined a culturally significant woodland as meeting one or more of the stated criteria, and since several common tree and woodland wildlife species have been identified as important to MSIFN, Hydro One will precautionarily assume that all woodlands in the study areas are culturally significant and appropriate mitigation and offsetting will be developed for any woodlands subject to clearing, in consultation with

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			(including criteria) and further characterization of the connections between to significant woodlands and the practice of First Nations' culture and rights. In addition, we recommend that HONI also use the criteria provided and available baseline information (e.g., ELC and botanical survey results, general wildlife and habitat survey results, etc.) to evaluate which woodlands within the Project study areas may be considered "culturally significant" per our definition above. These findings should then be provided to MSIFN Consultation for review and confirmation prior to finalization. We do not see this information captured in the full draft ESR. Will this be provided following the completion of detailed design? We note that there may be some questions HONI cannot definitively answer until the detailed design phase. However, we believe that it is useful to undertake this exercise at this stage of the environmental assessment, so HONI and MSIFN Consultation can both gain a greater understanding of how woodlands that are "culturally significant" may be affected by the project, relative to the local conditions. In other words, this would strengthen the ESR's characterization of linkages between impacts to woodlands and the assertion of our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.	First Nations. Through collaborative discussions on mitigations, Hydro One seeks to eliminate potential impacts to culturally significant sites for First Nations. It is important to note that the Project is not anticipated to have measurable effects on woodlands given that clearing will be confined to the existing transmission line right-of-way (ROW), thereby avoiding new disturbances to woodlands (loss of wooded area or transition of mature woodlot to lower growing vegetation communities). These details will be added to the final ESR and NER.
3.15	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Approximately 17.23 ha of the preferred route ROW is composed of wooded habitat (i.e., forest, swamp, plantation, woodland) and some of this likely constitutes woodlands. However, much of this estimated area likely results from mapping imprecision as the existing ROW that will be used for most (~94%) of the Project route is subject to regular vegetation maintenance. Based on 2024 and 2025 field investigations, wooded habitat does occur occasionally as small incursions into the existing ROW. [...]</i> <i>Although effects of the Project on woodlands will be minimal and the majority of effects will be temporary disturbance during construction, Hydro One will undertake a Biodiversity Initiative to address concerns raised by First Nations[.] (p.337)</i> We acknowledge the limitations HONI has described in relation to quantifying the total area of wooded habitat that will be lost due to the project. At what point in the planning process will HONI be able to provide an accurate estimate of the total area of woodland lost due to the project?	17.23 ha of woodlands intersect with the Project ROW. This represents 8% of the ROW. This percentage detail will be added to Section 7.7.6.2 of the final ESR, however, much of this estimated area likely results from mapping imprecision as the existing ROW that will be used for most (~94%) of the Project route is subject to regular vegetation maintenance. Based on 2024 and 2025 field investigations, wooded habitat does occur occasionally as small incursions into the existing ROW. Locations of woodlands that are intersected by the Project ROW are shown on Figures 4 and 5 of the NER (see Appendix B of the final ESR). Hydro One has also recently sent MSIFN shapefiles for all ELC communities in the study areas (November 24, 2025). A breakdown of areas (ha) and percentages of ELC communities that intersect with the Project ROW are provided in Appendix C of the NER (see Appendix B of the final ESR). It is important to note that the amount of woodland intersection with the Project ROW does not represent the amount of woodlands that will be directly affected by the Project, as mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize Project interactions with woodlands. Given that woodlands have been identified as important to MSIFN, Hydro One will precautionarily assume that all woodlands in the study areas are culturally significant

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			We note HONI has provided a conservative estimate of total area of wooded habitat within the full Draft ESR (which, in the spirit of conservative impact assessment, we support) but we have previously requested additional information including the % of affected woodlands within the study areas and specific locations and do not see this included in the full Draft ESR. While we acknowledge and appreciate HONI's project design and efforts to minimize vegetation loss and acknowledge that this may not be substantive, more concrete information will help us identify any potential red flags or concerns regarding the loss of woodlands, potential rights impacts pathways, and potential offsetting measures as necessary and as HONI has committed to.	and appropriate mitigation and offsetting will be developed for any woodlands subject to clearing, in consultation with First Nations.
3.16	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>There are a number of mitigation measures to reduce the proposed Project's impact on significant woodlands. These measures include the following: [...] (p. 337 -338)</i> We agree with the mitigation measures proposed by HONI on p. 338 and recommend the following additions to ensure measures align with our responsibilities: • Define and sign no go zones (NGZs) – prohibit storage, grading, stockpiles, and vehicle traffic inside fenced areas. Provide pre-construction arboricultural assessment and monitoring. • Avoid fragmenting the woodlot, and retain interior large trees, snags, and coarse woody debris. • Clean equipment before entering site; avoid bringing fill/stone from infested sources and have a rapid treatment/control plan (manual removal and targeted herbicide) with monitoring for at least 3-5 years post-work. • Maintain natural drainage patterns into/through the woodlot and design outfall energy dissipation to prevent scour. • Prevent compaction in NGZs, and where disturbance occurs, de-compact, replace topsoil and seed/plant with native understorey species. • Pre-works SAR and habitat surveys timed to species life cycles. • Commit to multi-year monitoring (vegetation, invasive presence, hydrology, wildlife use), trigger thresholds for remediation.	The following mitigation measures will be added to Section 7.7.6.2 of the final ESR to avoid/minimize impacts to woodlands: • Woodland fragmentation will be avoided to the extent practical by using existing transmission corridors and access routes • Snags, cavity trees, large interior trees and coarse woody debris that do not pose a risk to the construction or operation of the transmission line will be identified and retained, to the extent practical, provided it is not within the ROW • Woodlands that will not be subject to clearing will be identified as no-go zones and communicated to construction crews prior to construction. The boundaries will also be mapped and incorporated into the EMP with details on the associated mitigation • Mitigation measures identified in Section 7.1.6 will be implemented to control the introduction and spread of invasive species. • Once detailed design is confirmed, areas where disturbance is planned will be evaluated against specific habitat requirements, and targeted surveys for SAR, SCS, and SWH will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified. Compaction will not occur in no-go zones as access will be restricted. The Project is not expected to alter drainage patterns. The Project will utilize existing access routes wherever practical. In the event new access roads are required, the construction of new access roads may disrupt sheet flow of surface waters over agricultural lands if not mitigated. To avoid and mitigate the potential impacts, existing, natural drainage patterns and flows will be identified and maintained to the extent practical. Equalization culverts or similar methods are proposed to maintain cross drainage. Remedial measures to prevent accretion, erosion and sediment transport are also proposed to protect the environment. In addition, a Construction Water Management Plan will be developed prior to construction and implemented appropriately to capture sediment and slow down the water velocity before discharge to the environment, where required. For details, refer to section 7.7.3.

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			We request that these measures be applied to all woodlands directly impacted by the Project, regardless of whether they meet provincial criteria for significance.	Mitigation monitoring requirements will be determined in consultation with First Nations once the anticipated impacts of the Project on woodlands are better understood at detailed design.
3.17	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>There are a number of mitigation measures to reduce the proposed Project's impact on significant woodlands. These measures include the following: [...] The extent of vegetation clearing required for the Project will be minimized by using existing transmission corridors and access to the extent practical (p. 337 -338)</i> We note that HONI has committed to measures to minimize the extent of vegetation clearing by using existing transmission corridors – which is a measure to be implemented during the project design and construction phase. What measures will HONI take to minimize the extent of vegetation clearing during the operations phase of the Project? We are aware that HONI utilizes (or at least has proposed to utilize) a “wire zone-border zone” approach to vegetation management on other transmission line rights-of-way, in order to maximize vegetation retention during the operations phase. Does HONI intend to implement a wire zone-border zone approach to vegetation management for the DKPL project? We have previously asked about this, but do not see information on this in the full Draft ESR.	Hydro One uses an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) approach to manage vegetation near powerlines. This approach aims to evaluate a given site and utilize tools and techniques that are appropriate for that location to achieve the management objectives. Site characteristics considered include (but are not limited to) safety, existing vegetation, topography, adjacent land uses, accessibility, biodiversity and landowner feedback, with the ultimate goal of establishing a healthy cover of compatible vegetation (vegetation that, during its expected lifetime, will not interfere with the safe operation of the electrical infrastructure). The ability to maintain vegetation on the right-of-way (ROW) depends heavily on the management tools and techniques that are available for use at a given site. Techniques that enable targeted management of incompatible species and help control regrowth not only encourage retention of compatible species, but often require fewer interventions and promote healthier, more diverse plant communities.
3.18	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Cutting trees that require removal adjacent to watercourses and within wetlands such that their root systems remain intact to maintain soil stability;</i> <i>Regarding the cutting of trees adjacent to watercourses and within wetlands, where trees are felled but root systems are left intact to maintain soil stability, could you please clarify what the plan is for the felled trees? Will they be removed from the site, or left in place?</i> HONI stated, “The management of felled material will be determined based on site-specific conditions, including topography, existing land use, vegetation type, ecological function, and safety considerations. As the majority of the right-of-way (ROW) is located on private property, merchantable timber may be of interest to the landowner and will be either retained or removed at their discretion, in consultation with the project team.” Please confirm if these details will be provided in the EMP.	Thank you for your question regarding the management of felled trees adjacent to watercourses and within wetlands. HONI has indicated that the approach to managing felled material will be determined based on site-specific conditions, including factors such as topography, existing land use, vegetation type, ecological function, safety considerations and coordination with private landowners, as applicable. As most of the right-of-way (ROW) is located on private property, merchantable timber may be of interest to landowners and will either be retained or removed at their discretion, in consultation with the project team. Additional information on the approaches that will be taken for managing felled vegetation will be outlined in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), including guidance on site-specific decision-making and coordination with landowners.

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3.19	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>The Project ROW crosses approximately 16.04 ha of wetlands in the form of shallow and meadow marsh [...] and thicket, deciduous, coniferous and mixed swamp (p.342)</i> <i>[...] Wetlands are culturally significant for First Nations as they support elements required for the continued practice of culture and rights [...] However, impacts to wetlands will largely be avoided through the use of the existing transmission line corridor for the Project ROW and strategic siting of towers and construction access/laydown areas away from wetlands to the extent practical (p.343)</i> <i>[...] Although the effects of the Project on wetlands will be minimal and the majority of effects will be temporary disturbance during construction, Hydro One will undertake a Biodiversity Initiative to address concerns raised by First Nations...(p.344)</i> We appreciate HONI's efforts to enhance the characterization of potential rights impacts pathways connected to wetlands loss or impacts in the full Draft ESR. We note that HONI has provided data on the total area of wetlands crossed by the Project ROW (16.04 ha). Does this include the Provincially Significant Wetlands listed in Section 7.7.6.6? At what point in the planning process will HONI be able to provide an accurate estimate of the total area of wetlands directly affected by the project (e.g., overlapping by temporary access matting, towers sited within them, etc.)? We note HONI has provided a conservative estimate of total area of wetland overlapping the Project ROW within the full Draft ESR (which, in the spirit of conservative impact assessment, we support) but we have previously requested additional information including the % of affected wetlands within the study areas and specific locations and do not see this included in the full Draft ESR. While we acknowledge and appreciate HONI's project design and efforts to minimize impacts to wetlands and acknowledge that this may not be substantive, more concrete information will help us identify any potential red flags or concerns regarding impacts to wetlands (including those that are temporary in nature), potential rights impacts pathways, and potential offsetting measures as necessary and as HONI has committed to.	The 16.04 ha estimate of total wetland area crossed by the Project ROW includes PSWs. This amount represents 7.63% of the ROW. These details will be added to Section 7.7.7.1 of the ESR. Locations of wetlands that are intersected by the Project ROW are shown on Figures 4 and 5 of the NER (see Appendix B of the ESR). Hydro One has also recently sent MSIFN shapefiles for ELC communities in the study areas (November 24, 2025). In addition, a breakdown of areas (ha) and percentages of ELC communities that intersect with the Project ROW are provided in Appendix C of the NER (see Appendix B of the ESR). It is important to note that the amount of wetland intersection with the Project ROW does not represent the amount of wetlands that will be directly affected by the Project, as mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize Project interactions with wetlands. The total area of wetlands that will be directly affected by the Project (e.g., along temporary access or work areas) will be determined during detailed design. Given that wetlands have been identified as important to MSIFN, Hydro One will precautionarily assume that all wetlands in the study areas are culturally significant and will continue to further refine and specify how the mitigation measures presented in this ESR will be utilized during construction (e.g., through the EMP, which will be made available for review by First Nations prior to construction). Hydro One notes that as the DKPL project is largely contained within an existing transmission corridor, effects to wetlands will be generally temporary and transient in nature, and do not reflect a long-term change from the conditions at the outset of the Project, as vegetation was previously maintained for compatibility with overhead transmission lines. Additionally, installation of transmission tower at typical span-length intervals does not introduce long-term changes to hydrology of wetlands. Lastly, Hydro One and the EPC contractor will consult with First Nations on the post-construction restoration plans for any wetland areas subject to temporary disturbance from construction activities.
3.20	27/11/2025	MSIFN	There is no mention of applying in-water work timing windows for construction activities. This should be included as a mitigation measure to protect fish during sensitive life stages.	In the Natural Environment Report the application of timing windows is mentioned in Section 6.9 Aquatic and Fish Habitat: "Based on the presence of fish and fish habitat

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				within the PSA and centreline, applicable restricted activity in-water work timing windows and regulatory permitting will be required for any near and in water works.” The timing windows will be confirmed as a part of the DFO review process. As a result, in-water timing windows are included within the following identified mitigation measures of the Environmental Study Report: “The Project will apply all the measures to protect fish and fish habitat (DFO, 2025) and incorporate the use of DFO’s Standards and Codes of Practice (DFO, 2024) for routine works where applicable, including the submission of a DFO Project Notification Form;” And, “If permanent or temporary works are required below the high-water mark of a water feature, a Request for Review will be prepared and submitted to the DFO in support of a Letter of Advice and/or approvals under the Fisheries Act;”. To ensure clarity regarding the timing windows, the following has been added to the ESR within the mitigations section. Carry out the project in accordance with the Ontario restricted activity timing windows for the protection of fish and fish habitat (DFO 2013) and ensure that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) provides site-specific or project-specific timing windows to address local conditions and species requirements.
3.21	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Absence of discussion on potential impacts to SAR bat maternity roosting habitat in the effects assessment.</i> We note that Section 7.7.7.4 (Environmental Effects and Mitigation for SAR) does not include precautionary discussion around potential loss of bat maternity roosting habitat. Does this mean that HONI has ruled out the possibility that bat maternity roosting trees will need to be removed due to the Project? Or is HONI aware of changes to habitat protections for SAR bats stemming from the recently amended ESA that would preclude protection, that MSIFN Consultation is not? We note that HONI did not conduct any targeted bat surveys during the 2024 or 2025 field programs, but identified high or moderate probability of the following SAR bats occurring in the Study: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] In addition, HONI has identified in Table 7-1 that candidate bat maternity colonies (SWH) overlap the ROW. Based on this information and in the spirit of a precautionary approach to impact assessment, we feel it’s insufficient to exclude discussion on SAR (or habitat) that have not yet been confirmed absent from impacted areas, including the ROW, or confirmed that habitat will not be lost.	Section 7.7.7.4 of the final ESR will be updated to include discussion of SAR that have not been confirmed in the LSA but have moderate to high probability to occur.

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			We recognize that 1) woodland habitat loss is expected to be minimal and the mapped direct losses are likely overstated, 2) that HONI has committed to completing the appropriate studies if detailed design reveals possible impacts to SAR habitat, and 3) that mitigation measures designed to protect bats and their habitat (e.g., avoid tree clearing in bat window, retain snags, etc.). However, we feel that Section 7.7.7.4 should include discussion of potential impacts to SAR listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA and/or SARA if they have not yet been ruled absent from areas directly impacted by the Project.	
3.22	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Hydro One is committed to using the previous SAR habitat definitions for construction planning purposes (e.g., to delineate habitat and determine suitable mitigation measures and offsetting for SAR that may be impacted by the Project) to address First Nation concerns regarding the changes under the amended ESA.</i> We appreciate the inclusion of HONI's commitment related to SAR habitat assessment, mitigation, and offsetting in Appendix B, Section 6.7, in light of the strong concerns we have expressed related to the amended ESA. But, we note this is missing from Section 7.7.7.4 of the main body Draft ESR. We recommend that this is also added to the main body Draft ESR, Section 7.7.7.4 for full transparency, emphasis and ease of reference, as this is an important HONI commitment to MSIFN Consultation.	This commitment will be carried forward to Section 7.7.7.4 of the final ESR.
3.23	27/11/2025	MSIFN	One [REDACTED] was observed within the PSA outside of the ROW basking in a wetland southwest of the Dobbin TS. [...] Through detailed design and construction planning, wetlands and waterbodies where construction disturbance is planned will be evaluated against the specific habitat requirements of [REDACTED], and targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified to confirm use of the impacted areas by this species. Authorization will be obtained ahead of any disturbance to [REDACTED] habitat [...] (p.349) We appreciate that HONI has committed to using the previous SAR habitat definitions for construction planning (e.g., delineating habitat impacts, mitigation, and offsetting). It is our understanding that Category 2 and 3 habitat is triggered by an occurrence (e.g., observation of basking individual) and extends to an entire wetland complex plus a 30m (Category 2) up to 250m buffer (Category 3) around the complex.	All wetlands and waterbodies within 2km of the [REDACTED] observation (i.e. wetlands/waterbodies east of Highway 7, as shown on Figures 4.19 and 4.20 of the NER) likely provide suitable habitat for Blanding's Turtle. Where wetlands/waterbodies are close to the PSA boundary, there will likely be some overlap of Category 3 habitat (i.e. the area between 30m and 250m surrounding suitable wetlands) with the ROW. Where wetlands/waterbodies are close to the ROW boundary, there will be likely be some overlap of Category 2 habitat (i.e. the area within 30m around suitable wetlands) with the ROW. The wetland where the [REDACTED] was observed, and the watercourse feature to the west of it, provide Category 2 habitat that overlaps with the ROW (see screenshot below):

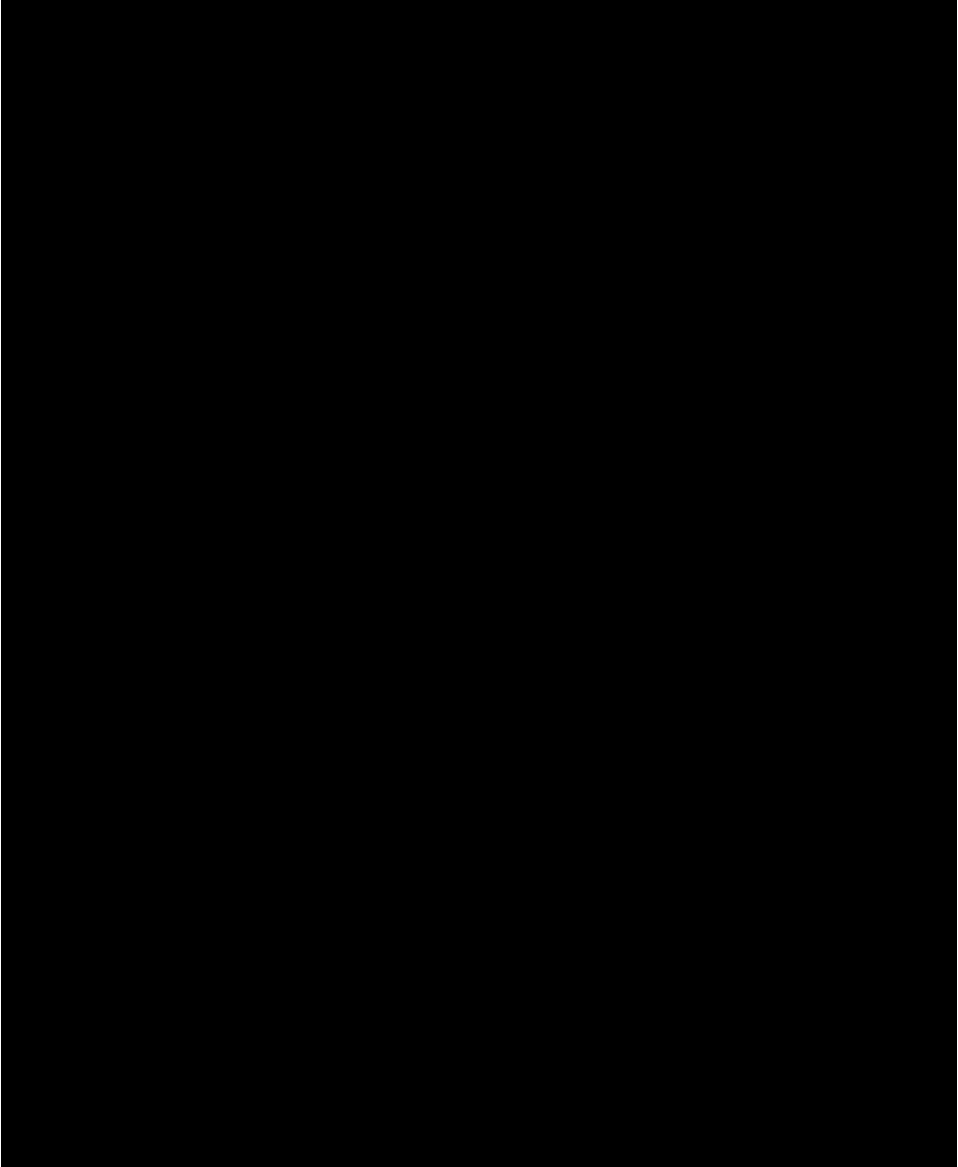
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			We note that the [REDACTED] was observed in the PSA (not ROW), but it's not clear if the wetland complex it was observed within overlaps the ROW (i.e., there is an overlap between the ROW and Category 2 and/or 3 habitat). Please clarify if Category 2 or 3 [REDACTED] habitat overlaps the ROW, so we have a better idea of what to anticipate in terms of next steps for SAR impacted habitat delineation, mitigation, and offsetting discussions. We also note that MSIFN Consultation has developed its own set of expectations for [REDACTED] authorization conditions, which may go above and beyond past MECP precedents. Please notify us of the initiation of SAR habitat assessment process, and at this time we will provide more detailed information about these expectations. Despite turtles being both culturally significant and SAR, and observed, no aquatic turtle surveys were conducted during the 2024 and 2025 field season for this Project. Additionally, candidate turtle wintering areas were noted in the draft ESR, but not incorporated into the study design. Please confirm if emergent and nesting surveys for turtles are scheduled to occur next year to confirm turtle wintering areas.	Turtles were recorded incidentally during all field surveys and were also captured in eDNA surveys completed in 2024 and 2025. All turtle species anticipated to occur in the LSA were confirmed as present via these surveys. Per Section 6.8.1 of the ESR, it is conservatively assumed that all permanent wetlands/waterbodies in the LSA may support turtle wintering habitat. Per Section 6.8.3 of the ESR, all open ecosites (i.e. woodland, meadow, field and savannah) with soil, sand, and/or gravel substrates within 100m of suitable wetlands/waterbodies are conservatively assumed to support turtle nesting habitat. The need for additional field surveys where there is Project interaction with candidate/confirmed turtle habitat will be evaluated during detailed design and in consultation with First Nations, and additional specific mitigation will be identified. Thank you for sharing the developments of your own species-specific standards for ESA permit conditions. Hydro One would appreciate receipt of MSIFN's standards for ESA permit conditions for [REDACTED], if available.
3.24	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>An active [REDACTED] nesting colony was observed in the PSA outside the ROW, in a quarry on the east side of Bowmanville Avenue [...]</i> <i>No impacts to known nesting colonies are anticipated [...]</i> We appreciate that HONI has committed to using the previous SAR habitat definitions for construction planning (e.g., delineating habitat impacts, mitigation, and offsetting). It is our	Category 3 habitat for [REDACTED] (i.e. 500m area surrounding the outer edge of the breeding colony) overlaps with the ROW; however, there is no Category 2 habitat for [REDACTED] (i.e. 50m area in front of the breeding colony bank face) that overlaps with the ROW (see screenshot below):

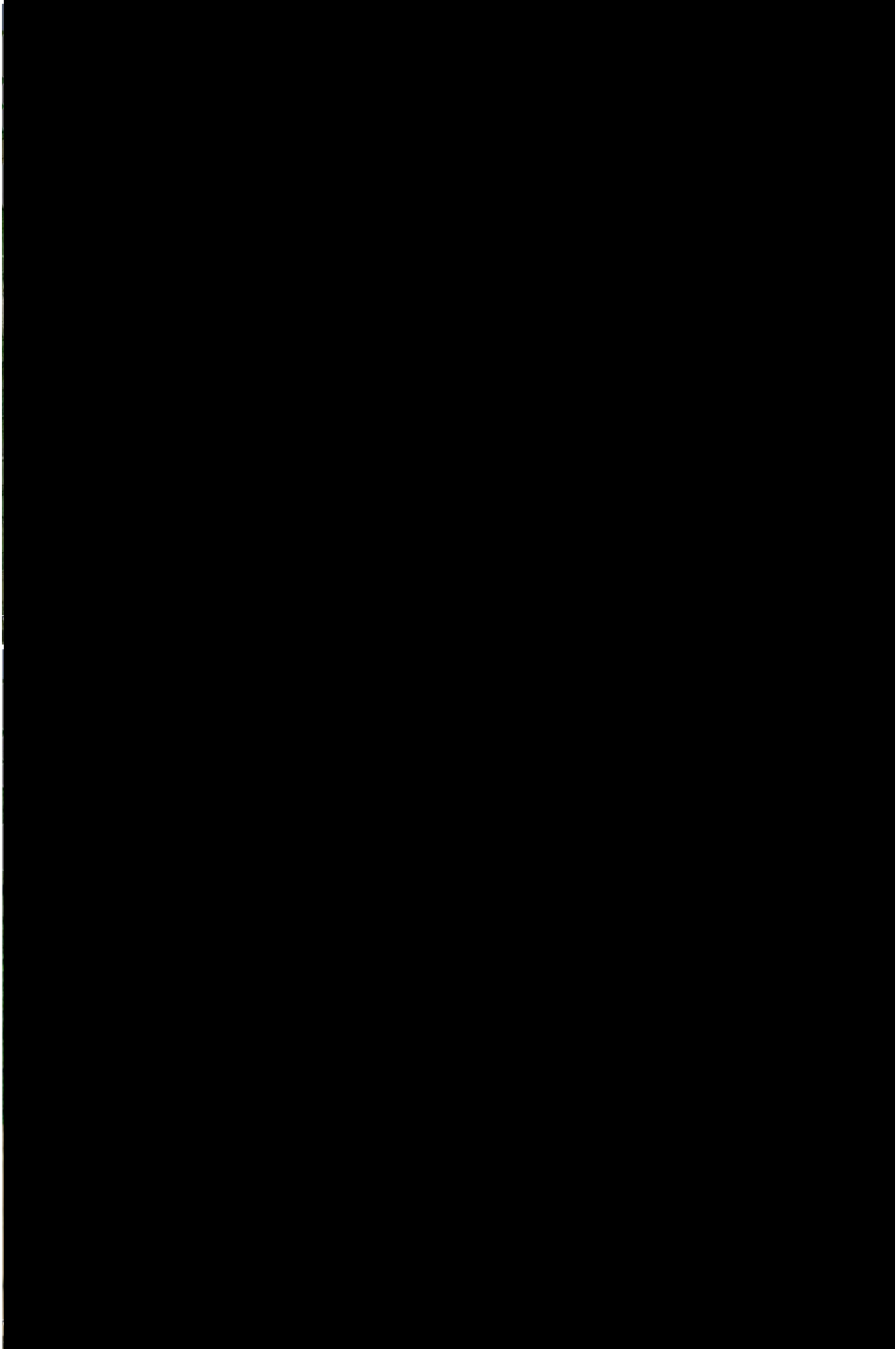
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			understanding that Category 3 habitat includes the area of suitable foraging within 500m of the outer edge of the breeding colony. We note that an active [REDACTED] colony was observed in the PSA (not ROW), but it's not clear if the corresponding Category 3 habitat (e.g., area of suitable foraging habitat within 500m of the outer edge of the breeding colony) overlaps the ROW. Please clarify if any Category 3 (or 2) habitat overlaps the ROW, so we can have a better idea of what to anticipate in terms of next steps for SAR impacted habitat delineation, mitigation, and offsetting discussions.	
3.25	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Thirty-one Black Ash trees were observed during field surveys in 10 locations [...] Four of these trees occur within the ROW. (p.347)</i> <i>[...] If impacts to potential Black Ash habitat are identified during detailed design, additional surveys will be conducted for presence of this species and a Black Ash Health Assessment (BAHA) will be conducted [...] to confirm ESA authorization requirements.</i> We appreciate additional information regarding Black Ash trees found within the ROW and next steps to determine if an ESA authorization is required. We note that MSIFN Consultation has developed its own set of expectations for Black ash authorization conditions, which may go above and beyond past MECP precedents. Please notify MSIFN Consultation if the detailed design determines that the Project will impact Black ash and require authorization, and at this time we will provide more detailed information about these expectations.	Thank you for sharing the developments of your own species-specific standards for ESA permit conditions. Hydro One would appreciate receipt of MSIFN's standards for ESA permit conditions for Black Ash if available.
3.26	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>[...], as well as their 21 m critical root zone (per current guidance from MECP regarding habitat protection for this species).</i> <i>Where impacts to Butternut are anticipated, removal of Butternut is eligible for conditional exemption under the ESA through activity registration under Part V of O.Reg. 830/21 so long as the conditions on the regulation are adhered to.</i> Butternut habitat means the Critical Root zone for each Butternut tree as well as the area between twenty to fifty metres of the tree trunk. Please share the guidance HONI received from the MECP. We reaffirm the importance of timely data sharing, including any proposed management or removal plans for Butternut trees. This	Under the amended ESA (June 5, 2025), habitat for vascular plants is now defined as the critical root zone surrounding individuals. Per email correspondence received from MECP to WSP (September 9, 2025) for another project, the critical root zone for trees and shrubs is the "Radial distance from the stem equal to 18 times the species' reported maximum diameter at breast height (DBH) in Ontario or a jurisdiction with comparable growing conditions, rounded up to the nearest metre...Based on a maximum reported DBH of 116 cm, an area of 21 m around each Butternut stem would be considered habitat." However, Hydro One is committed to using the previous SAR habitat definitions for construction planning purposes (e.g. to delineate habitat and determine suitable mitigation measures and offsetting for SAR that may be impacted by the Project) to address MSIFN's concerns regarding the changes under the amended ESA. Previously, the 25 m area surrounding a retained Butternut was protected under the ESA Exemption

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			will ensure that we can align offsetting and monitoring activities with HONI's commitments, including collaborative offsetting measures developed in partnership with Rights-holding First Nations, the Forest Gene Conservation Authority, and HONI. We also note that MSIFN Consultation has developed its own set of expectations for Butternut authorization conditions, which may go above and beyond past MECP precedents. Please notify MSIFN Consultation if the detailed design determines that the Project will impact Butternut and require authorization, and at this time we will provide more detailed information about these expectations. No characterization of linkages between potential disruptions to deer movement corridors and the practice of First Nations culture and rights. MSIFN Consultation previously shared, with HONI, concerns regarding potential impacts to deer movement corridors (and wildlife habitat connectivity in general) and the exercise of Rights, but don't see this reflected in the full Draft ESR. Specifically, we noted that because our lands are situated within the highly altered and fragmented southern Ontario landscape, it is especially important to avoid disturbance to animal (deer) movement corridors to ensure there is continued habitat connectivity. Not only is this important for allowing species to continue to access their seasonal habitats, but also to minimize disruptions to animal harvesting practices by our members (e.g., increased scouting and harvesting effort required if animals are using different habitats). We note HONI's position that the Project is not likely to cause measurable animal movement barriers, and acknowledge that mitigation measures are proposed to ensure this, but regardless recommend HONI add this characterization of potential impact pathways to the final version of the ESR.	for Butternut (O. Reg. 830/21 EXEMPTIONS - SPECIES SUBJECT TO SPECIES CONSERVATION CHARGES ontario.ca). Therefore, Section 7.7.7.4 of the final ESR will be updated to use the 25 m setback. Hydro One will contact the FGCA (prior to the submission of the BHA report to MECP) to confirm their interest in archiving the one Category 3 Butternut at the Clarington TS. If FGCA is interested, Hydro One will facilitate the archiving process for this tree (regardless of whether it will be impacted by Project activities or not) in order to support local recovery of Butternut. Hydro One will notify MSIFN Consultation if the detailed design determines that the Project will impact Butternut and require authorization. Hydro One would appreciate MSIFN Consultation's input at that time regarding more detailed information about expectations.
3.27	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>No characterization of linkages between potential disruptions to deer movement corridors and the practice of First Nations culture and rights.</i> MSIFN Consultation previously shared, with HONI, concerns regarding potential impacts to deer movement corridors (and wildlife habitat connectivity in general) and the exercise of Rights, but don't see this reflected in the full Draft ESR. Specifically, we noted that because our lands are situated within the highly altered and fragmented southern Ontario landscape, it is especially important to avoid disturbance to animal (deer) movement corridors to ensure there is continued habitat	Thank you for your important feedback. It remains Hydro One's priority to avoid impacting Indigenous or Treaty Rights wherever feasible and to work collaboratively to mitigate impacts where they may be unavoidable. In engagement with First Nations on the DKPL project to date, no specific locations or impacts of Indigenous or Treaty Rights related to deer movement or corridors have been identified. We will continue to work collaboratively in the development of mitigation measures to address wildlife and their habitats, as effects to wildlife and their habitats have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and rights, such as through potential changes to harvesting or traditional food sources. Through collaborative discussions on mitigations, Hydro One seeks to eliminate potential disruptions to traditional practices for First Nations.

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			connectivity. Not only is this important for allowing species to continue to access their seasonal habitats, but also to minimize disruptions to animal harvesting practices by our members (e.g., increased scouting and harvesting effort required if animals are using different habitats). We note HONI's position that the Project is not likely to cause measurable animal movement barriers, and acknowledge that mitigation measures are proposed to ensure this, but regardless recommend HONI add this characterization of potential impact pathways to the final version of the ESR.	We would also like to reiterate that for the DKPL project in particular, that the use of the existing transmission corridor for the majority of the project serves to minimize any long-term Environmental effects (by way of additional clearing that would otherwise be required for a new greenfield corridor through natural areas) and that effects from this project are largely anticipated to be transient and temporary in nature as they relate primarily to construction activities.
3.28	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>No acknowledgement of 2025-2026 winter surveys requested by MSIFN, and how these results may inform assessment of potential impacts, project planning and mitigation/monitoring/offsetting as needed.</i> We note that MSIFN Consultation has previously raised concern about the lack of winter season studies conducted as part of the baseline field program, and has received funding from HONI to conduct a series of winter studies in 2025-2026 focused on deer, raptor nesting and other winter wildlife uses. We don't see any acknowledgement of this future work in Section 7.7.7.5, specifically in the context of how the results may inform assessment of potential impacts, project planning and mitigation as needed. If not being incorporated into the environmental assessment process, please clarify how HONI intends to incorporate the results of these winter studies in the assessment of potential impacts, project planning and mitigation scoping	In the spirit of partnership and meaningful inclusion, Hydro One has agreed to a one-time study beyond technical requirements for the class Environmental Assessment at the request of the First Nations. Hydro One has agreed to fund a study conducted by First Nations focused on deer, raptor nesting and other wildlife uses in the corridor on publicly accessible lands utilized by First Nations. The intent is to supplement the data already collected, such as the deer wintering habitat already mapped by the MNRF. Should anything arise from the studies that would help to better inform the project mitigations we are open to discussing how this information may be applied to construction planning, noting that conducting potentially disruptive activities during the winter (dormant) season is often prioritized as a means of minimizing the overall environmental effects of construction activities. With the permission of the First Nations, Hydro One will share the relevant results with the selected Contractor for additional consideration in project execution and environmental protection.
3.29	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Table 7-1: Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Identified in the Study Areas</i> The addition of Table 7-1, indicating the types of SWH (candidate and confirmed) and which study areas they overlap is helpful, but we note that there isn't much added (qualitative) discussion on potential impacts to the various SWH types. However, we acknowledge that mitigation measures will help minimize impacts. - Is it possible for HONI to also provide data on the total area of each SWH overlapping the study areas? This would be useful to know for all study areas, but information on only the ROW overlap would be acceptable. This will help fill gaps in knowledge we have due to the absence of more substantive discussion on potential impacts to each of the various SWH types.	A statement will be added to Section 7.7.7.5 of the final ESR to refer the reader to Figures 5.1 to 5.20 of the NER for areas where the various SWH types intersect with the ROW. The total area of each SWH type that will be directly affected by the Project will be determined during detailed design; this is largely because even within the ROW, the majority of SWH may not be affected directly by construction activities (i.e., if not along access routes or intersecting with work areas/tower locations). It is also important to note that within the existing transmission corridor, these effects would generally be limited to temporary disturbance during construction activities As such, once these detailed construction plans are developed, site-specific mitigation measures will be developed following the general principles as laid out in the ESR. This will also aid in the determination of whether additional delineation may be required (e.g., some SWH features have been mapped as points, while others are currently conservatively represented by the ELC polygon boundaries that they fall within, though actual habitat features driving SWH are often much more specific).

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				Hydro One and our EPC contractor will consult with MSIFN during detailed design to share the construction plans and site-specific mitigation measures (via the EMP) and if necessary, to determine the need for additional targeted surveys for SWH and appropriate mitigation requirements.
3.30	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>First Nations will be consulted in mitigation measures to address wildlife and their habitats, as effects to wildlife and their habitats have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and rights, such as through potential changes to harvesting or traditional food sources.</i> This section could benefit from further characterization of potential effects on wildlife and habitat, and Rights impact pathways. We recommend adding the following wording: “For example, changes to wildlife and wildlife habitat availability may result in changes to wildlife harvesting success (e.g., quantity of resources harvested per trip to the bush), changes in level of effort required to harvest woodland resources (e.g., time, money, resources required, etc.), changes in contribution of traditional food sources to livelihoods, changes in ability to transmit knowledge and culture (e.g., if important harvesting sites are altered), change in ability to engage in ceremonial practices, etc.” MSIFN Consultation has previously raised concerns regarding impacts to vegetation communities (e.g., cultural meadows, agricultural fields, thickets that flood during spring melt and run-off) and significant wildlife habitats (e.g., waterfowl stopover and staging areas) and how this may affect our members’ spring duck hunting activities – in terms of access to hunting sites (particularly those that are public., accessible, or near/on conservation lands) and availability of waterfowl. We note HONI has made a general commitment to address concerns around potential impacts on the assertion of our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, but this specific concern hasn’t been explicitly addressed in the full Draft ESR. We recommend further discussions between HONI and MSIFN Consultation to determine what can be done to minimize the impact of the project on spring waterfowl hunting while maintaining health and safety considerations during Project constructions. For example, this could include avoiding disruptive construction activities near certain vegetation communities or waterfowl SWH (i.e., good candidate hunting areas) during ideal hunting windows, installing bird diverters	Thank-you for providing this additional context. To adequately assess impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty rights, we would welcome you to share site specific information and locations of where harvesting activities are taking place, so that these can be compared to project-specific plans to determine any interactions and net adverse effects. In engagement with First Nations to date, no specific information on the location and description of activities relating to the exercise of rights related to wildlife harvesting has been identified. Hydro One reiterates our commitment to working with First Nations on this and the importance of working collaboratively to avoid or minimize impacts. Through collaborative discussions on mitigations, Hydro One seeks to eliminate potential disruptions to traditional practices for First Nations. We would also like to reiterate that for the DKPL project in particular, that the use of the existing transmission corridor for the majority of the project serves to minimize any long-term Environmental effects (by way of additional clearing that would otherwise be required for a new greenfield corridor through natural areas) and that effects from this project are largely anticipated to be transient and temporary in nature as they relate primarily to construction activities.

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			along the transmission line near waterfowl habitats to prevent any line collisions, etc.	
3.31	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Table 7-1: Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Identified in the Study Areas</i> Table 7-1 indicates that two confirmed deer yarding areas (west of Bethany, west of Highway 7) overlap the ROW. We understand from previous correspondence that both of these overlap the existing ROW, which is already subject to routine maintenance and, therefore, there will be no new fragmentation of these habitats. However, it's not clear if there will be further permanent loss of this habitat, or if these areas overlap with the portion of mapped woodland potentially subject to inaccuracy (i.e., there is no wooded habitat overlapping the ROW because its maintained). Please clarify if HONI will have to conduct further vegetation removal during the construction stage (i.e., permanent loss) in these deer yarding areas. If this is the case, MSIFN Consultation may wish to consider offsetting for deer yarding through the Biodiversity Initiative, to account for the loss of sensitive and culturally significant habitat that may be limited in the local area. In addition, we understand that vegetation clearing will be conducted during winter because this timing avoids disturbance to the greatest number of sensitive natural heritage features and agree with this approach. However, we would like to see additional measures implemented to minimize impacts to deer in these overlap areas during this sensitive period. For example, this could include a pre-clearing sweep to confirm deer have egressed the area prior to vegetation removal, strategically scheduling clearing in these overlap areas in early winter or periods when snow cover is low (e.g., < 20cm), or other measures determined to be appropriate by HONI's qualified professionals.	A very small portion of the deer yarding area west of Bethany overlaps the ROW (0.05 ha representing 0.01% of the yard). This area of overlap is at the extreme outer edge of the yard (see Figure 2.6 of the NER) and occurs within the existing ROW that is already subject to routine maintenance. This area is comprised of a small wetland (see Figure 4.11 of the NER; MAS2-1 east of Pit Road) and will not result in new fragmentation of woodlands. See screenshots of the deer yarding area west of Bethany below (the yard is shaded in purple in the first image, and the area of overlap is outlined in red in the second image).  Regarding the second deer yarding area that occurs west of Highway 7, although there is a direct overlap with the ROW (see Figure 2.9 of the NER and screenshot below), this

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				area of overlap occurs within the existing ROW that is already subject to routine maintenance. This area is comprised of open wetland habitat (see Figure 4.18 of the NER) and will not result in new fragmentation of woodlands (see screenshots below).  For area of the project within the existing transmission corridor, permanent vegetation removals will generally be limited to the tower locations. For areas where vegetation is temporarily disturbed during construction activities, or areas where additional clearing is

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				required (e.g. incompatible vegetation within the transmission corridor must be removed), post-construction restoration with compatible native seed mix or shrub stock will be conducted. Hydro One and its EPC partner will work with MSIFN to review detailed construction plans (EMP) when available, and to discuss post-construction restoration plans. Hydro One has also committed to conducting a Biodiversity Initiative for the DKPL project and will involve the Nations in this initiative as well.
3.32	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Turtle mitigation measures previously referenced not in the Draft ESR, Sect 7.7.7.4 to 7.7.7.5</i> MSIFN Consultation has previously raised concerns regarding sand and gravel shoulders in proximity to wetlands and waterbodies as potential turtle nesting habitat. We agree with HONI's assessment that these should not be considered SWH, but that appropriate mitigation should be in place to protect turtles and their nests in the event they nest in these areas (not just within turtle nesting habitat meeting SWH criteria). We appreciate HONI's agreement and efforts to mitigate this concern. We note that some of HONI's previously proposed mitigation measures appear to be missing from the full Draft ESR, Sections 7.7.7.4 and 7.7.7.5. These include: - Contractor Awareness and Encounter protocols will be implemented within the Contract documents to identify the potential for turtles to be encountered during construction and the procedures to be followed in the event of an encounter. - The Contractor will regularly examine the construction areas (including road shoulders, staging areas) to ensure no turtles (or other wildlife) have entered the construction zone. - Any turtles incidentally encountered will be protected from harm and harassment. If a turtle is encountered, all activities within 30 m of the individual will cease immediately and the turtle will be provided a reasonable amount of time to leave the construction area on its own accord. If an injured turtle is encountered an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildliferehabilitator) to collect and rehabilitate the turtle. - Nesting turtles will not be disturbed. If a nesting turtle is encountered, activities within 30 m will cease until the turtle has left the area. Any turtle nests laid within the construction zone should be protected with a 10m buffer and an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator) to	These mitigation measures were previously included in Section 7.7.7.5, but the wording for some measures was modified to apply more broadly to all wildlife, not just turtles. Please see mitigation bullets 4, 5, 11 and 20.

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			relocate the nest to a suitable location outside the construction zone or collect the nest for ex situ incubation under an approved permit. Please update the full Draft ESR to include these mitigation measures.	
3.33	27/11/2025	MSIFN	Inspecting and cleaning equipment and vehicles as necessary to reduce potential for spreading invasive species propagules, in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry. Prior to site mobilization, the EPC contractor shall develop and submit a Clean Equipment Protocol consistent with Halloran et al., 2013, updated 2016. The plan shall identify: - Cleaning locations and methods. - Responsible personnel and a checklist to verify completion before entering and leaving the site. - Inspection and documentation procedures, including logs or photos of equipment before entry. - Wastewater and debris containment measures to prevent spread of plant material or contaminated soil. During construction: - All vehicles, machinery, and construction materials entering the site shall be free of visible soil, seeds, or plant material. - The Contractor shall inspect and document each piece of equipment prior to entry and maintaining a Cleaning Log available for review upon request. - If equipment is found contaminated on-site, it shall be cleaned in a designated area before proceeding. - Spot audits may be conducted by the Contract Administrator or Environmental Inspector to confirm compliance. Post construction: - A summary of cleaning activities and logs shall be provided as part of the Environmental Completion Report.	Hydro One acknowledges the requirement for inspecting and cleaning equipment and vehicles to prevent the spread of invasive species, in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry (Halloran et al., 2013; updated 2016). Hydro One confirms that the EPC contractor will include their specific plans to follow the Clean Equipment Protocol as part of the EMP for construction, which will be shared with First Nations for review prior to construction. As noted by MSIFN, records of equipment inspection will be kept by the EPC contractor during construction and cleaning (as needed) will follow the guidelines presented in the Clean Equipment Protocol. It should be noted that the Clean Equipment Protocol is a risk-based approach to mitigate the inadvertent spread of invasive species via construction equipment, and largely relies upon the risk of interaction with propagules and subsequent inspections, to inform the needs for equipment cleaning. The use of constructed access within sensitive habitats and natural areas such as wetlands, for example, provides a barrier between construction equipment and soils/plant propagules, such that once installed, equipment remaining on the constructed access and work pads are generally at low risk of such interactions. Similarly, equipment inspected and deemed to be free of propagules or debris arriving at or leaving site, may not require additional cleaning.
3.34	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>If necessary, a Permit for Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses will be obtained through the applicable Conservation Authority (CLOCA, KC, and ORCA) prior to construction.</i> The permit referenced—"Permit for Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses"—aligns with the former Section 28 regulations under Ontario Regulation 97/04 and individual CA regulations (e.g. 155/06 or 176/06). However, effective April 1, 2024, the	Thank-you for catching this error. Sections 1.4.2, 7.7.3 and 7.10 of the final ESR will be updated accordingly.

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			province introduced Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, replacing those earlier regulations.	
3.35	27/11/2025	MSIFN	Construction: Potential for erosion, sedimentation and soil loss during site preparation and construction activities. Please include the following mitigation measures: • ESC inspections shall be inspected after significant precipitation events (>15mm within 24 hrs and/or >5mm/hr which >=10mm have fallen) and extreme weather conditions, even during weekends and holidays. • A turbidity-total suspended solids relationship shall be established prior to any work on the site. The plan shall outline a turbidity target in which work is halted and methods/materials are upgraded to prevent exceedances. • In the event that turbidity water quality has been exceeded downstream of the work area, the work should be stopped and the work site and methods reviewed with Rights-holding First Nations to determine appropriate mitigation measures to reduce total suspended solids. Once the mitigations are implemented, work can resume. • Contingency plans will be developed for erosion and sediment control. • Exclusion fencing shall be placed around stockpiled materials to prevent mammals, reptiles and amphibians from entering the work area. This shall be inspected daily. Any sightings of turtles shall result in temporary halt in work until the turtle has moved away from the site. Turtles should be observed from a distance by a qualified environmental professional for the duration they occur within the work area. Qualified professionals should only intervene if turtles are in immediate danger (e.g., from moving vehicles) or observed nesting or attempting to nest within the work area. In these cases, turtles should be removed from the work area, according to the measures outlined in the Ontario Species at Risk Handling Manual: For Endangered Species Act Authorization Holders. Any injured turtles from construction shall halt work and await direction from the MECP. Synthetic plastic erosion control blankets/mats should not be utilized, particularly during the nesting season, as they pose an entrapment hazard to turtles. Fibre-based biodegradable materials are only to be used.	Development and implementation of an ESC plan for construction (as a component of the EMP) have been proposed in the final ESR and the plan will incorporate contingency measures for erosion and sediment control following the general principles as described in the ESR. Similar to the suggestion in this comment about ESC inspection, inspection of ESC measures has already been proposed after each significant event [>10mm in 12 hour period] (last bullet point). Site-specific ESC plan and construction water management (dewatering/discharge) plan, as required, will be prepared at detailed design stage. For more information about the general guiding principles that these plans will follow, please refer to Section 7.7.3 of the ESR. The ESC plans will include measures such as increased inspection/monitoring frequency during significant/extreme events as described above. Similarly, the construction water management plan will include measures to address the turbidity of any discharge waters, such as the use of filter bags or other sediment controls at the discharge point, placement of discharge locations on vegetated areas or on temporary gravel work pads and away from waterbodies, or if deemed necessary, site-specific turbidity-TSS relationship and site-specific turbidity thresholds for discharge of construction water to natural environment, depending on the downstream receiver and other aforementioned mitigation measures or specifics of the particular discharge location. Regarding the requested mitigation measures for turtle encounters, several of these are already covered by the following mitigations included in Section 7.7.7.5: • If a SAR or suspected SAR is encountered during construction, all activities within 500 m will be stopped until it has been determined that harm will not occur. The required activities will be assessed to determine whether the work/schedule can be modified, or mitigation measures employed, to avoid potential effects on SAR and their habitat; • If a SAR or suspected SAR is encountered during construction, a qualified biologist will be contacted for assistance immediately and the responsible government agency (MECP SAR Branch and/or ECCC CWS) will be informed if deemed necessary; • Any wildlife incidentally encountered will be protected from harm and harassment, all activities within 30 m of the individual will cease immediately and the individual will be provided a reasonable amount of time to leave the construction area on its own accord. If an injured animal is encountered an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator) to collect and rehabilitate the animal; • Potential SAR turtle habitat will be reviewed prior to installing ESC measures. If required, exclusion fencing will be installed per provincial guidelines; • Nesting turtles will not be disturbed. If a nesting turtle is encountered, activities within 30 m will cease until the turtle has left the area. Any turtle nests laid within the

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				construction zone will be protected with a 10 m buffer and an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator) to relocate the nest to a suitable location outside the construction zone or collect the nest for ex situ incubation under an approved permit. The following additional mitigation measures will be added to Section 7.7.7.5 of the final ESR: • The Contractor will examine exclusion fencing periodically or following significant weather events to ensure it is in working condition and that any necessary repairs / maintenance is completed. • The use of mesh or netting type stabilization material shall not be used for erosion control measures in order to prevent entanglement of wildlife. If reinforced sediment fencing is required, it will be paige-wire backed and any erosion control materials that are laid on the ground will consist of non-mesh backed geotextile fabric (or alternative products such as Curlex Net-free blanket or similar products/methods that are free of plastic or metal mesh/netting).
3.36	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Natural Environment Resources – Physical Environment: Spills</i> Please confirm that the additional details provided by HONI in their October 1, 2025, response will be included in the EMP for MSIFN Consultation's review.	Hydro One confirms that the additional details provided in our October 1, 2025 response will be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for MSIFN Consultation's review.
3.37	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>All water features that were not assessed or lacked information on permanence and thermal regime were assumed to be the most sensitive (i.e., cold water), detailed design will aim to avoid sensitive features (i.e., water features/fish habitats) to the extent practical and limit in-water works (i.e., water crossings) and impacts to the riparian areas. Where not practical, site-specific surveys will be completed to facilitate permitting. Hydro One confirms all appropriate studies will be completed and authorizations received ahead of any impacts.</i> We appreciate the commitment to protecting fish and fish habitat and a commitment to completing site-specific surveys where required. MSIFN Consultation looks forward to continuing collaboration to safeguard fish, fish habitat, and all aquatic features within the project area. Additional eDNA testing and/or minnow trapping and/or electrofishing is recommended for sites where at least three cold-water, cultural, and/or conservation priority species have been historically recorded. This includes sites: WC-1001, WC-1008, WC-1014, WC-1015, WC-1019, WC-1020, WC-1033, WC-1034, WC-1036, etc.	Hydro One will pass this comment to our EPC contractor, should construction plans involve encroachment into the areas identified here by MSIFN, additional surveys may be required to support permitting.

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3.38	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Savannah and prairie communities have been identified as features of cultural significance by First Nations engaged on the Project [...]</i> MSIFN Consultation requests additional time to work with HONI to address potential construction-related concerns affecting savannah communities, following receipt of the initial dataset on November 25, 2025.	Hydro One acknowledges MSIFN's request for additional time to address potential construction-related concerns affecting savannah communities following receipt of the initial dataset on November 25, 2025. Hydro One is committed to working collaboratively with MSIFN to review the dataset and discuss any concerns or mitigation measures prior to construction. We will remain available to provide clarification, additional information, and participate in follow-up discussions as needed to ensure these matters are appropriately addressed. This commitment will be added to Table 7-3 Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use Concerns and Mitigation Measures under landscapes of importance.
3.39	27/11/2025	MSIFN	<i>Within the LSA, 16 areas of savannah communities were originally identified during desktop review. In 2024 and 2025, 11 of these areas were ground-truthed, and six areas were confirmed as savannah communities: two Cultural Savannah (CUS), one Mineral Cultural Savannah (CUS1), one Mixed Savannah (SVM), and two Coniferous Savannahs (SVC). An additional Coniferous Savannah (SVC) community, that was not previously identified during desktop review was identified during field surveys in 2025. (p. 60)</i> Unfortunately, survey results cannot be spatially compared on a map. This is vital to Rights-holding First Nations communities to fully understand species assemblages and significant ecosystems and their functionality. Please provide the following information: - Project geodatabase with all data sources documented (e.g., desktop ELC categorizations and ELC surveys), including all species-level observations tied to ELC categorization and ELC stations. - Clip data to the Location Study Area (LSA) to facilitate manageable sharing. Please contact MSIFN Consultation and the Alderville Black Oak Savannah for further clarification, if required.	Hydro One understands that savannah communities are culturally significant to MSIFN and is committed to working collaboratively to identify and protect these culturally significant ecosystems. Hydro One has provided the following information to MSIFN on November 24, 2025 to facilitate their review: - Shapefiles for all study areas (ROW, PSA, LSA) and ELC communities - A summary table of savannah communities mapped in the PSA and LSA (including desktop assessment and field-verified results); as per Table 7-1 of the ESR, savannah habitat was not identified with the ROW for the new transmission line. - ELC data and photos for field verified cultural savannah communities - Breeding bird data for stations that overlapped savannah communities
3.40	27/11/2025	MSIFN	Clarification is required on what is meant by "Deciduous Forest" and "Dry-fresh maple Deciduous Forest," specifically the corresponding ELC classifications for FOD and FOD-5. Species observations from terrestrial windshield surveys and ELC surveys in FOD and FOD-5 were not shared spatially, particularly species of cultural significance to MSIFN, including but not limited to Butternut, Black Ash, and [REDACTED]. Please provide these species observations to MSIFN Consultation, including applicable data sources that could be uploaded into ArcGIS.	The various codes are based on the Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario: First Approximation and Its Application. The ELC System uses different organizational levels to classify communities. The highest level is the 'Community Class', followed by the 'Community Series', then the 'Ecosite' and finally the 'Vegetation Type' (which is the finest level of resolution in the ELC). 'FOD' is an ELC Community Series. Community Series are units that are normally visible and consistently recognizable on air-photos and are the lowest level in the ELC classification system that can be identified without a site visit. For the most part, Community Series are identified based on whether the community has open, shrub or treed vegetation cover, as well as whether the plant form is deciduous, coniferous or

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response																												
			Please confirm whether additional surveys will be conducted in 2026 on FOD and FOD-5 lands, including the preparation of arborist reports for vegetation located within the PSA. MSIFN Consultation remains concerned that culturally significant trees may be removed from the landscape without proper documentation, notification, or compensation	mixed. FOD5 is an Ecosite. An Ecosite is a mappable, landscape unit integrating a consistent set of environmental factors and vegetation characteristics. See screenshot below for characteristics for FOD and FOD5 communities. <table><tr><td>24</td><td>Nested ELC Communities</td><td>Code</td><td>6E</td><td>7E</td><td>Vegetation Characteristics</td><td>Environmental Characteristics</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Forest</td><td>FO</td><td></td><td></td><td>- tree cover > 60%</td><td>- site conditions and substrate types variable</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Deciduous Forest</td><td>FOD</td><td></td><td></td><td>- deciduous tree species > 75% of canopy cover</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Dry – Fresh Sugar Maple Deciduous Forest Ecosite</td><td>FOD5</td><td></td><td></td><td>- Sugar Maple with Beech, Red Oak, White Oak, Ironwood, Basswood, Black Cherry, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, White Ash, Red Maple, White Birch, Trembling Aspen and Largetooth Aspen; dominant species may vary - heavily managed, grazed or disturbed sites tend to be relatively lacking in shrub and understorey vegetation - Alternate-leaved Dogwood, Raspberry and Red Elderberry - Trillium spp., Wild Sarsaparilla, Blue Cohosh, Jack-in-the-pulpit and Wild Leek</td><td>- moderately dry (0) to fresh (1,2,3) soil moisture regimes - shallow soils over bedrock, rock, sands and loams - rapid (2) to well (3) drained sites - typically on upper to middle slopes (1,2,3) or tablelands (7) with suitable drainage</td></tr></table> The DKPL desktop ELC assessment was completed at a high level (to the ELC Community Series). Field verification included both detailed surveys (to the ELC Ecosite) and high level surveys (to the ELC Community Series). The Community Series classification was used where detailed site information was not available from field verification (e.g. for communities where there was limited access or that occurred beyond ELC station locations). Locations of all SCS were provided to MSIFN in the summary tables submitted with comment responses for DNER Rev2 on October 20, 2025. Tables 1 and 4 provided with that submission specify which ELC Unit each tree/plant SCS was confirmed in. In addition, shapefiles for all the ELC communities were provided to MSIFN on November 24, 2025. Locations (geopoints) for Black Ash and Butternut are provided in Tables 1 and 2 of this submission. GPS co-ordinates for the Butternuts at Clarington Station have also been provided to MSIFN previously. Note that the GPS co-ordinates are anticipated to be more accurate than the geopoints and will be what is provided to MECP in the BHA report if it is determined that an ESA authorization is required for impacts to Butternuts. The need for additional field surveys where there is Project interaction with woodlands and SCS will be evaluated during detailed design and in consultation with First Nations. Given that several common tree and woodland wildlife species have been identified as important to MSIFN, Hydro One will precautionarily assume that all woodlands in the study areas are culturally significant and appropriate mitigation and offsetting will be developed for any woodlands subject to clearing, in consultation with First Nations. It is important to note that the Project is not anticipated to have measurable effects on woodlands given the use of the existing transmission line corridor, thereby avoiding new disturbances to woodlands or large-scale transitions. This clarification will be added to the final ESR.	24	Nested ELC Communities	Code	6E	7E	Vegetation Characteristics	Environmental Characteristics	Forest		FO			- tree cover > 60%	- site conditions and substrate types variable	Deciduous Forest		FOD			- deciduous tree species > 75% of canopy cover		Dry – Fresh Sugar Maple Deciduous Forest Ecosite		FOD5			- Sugar Maple with Beech, Red Oak, White Oak, Ironwood, Basswood, Black Cherry, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, White Ash, Red Maple, White Birch, Trembling Aspen and Largetooth Aspen; dominant species may vary - heavily managed, grazed or disturbed sites tend to be relatively lacking in shrub and understorey vegetation - Alternate-leaved Dogwood, Raspberry and Red Elderberry - Trillium spp., Wild Sarsaparilla, Blue Cohosh, Jack-in-the-pulpit and Wild Leek	- moderately dry (0) to fresh (1,2,3) soil moisture regimes - shallow soils over bedrock, rock, sands and loams - rapid (2) to well (3) drained sites - typically on upper to middle slopes (1,2,3) or tablelands (7) with suitable drainage
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Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
N/A	N/A	MSIFN	On January 9, 2026, Hydro One met with MSIFN to discuss the above noted responses. MSIFN shared their review of Hydro One's responses, confirming those that they agreed with and those that they wished to discuss further. Hydro One and MSIFN came to agreements on items such as commitments during the construction phase, increased protection buffers during construction activities, and commitments for information sharing to be included in the management plans. These have been integrated into the final ESR. Both parties reaffirmed their continued commitment to work together collaboratively in the next phase of the project.	

Table 3-10: Agency Comments on Draft ESR

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
1.1	24/11/2025	MNR	Thank you for circulating the Ministry of Natural Resources on the Draft Environmental Report (ESR) for Hydro One's Durham Kawartha Power Line Project. We have no concerns with the project generally, however there still appears to be a discrepancy in the assessment of overlap with Enfield Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) Complex along the preferred alternative (Alternative 2). In the ESR, page 287, Table 5-10 it is estimated that alternative B traverses 0.62ha of ANSI and 0.38ha of PSW. I would expect the area of PSW to be equal or larger to the area of ANSI given: - that the eastern area of ANSI and PSW boundaries where the preferred alternative intersects are very similar boundaries, and - there is an additional crossing of a separate polygon of PSW alone (no ANSI) southwest of the intersection with Columbus Road East/Langmaid Road.	Regarding the discrepancy noted in Table 5-10, please note that this table provides a comparative evaluation of Route Alternatives A and B only. It does not include other route sections that are common to both alternatives. Route Alternative B begins northeast of the Columbus Road East/Langmaid Road intersection; therefore, the section of the Enfield PSW located southwest of this intersection is not included in the calculation shown in Table 5-10. Further, while Figure 2.1 in Appendix B shows the Enfield PSW polygon, the scale makes it difficult to see the subtle differences between the PSW and ANSI boundaries northeast of the intersection. Please see the attached figure for clarification showing the Right of Way intersection we are referring to at this location. The calculations provided in the attached figure are correct: PSW = 0.38 ha (black and white hatched area) ANSI = 0.62 ha (pink outlined area)
1.2	24/11/2025	MNR	Figure 2.1 of the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix B of ESR) does show the Enfield PSW polygon delineated southwest of the intersection with Columbus Road East/Langmaid Road. However, the calculations of PSW impact area do not seem to jive relative to those for the ANSI. As you may recall, we previously identified concerns that this southern polygon of PSW was not appearing in Hydro One mapping. We suggest you reconfirm your calculations and reporting of impacts upon PSWs.	Additional calculations will be added to Sections 7.7.6.4 and 7.7.7.1 of the ESR to specify the amount (ha) and percentage of ANSIs and PSWs intersecting the full Preferred Route ROW. It is important to note that intersection with the ROW does not necessarily equate to impacts, as mitigation measures (e.g., slinging wires over wetlands) will be implemented to avoid interactions.
1.3	24/11/2025	MNR	Also, please note that there are still a few references to "MNRF" and "Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry" in the ESR and suggest it be updated to remove the "Forestry" reference as it is no longer our Ministry name.	Thank you also for noting the references to "MNRF." The reference in Table 1-1 (Potentially Required Permits, Licenses and Approvals) will be updated in the final ESR to reflect the current ministry name. References in the ESR and NER to publications dated prior to the name change will retain "MNRF" in citations in accordance with our style guide.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
2.1	28/11/2025	MECP	Based on our review of the preliminary impacts assessment, it appears that there are no significant local air pollution sources other than those associated with the construction phase of the project, and these construction off-site impacts can typically be mitigated. The ministry's comments and additional clarification required with respect to the local and regional air quality impacts from the proposed Durham Kawartha Transmission line and Transfer stations are summarized below: Details for the Clarington and Dobbin Transformer stations should be included for public transparency purposes. Hence, a general statement to this would show readers that the assessment has considered all phases of the proposed undertaking and its impacts.	Thank you for your comments regarding local and regional air quality impacts. Details of the work at Clarington and Dobbin Transformer Stations are described in Section 6 of the Environmental Study Report (ESR), and the potential effects of this work are considered in Chapter 7. Both stations are existing facilities and, in their current form, are part of the baseline environment for the project. Their primary function will remain unchanged—the work associated with the Durham Kawartha Power Line (DKPL) project is limited to facilitating the connection of new 230 kV circuits. With respect to air and noise considerations, these stations currently operate under Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECA) or Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) registrations, which have been submitted to and are registered with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). For example, Clarington previously held a noise ECA prior to the introduction of EASRs. It is important to note that transformer stations do not generate air emissions; they are not generating stations but rather facilities that transform voltage of electricity that has already been generated and supplied to the provincial electricity grid. The existing ECA/EASR requirements relate solely to noise produced by transformers, and no new transformers will be added as part of this project. Table 1-1 Other Permits, Licenses and Approvals will be updated to reflect this. The only situation where a transformer station would require air emissions modeling as a component of the ECA/EASR is if additional equipment, such as a permanent standby generator, is required to be installed at the station, which is not the case for the work being conducted through the DKPL project. To your final point, the ESR does consider and include the station expansion work and its associated effects (as described in Chapter 6, with the effects and associated mitigation measures listed in Chapter 7 also pertaining to those relevant aspects of the station work). For public transparency, we will ensure that this is reiterated clearly in the final ESR. Specifically, we will incorporate additional detail in Chapters 6 and 7 as well as the introduction and conclusion chapters to reinforce that the assessment has considered all phases of the proposed undertaking and their potential impacts.
2.2	28/11/2025	MECP	Please discuss if there are any air emission sources from the transfer stations, such as an emergency and or standby generator that will operate for more than 500 hours as per the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) guidelines.	Thank you for your comment. Hydro One will not be adding any new emergency or standby generators as a result of the Project. This will be clarified in the final ESR. Any existing generators at transformer stations are accounted for in existing approvals.
2.3	28/11/2025	MECP	The ministry recommends clarifying if Guideline A-9 for Boilers and Heaters is applicable to the proposed transfer stations and or auxiliary components. Further, it would be beneficial if the proponent could clarify the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and whether an Environmental Activity Sector Registry (EASR) air submission is applicable to the transfer stations.	Thank you for your comment. Hydro One will not be adding any new boilers or heaters as a result of the Project, therefore Guidelines A-9 for Boilers and Heaters are not applicable. Any existing boilers or heaters at transformer stations are registered in the EASR. Hydro One will incorporate discussion of this in the final ESR.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			If Guideline A-9 for Boilers and Heaters and or an EASR air submission are not applicable, a discussion noting this in the final ESR is also recommended for public information purposes.	
2.4	28/11/2025	MECP	Additional clarification is required with respect to other different Environmental Assessments that may be indirectly associated with the proposed undertaking. That is, a qualitative air quality impacts discussion on the incremental differences is warranted between the base case scenario (power output) versus the proposed future scenario (power output – proposed 400 MW to service the study area).	We would like to note that this request is outside the scope of the requirements under the Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities (Class EA for TF, 2024). The Class EA for TF clearly states in Section 6.4 that, “the assessment will include the proposed project and another proposed projects in the immediate project area where documentation is available (e.g., other environmental assessments).” Hydro One has completed the Environmental Study Report (ESR) in accordance with these requirements. Further, Hydro One is not able to adequately assess the effects of other undertakings for which it is not the proponent, and therefore the assessment contained in the DKPL ESR must focus on only those projects where effects assessments/impacts statements/ESRs have already been published, or projects where Hydro One is also the proponent and can make informed judgements using our expertise as the largest transmitter and distributor of electricity in Ontario. Regional planning for electricity infrastructure, including considerations of future demand and system needs, is undertaken by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) based on long-term forecasts. Hydro One does not control or assess speculative induced developments or future generation projects, as these are subject to separate planning and regulatory processes and Hydro One is not the proponent of these undertakings. This approach is consistent with the principles we have communicated regarding cumulative effects—Hydro One cannot reasonably predict or evaluate impacts from developments beyond the scope of the immediate vicinity and timing of the undertaking. Section 7.12 of the ESR includes a cumulative effects assessment that describes how the net effects of the Project may combine with effects from other proposed undertakings in the local study area for which the environmental effects are known (have been published by the proponent) or can reasonably be inferred (e.g., Hydro One undertakings in the vicinity) and therefore can be compared directly to DKPL by way of reviewing the overlap of the two in both space and time. Future developments that may be indirectly associated with the Project would be subject to their own applicable environmental assessment processes and regulatory approvals. For these reasons, a qualitative discussion comparing “base case” versus “future scenario” power output is not warranted within the scope of this Class EA. The ESR appropriately addresses the project’s direct and cumulative effects in accordance with the approved methodology.
2.5	28/11/2025	MECP	As noted in the draft ESR, the Project’s construction and operation will result in the temporary release of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and combustion by-products because of increased machinery. It would be beneficial if the proponent	As noted in the draft ESR, GHG emissions associated with the Project will be limited to the construction phase and will primarily result from the use of typical vehicles and construction equipment, with the potential for a temporary generator at a construction yard if required. The anticipated duration of construction is approximately two years.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			could clarify the incremental differences with respect to GHG emissions between the existing and proposed future scenario.	Given the nature of the work, any incremental increase in GHG emissions relative to existing conditions will be negligible. In the context of current vehicle and equipment use within the eastern GTA–Kawartha region, emissions from DKPL construction activities represent a very small and temporary contribution. No additional emissions sources are anticipated during operation, as the Project involves the construction of transmission infrastructure only. For these reasons, we do not feel that any further detailed comparison between “existing” and “future” scenarios is warranted. The ESR appropriately addresses GHG emissions in accordance with the requirements of the Class EA in Section 7.7.2.1.
2.6	28/11/2025	MECP	As per CCME guidelines, Guideline A-9 recommends emission NOx limits for heaters and boilers. For instance, Guideline A-9 stipulates different NOx emission limits for different ranges, such as between 10 - 100 MMBtu/h versus >100 MMBtu/h. Furthermore, the ministry recommends including a discussion if an EASR air submission applies to the proposed undertaking.	Thank you for your comment. Hydro One will not be adding any new boilers or heaters as a result of the Project, therefore Guidelines A-9 for Boilers and Heaters are not applicable. Any existing boilers or heaters at transformer stations are registered in the EASR.
2.7	28/11/2025	MECP	A brief qualitative discussion in the Draft ESR on total suspended particulate (coarser PM10 versus finer particulates PM2.5) emissions sources with respect to the temporary construction impacts may be warranted.	Thank you for your comment. We will include a brief qualitative discussion under Section 7.7.2.2 in the final ESR for total suspended particulate emissions sources with respect to temporary construction impacts. In general, particle sizes can be divided into the following categories: • Particulate matter with a diameter of less than 44 microns (µm) or total suspended particulate • Particles with a diameter of 10 µm or less or PM10 • Particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 µm or PM2.5 Particles with a diameter of 10 µm or less are typically generated during common construction activities such as material handling, stockpiling, fuel combustion and vehicles travelling on paved or unpaved surfaces. Particles with a diameter of 2.5 µm or less are typically generated through fuel combustion processes. Mitigation measures were included in the draft ESR to limit adverse effects from fugitive dust and combustion projects.
2.8	28/11/2025	MECP	Further to the dust mitigation measures discussed in section 7.7.2.2 “Air Quality” of the draft ESR, the proponent should consider the following recommendations, to minimize off-site dust impacts, particularly at critical sensitive receptors: a) The ministry recommends the proponent to include in the commitments section of the ESR a dust best management plan	Section 7.7.2.2 of the ESR already describes the anticipated sources of emissions and the mitigation measures that will be implemented during construction. Emissions will be limited to typical construction equipment and vehicles, with the potential use of a temporary generator at a construction yard if required. All equipment will be properly maintained to minimize emissions. Construction activities are expected to occur over approximately two years. Crews will monitor dust conditions during construction and apply dust suppression

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			to be in place during the construction phase. The following additional items should be considered: • Since mitigation measures will be applied to address the potential effects of air quality from the project, especially during the construction phase, the detailed emission sources associated with the Project during the construction and operation phases should be specified in the report. This information can be used to develop the comprehensive mitigation measures for the proposed project. • There should be trained personnel on-site to monitor the status of dust and air emissions and check the operation/implementation of the mitigation measures. Wherever possible, the proponent may want to consider using an alternative to chemical dust suppressants if feasible, particularly during dry and hot conditions. • A dust complaint protocol including tracking the complaints and implementation of the corrective actions and ambient monitoring if needed should be developed. • Further, it may be beneficial for the proponent to consider conducting ambient monitoring near the worst impacted receptors for the 3km transmission underground stretch in Clarington so that it will minimize off-site dust impacts and by-products of incomplete combustion at the nearest sensitive receptors. • As stipulated in the Draft ESR, disturbed areas will be restored as soon as practical to minimize duration of soil exposure. The proponent may want to consider a revegetation plan to reduce suspended particulate after construction is complete where it is feasible. For further guidance, please refer to Appendix E: “Examples of Typical Mitigation Measures” of Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission lines (Hydro One, February 2024) and Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects.	measures as necessary. Based on experience, water application is the most common and effective method, and Hydro One is prepared to commit to the use of non-chemical dust suppression where feasible. We will confirm the specifics of this approach during detailed design and construction planning. Additional details that may arise during detailed design will be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) post-EA; however, these are not expected to differ significantly from what is already described in the ESR. Complaints and any necessary follow-up actions will be documented by the EPC contractor in accordance with Hydro One’s standard protocols. At this time, Hydro One does not intend to commit to ambient monitoring, as the measures outlined above are considered sufficient to minimize off-site dust impacts and are typical of all previous Hydro One transmission construction projects. Disturbed areas will be restored as soon as practical following construction, and revegetation will be considered where feasible to further reduce particulate matter, with additional interim measures being employed if required.
2.9	28/11/2025	MECP	Lastly, the ministry also recommends additional consultation with residents and businesses adjacent to the transmission line and stations be held in advance of construction commencement to address any questions and concerns related to air quality.	Hydro One commits to continuing consultation with residents and businesses adjacent to the Project in advance of construction commencement to address any questions and concerns related to air quality. Directly impacted property owners within the Right-of-Way have a dedicated Real Estate representative to address concerns regarding project impacts. Hydro One will distribute notices in advance of construction commencement to nearby properties informing them of the planned commencement of construction and inviting any questions or concerns.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
2.10	28/11/2025	MECP	Construction Noise and Vibration: Reference should be made to Ministry Publications NPC-115 “Construction Equipment”, NPC-118 “Motorized Conveyances”, NPC-119 “Blasting” and NPC-207 “Impulse Vibration in Residential Buildings”. Reference should also be made to local municipal noise and vibration by-laws, where applicable.	“All work is expected to be completed using common construction methods and in general accordance with the MECP’s Publication NPC-115 “Construction Equipment”, Publication NPC-118 “Motorized Conveyances” and Publication NPC-119 “Blasting”. Construction activities will also conform to local noise control by-laws or exemptions will be sought from the appropriate Municipality, if needed.
2.11	28/11/2025	MECP	Operational Noise: Publication NPC-360 dated March 31, 2011 should be used to assess the noise emissions from high voltage (HV) transmission lines similar to the one under consideration. Publication NPC-300 is applicable for stationary sources such as transformer substations. The noise assessment for this HV transmission line should be prepared in accordance with Publication NPC-360, while the assessment of transformer substations should be prepared in accordance with Publication NPC-300. It is recommended that all efforts should be made at this stage of the project to identify the predictable worst-case noise impact of the project and if required, investigate noise mitigation measures due to the potential complexities and costs related to post-design or post-construction of the transmission line and transformer substations.	The project will not involve installation of new transformers or any other additional significant noise sources at the Transformer Stations (TS). There are existing Environmental Compliance Approvals for the terminal stations. Hydro One notes that NPC-360 is marked as “final draft” and does not appear to be published publicly anywhere on the Ministry’s website (in contrast to other established guidance such as NPC-300). The noise assessment (predictive modeling) methodology presented in NPC-360 requires an advanced level of detailed design that we have not yet reached for the DKPL project, as our EPC contractor responsible for completing detailed design has not yet been formally awarded the work. While we will not have the required engineering information required to complete this assessment in time to include in the final ESR, we will commit to continue investigating the application of the noise modeling approach described in NPC-360 as we continue to advance detailed design and engineering work, and will keep the Ministry apprised of our progress and preliminary results.
2.12	28/11/2025	MECP	Ministry Documents: attached (Guideline and supporting documentation) are two Ministry guidelines for the assessment of high voltage transmission line projects. Please ensure that the noise report is prepared in accordance with these two Ministry documents. A) Publication NPC-360, (Protocol for Predicting Audible Noise from HV Transmission Lines), of the document titled “Protocol for the Measurement and Prediction of Audible Noise from HV Transmission Lines (Final Draft)” – Publication NPC-360 dated March 31, 2011 (Ver. 2); and B) The example acoustic assessment report for high voltage transmission lines titled “Acoustic Assessment Report, ACME Power Generation, Proposed Green Valley High Voltage Transmission Line, Main Road to Secondary Road Anytown, Ontario” dated April 6, 2011.	The Project will conduct the noise modeling approach described in NPC-360 when the required detailed design and engineering information is available, and will share the results with the MECP when this has been completed.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
2.13	28/11/2025	MECP	Points of Reception: list all points of reception on both sides of the proposed transmission line. It should be noted that an assessment of predicted audible noise (i.e., operational audible noise) is not required for transmission lines of 600 kV or less where the location of a point of reception exceeds 200 metres from the closest edge of the right-of-way (Part A of Publication NPC-360).	The Project will conduct the noise modeling approach described in NPC-360 when the required detailed design and engineering information is available, and will share the results with the MECP when this has been completed. This will include mention of nearby PORs as requested, though we would like to reiterate that the majority (of the DKPL project (approximately 94% of the new transmission line) is located within an existing transmission corridor, where existing lines would be generating comparable levels of operational noise as a baseline condition of the environment for this Project.
2.14	28/11/2025	MECP	Vacant lots: noise sensitive vacant lots and approved (future) developments should be considered in the noise and vibration report.	We will consider noise sensitive vacant lots and approved future developments in the upcoming assessment of predicted audible noise, noting that we are not currently aware of any approved future developments in proximity (i.e., within 200 m) of the proposed Project line ROW. We would like to reiterate that the majority (of the DKPL project (approximately 94% of the new transmission line) is located within an existing transmission corridor, where existing lines would be generating comparable levels of operational noise as a baseline condition of the environment for this Project.
2.15	28/11/2025	MECP	Vibration: identify buildings / receptors that are sensitive to vibration due to construction blasting and piling.	Sensitive receptors will be identified in the project-specific EMP, for consideration when planning work such as implosive splicing locations. As detailed in Section 7.7.2.3 (Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures – Noise and Vibration) of the Draft ESR It should be noted that while implosive conductor splicing locations have not yet been determined, that implosive splicing locations will maintain safe distance from sensitive receptors such as homes. While implosive splicing is the most reliable and commonly used method to splice sections of transmission-voltage conductor, in situations where splicing must occur in close proximity to sensitive receptors (e.g., at heavy angle locations where there may be houses abutting the ROW), non-implosive methods such as compression sleeves will be used. Helical pile foundations are a low-vibration technique and are not anticipated to have any significant risk to structures outside of the ROW. Helical pile foundations were selected for use in part because of the low level of vibration associated with their installation. In some instances where the soil is not conducive to helical pile foundations, the EPC may choose to use augured, cast in place concrete foundations, an approach which Hydro One has historically employed on its transmission structure foundations (e.g., the majority of existing structures within the transmission corridor that is being used for the DKPL project). No hammer driven piles will be used on the project.
2.16	28/11/2025	MECP	Assessment: the noise and vibration impact assessments of all the project components should be included in the noise report. The noise assessment should follow the guidance in item 3A and 3B above. The vibration assessment should follow the guidelines in Publication NPC-119 for Blasting and Publication NPC-207 “Impulse Vibration in Residential Buildings” for piling (impulse vibration).	As noted above, we will prepare a noise modelling assessment once sufficient detailed design work has been completed. Regarding sources of vibration, it should be noted that while implosive conductor splicing locations have not yet been determined, that implosive splicing locations will maintain safe distance from sensitive receptors such as homes. While implosive splicing is the most reliable and commonly used method to splice sections of transmission-voltage

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
				conductor, in situations where splicing must occur in close proximity to sensitive receptors (e.g., at heavy angle locations where there may be houses abutting the ROW), non-implosive methods such as compression sleeves will be used. If it becomes apparent that implosive conductor splicing is required in close proximity to sensitive receptors, then we will follow the guidance referenced by the MECP in this comment. Helical pile foundations are a low-vibration technique and are not anticipated to have any significant risk to structures outside of the ROW. Helical pile foundations were selected for use in part because of the low level of vibration associated with their installation. In some instances where the soil is not conducive to helical pile foundations, the EPC may choose to use augured, cast in place concrete foundations, an approach which Hydro One has historically employed on its transmission structure foundations (e.g., the majority of existing structures within the transmission corridor that is being used for the DKPL project). No hammer driven piles will be used on the project.
2.17	28/11/2025	MECP	UTM coordinates of the PORs: considering the extensive length of this transmission line (approximately 53 km), the UTM coordinates of all selected points of reception should be listed in the noise report and provided in an Excel file.	The upcoming noise modelling assessment will contain an excel spreadsheet listing the Points of Receptors and vacant lots and their UTM with coordinates.
2.18	28/11/2025	MECP	Air Emission Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (AE EASR): Hydro One should confirm whether the Clarington TS and Dobbin TS require Air Emission Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) approval from MECP.	No new emission emitting equipment (e.g. permanent emergency diesel generator) will be installed for this project. Therefore, no station specific air emission mitigation and/or approvals are required. This will be clarified in the final ESR. Any existing generators at transformer stations are accounted for in existing approvals.
2.19	28/11/2025	MECP	Appendix L provides a brief qualitative acknowledgment of climate change but does not reference climate data or future projections. Climate change adaptation is deferred to the detailed design stage, but future design decisions should still be informed by credible climate information and an understanding of what system components are at risk. The ministry recommends that the proponent base future climate adaptation commitments on climatic projections and data rather than general statements. Future design work should consider projected changes in extreme precipitation, temperature, and related system stresses. To assist the project team with addressing this matter, the ministry suggests the following resources: • Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA) Technical Report, 2023, a regional and sector-based climate change impact assessment to support informed decisions that address regional and sector-specific impacts of climate change.	Section 7.7.2.1 will be updated to include a high-level summary of climate projections for the region using publicly available sources (such as ClimateData.ca and a literature review) to inform the suggested adaptation measures. As applicable, information from the PCCIA will be incorporated into the assessment.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			Other resources and data sources include: - Ontario Climate Change Data Portal - Environment and Climate Change Canada's Climate Atlas of Canada and - Canadian Climate Data and Scenarios.	
2.20	28/11/2025	MECP	Appendix A provides consultation records including contact list of indigenous communities, class environmental assessment consultation materials. The review comments are offered below: - Missing Records- all emails, meeting minutes, phone logs, etc. must be provided as part of the final application. - Ensure the records are updated with the Notice of Completion sent and there are outstanding responses that were still to come from Hydro One to the communities. Given that the project is still open for public consultation, and therefore communities can still submit feedback. - Any feedback received from the communities shall be appropriately captured in the updated records as part of the documentation.	Following MECP's review of the Record of Consultation, Hydro One will provide any specific records (emails, meeting minutes, phone logs, etc.) upon MECP's request. To ensure confidentiality and provide a timely response, we plan to submit the requested documentation directly to MECP rather than include it in the public Final ESR. The Notice of Completion sent to First Nation communities on October 29, 2025 will be captured in the record of consultation in the final ESR, including outstanding comment responses at the time of the Notice of Completion and comments received from First Nation communities during the draft ESR comment period.
2.21	28/11/2025	MECP	Please be advised that on June 5, 2025, the Province of Ontario passed Protecting Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 which included amendments to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) that are now in force, and the creation of the Species Conservation Act, 2025 which is not yet in effect. For more information on the amended ESA and guidance to help you determine next steps in the authorization process, please review the attached Applying for a New Permit Under the Amended Endangered Species Act, 2007. These changes are intended to streamline permit applications and approvals and help projects proceed faster while continuing to provide important protections for species at risk and their habitats. The ministry has completed a preliminary review to assess the potential impacts of the proposal on species at risk protected under the Endangered Species Act, 2007. The following preliminary comments are shared to assist the project team moving forward:	Acknowledged. Thank you for the additional information and guidance documents. Hydro One will continue to monitor updates to the Species Conservation Act and its supporting regulations through the ERO and other provincial communications. The Project will follow the applicable legislative and regulatory requirements at the time of construction.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
2.22	28/11/2025	MECP	MECP notes that the Class EA Consultation and the Final Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report have some of the Species at Risk information redacted from the sections listed below. So MECP can conduct a full review of the activities for impacts to species at risk and their habitat, please provide the unredacted documents: - Appendix B: Section 6 - Evaluation of Natural Heritage Features in the Study Area - Appendix B: Place holder for Figure 4: Terrestrial Survey Results - Ecological Land Classification and SAR/Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC)/SCS – which appears should contain the maps for Black Ash, Bank Swallow, Blanding’s Turtle etc.	The unredacted version of the Final Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report (Appendix B of the ESR) will be provided to MECP for their review. Please note that revisions to Section 6 regarding cultural significance and impact to woodlands and BHA genetic testing results will be included in Appendix B of the final ESR as a result of comments received from an Indigenous community during the ESR Comment Period.
2.23	28/11/2025	MECP	When the public consultation process for the Class Environmental Assessment is complete, MECP asks that the client please submit an Information Gathering Form (IGF), which summarizes the proposed activities, the potential impacts to species at risk and their habitat and the proposed mitigations. The Species at Risk Branch technical staff will review the IGF and provide guidance on the most appropriate type of Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) permit or agreement for the activity. Seeking an Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) authorization or exemption is an applicant-led process. Undertaking the necessary due diligence to assess whether an activity qualifies for an exemption, requires a permit, or is outside the scope of the Act, is the responsibility of the person or organization planning to undertake an activity.	Our EPC contractor will submit an IGF after the EA is complete and the detailed design is understood, so that the proposed activities, potential impacts to SAR and their habitat, and the proposed mitigations can be accurately described.
2.24	28/11/2025	MECP	It is recommended the following be completed: 1) Desktop hydrogeological study - This study can be used later to support an application for either a Permit to Take Water or Construction Dewatering EASR should one or the other be required. This study can be completed during the geotechnical investigation for the project. 2) Include a desk top study on Source Water Protection and whether the corridor extends over or is adjacent to any Wellhead Protection Zones or Intake Protection Zones.	Thank you for your recommendations. 1) Hydro One has conducted a geotechnical investigation for the Project, our EPC contractor will evaluate the dewatering requirements during detailed design. 2) Please note that a desktop study was done for Source Water Protection and is incorporated into the draft ESR Section 4.6.5 Source Water Protection. We will include a section in the ESR to discuss Intake Protection Zones. 3) As part of the detailed design, Hydro One will conduct a review of the available contaminated sites databases and information to determine whether any contaminated sites are within or adjacent to the corridor to help support construction planning.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			3) Determine whether any contaminated sites are within or adjacent to the corridor. 4) Include a discussion of the handling of excess soil (O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Management). 5) Completed a wells survey and determine whether any domestic or municipal wells could be impacted (Ontario Regulation 903, Wells).	4) Please note that discussion of the handling of excess soil is included in the Draft ESR under section 7.7.1.4. 5) Please note in section 7.7.4 wells are not anticipated to be significantly affected as a result of dewatering activities associated with transmission line tower foundations, and that Hydro One will commit to conducting a hydrogeological assessment where necessary. We will also incorporate a wells survey as a commitment in the ESR.
3.1	10/12/2025	MCM	The Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions report identified both existing (previously identified/recognized) and potential built heritage resources (BHRs) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs). We recommend that the text be revised to align the ESR with the findings of the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions report. We also recommend additional edits, for consistency with the current legislative framework, including terminology. The term “cultural heritage resources” includes archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes. For consistency, MCM recommends using the correct terminology when referring to each one, and the term “cultural heritage resources” when referring to all three types. Please revise as follows: ~~Archaeological and~~ Cultural Heritage Resources • The Stage 1 [...] completing a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments (and if required Stage 3+) for the ROW and other construction access/work areas as early as possible during detailed design and prior to ground disturbing activities. • Initial Cultural Heritage reporting (Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report) for the PSA identified possible existing and potential Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHL) and Built Heritage Resources (BHR) that could be impacted by the Project. [...]	We thank the MCM for this comment and have revised the terminology accordingly in the ESR.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response						
3.2	10/12/2025	MCM	Please see comment 1 – the use of the term ‘cultural heritage resources’. Please revise as follows: Project activities could result in the following key potential environmental effects: • [...] • ~~Disturb archaeological resources or cultural heritage landscapes~~ resources	This language has been revised accordingly in the ESR.						
3.3	10/12/2025	MCM	MCM recommends that Table 1-1 be revised to specify the Ontario Heritage Act’s (OHA) regulatory requirements. Please revise table 1-1’s “archaeological acceptance letters” row as follows: <table><tr><td>Permit, License, or Approval or Regulatory Requirements</td><td>Primary Agency</td><td>Description</td></tr><tr><td><u>Replace with the following:</u> Ontario Heritage Act - Entry of Archaeological Assessment Reports into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports</td><td>Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)</td><td>Archaeological Assessment for any area of archaeological potential that could be impacted by the project is required to be carried out by a licensed archaeologist as early as possibly during detailed design and prior to ~~any~~ undertaking new ground disturbance activities in areas with archaeological potential.</td></tr></table>	Permit, License, or Approval or Regulatory Requirements	Primary Agency	Description	<u>Replace with the following:</u> Ontario Heritage Act - Entry of Archaeological Assessment Reports into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)	Archaeological Assessment for any area of archaeological potential that could be impacted by the project is required to be carried out by a licensed archaeologist as early as possibly during detailed design and prior to ~~any~~ undertaking new ground disturbance activities in areas with archaeological potential.	Hydro One has accepted all changes from MCM with the exception of the description column which will remain as “Archaeological assessment is required prior to undertaking new ground disturbance in areas with archaeological potential.”
Permit, License, or Approval or Regulatory Requirements	Primary Agency	Description								
<u>Replace with the following:</u> Ontario Heritage Act - Entry of Archaeological Assessment Reports into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)	Archaeological Assessment for any area of archaeological potential that could be impacted by the project is required to be carried out by a licensed archaeologist as early as possibly during detailed design and prior to ~~any~~ undertaking new ground disturbance activities in areas with archaeological potential.								

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
3.4	10/12/2025	MCM	MCM recommends that section 3.7.10 be expanded to record our initial advice provided in response to the Notice of Commencement sent on July 3, 2024. Please revise the section to include the following: On July 3, 2024, MCM responded to the Notice of Commencement with a reminder of Hydro One’s responsibilities under the Ontario Heritage Act and Environmental Assessment Act, including the timing and sequencing of completion of technical cultural heritage studies.	This record has now been added to the ESR and accompanying Record of Consultation.
3.5	10/12/2025	MCM	MCM recommends that this section be revised to make clear Hydro One’s responsibilities under the Ontario Heritage Act Please revise the section as follows: 4.3 Cultural Heritage Resources Provincial heritage properties include three types of cultural heritage resources: archaeological sites, built heritage resources (BHRs) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) (MCM, 2010). Hydro One Networks Inc. is a public body prescribed under Ontario Regulation 157/10 and is required to comply with the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (issued under section 25.2 of the Ontario Heritage Act).	These responsibilities have been revised accordingly in the ESR.
3.6	10/12/2025	MCM	This section should be based on the archaeological assessment report completed and include: • A brief overview of all the stages of archaeological assessment undertaken • The Project Information Form (PIF) number associated with the report • The objective of that stage of assessment (e.g. A Stage 1 AA is a background study to determine area(s) of archaeological potential, a Stage 2 AA is a property assessment to determine whether archaeological resources might be present etc.) • The outcomes (conclusions and recommendations) of the AA are to be articulated in the ESR. If archaeological potential or resources are present, the AA would recommend further archaeological assessment to be undertaken (up to a Stage 4). If there is no archaeological potential or resources present the AA would clearly state that the area specified (and mapped) has no further archaeological concerns. NOTE: The	For the wording change proposed by MCM as follows: “Hydro One commits to completing Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments for these identified areas of archaeological potential along the preferred route during detailed design and prior to ground disturbance ~~construction work~~ occurring on these areas. [...]” Hydro One does not accept this change and will be retaining the original wording in the final ESR.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			conclusions/recommendations are typically included in the Executive Summary of the AA and should be reiterated (cut and paste) in the ESR. • If the Stage 1 AA determined that the study area includes areas of archaeological potential, the ESR will include the map(s) from the AA report showing those areas. MCM also recommends that the subsection title be revised to align with terminology used in other sections of the ESR to refer to archaeological resources. MCM also recommends that minor amendments to the section’s discussion for the Stage 2 AA to indicate the sequencing of the assessment. Please replace section 4.3.1’s discussion of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment with the following: 4.3.1 Archaeological Resources A Stage 1 archaeological assessment (under Project Information Form number P324-0967-2024) was undertaken on March 14, 2025, by TMHC Inc for the Durham to Kawartha Power Line Project study area. A Stage 1 AA consists of a review of geographic, land use and historical information for the property and the relevant surrounding area, and contacting MCM to find out whether, or not, there are any known archaeological sites on or near the property. Its purpose is to identify areas of archaeological potential and further archaeological assessment (e.g., Stage 2-4) as necessary. The Stage 1 has been entered into the Ontario Register of Archaeological Reports, the AA is included in Appendix C. <i>[Then include the outcomes and recommendations of the report, as in Executive Summary, e.g. a Stage 2 AA recommended for part(s) of the Study Area]</i> Then, revise section 4.3.1’s discussion of the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment as follows: TMHC recommended that a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment be completed for all lands exhibiting archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed for the preferred route alternative. Hydro One commits to completing Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments for these identified areas of archaeological potential along the preferred route during detailed design and prior to ground disturbance construction work occurring on these areas. [...]	

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
3.7	10/12/2025	MCM	MCM recommends that the subsection title be revised to align with current legislative framework, including terminology. See comment 2. Please also note that the ESR misattributes the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report to appendix E, instead of appendix D. Please revise the subsection title and references to appendix as follows: 4.3.2 ~~Cultural~~ Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes [...] A copy of the CHEC report is provided in APPENDIX ~~D~~ E	This language has been revised accordingly in the ESR.
3.8	10/12/2025	MCM	MCM is not aware of a “Cultural Heritage Preliminary Constraints Route Evaluation Memo” that this section refers to. MCM recommends that the reference to the memo be revised to refer to the CHEC Report and the PIA. Please also note the Stage 1 AA should not be considered “completed” until entry into the Register. Please refer to the cover letter. Please revise as follows: The following data was used to evaluate Socio-Economic Environment criteria: [...] - Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment completed undertaken for the Project; - Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report and Preliminary Impact Assessment ~~Constraints Route Evaluation Memo~~ completed for the Project; and	Hydro One has removed mentions of the Preliminary Constraints Route Evaluation Memo from the ESR, which was prepared in advance of the CHEC to include Cultural Heritage inputs to the route evaluation. It is noted that the Preliminary Impact Assessment Report is not developed until the preferred route is determined and therefore was completed after the stage of the EA described in this section of text. As such this change was not made to the ESR.
3.9	10/12/2025	MCM	Tables 5-3, 5-5, 5-7, and 5-11 refer to Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes as “Cultural Resources.” MCM recommends that the criteria titles in these tables be changed to “built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes” to align with the current legislative framework, including terminology. Please refer to comment #1 above.	Changes will be made to Table 5-3, 5-7 and 5-11. There was no instance of Cultural Heritage Resources in Table 5-5 and therefore the change cannot be made.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			Please revise the criterion “cultural resources” to “built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.” The indicator should be revised as follows: “Number of known and potential Built Heritage Resources (BHRs) and Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHLs) within PSA.” The indicator for archaeological resources should be revised as follows: Number of ~~features~~ areas of archaeological potential within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within 300 m of ROW. Area (ha) that requires Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment within ROW.	
3.10	10/12/2025	MCM	MCM recommend that section 7.3 be revised to align with the requirements under Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act and the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, c.33. Please revise section 7.3 as follows: [...] A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment is required for the preferred route, for all lands exhibiting archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed. Prior to construction in these areas, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with MCM requirements. If the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment identifies the need for further assessment, a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment or Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment will occur as required and as outlined in the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011). ~~Copies of all Archaeological Assessment reports will be submitted to MCM before construction work begins on the areas covered by those reports. Approval authorities and/or~~	Hydro One will include the following wording in Section 7.3: A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment is required for the preferred route, for all lands exhibiting archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed. Prior to construction in these areas, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with MCM requirements. If the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment identifies the need for further assessment, a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment or Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment will occur as required and as outlined in the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011). Copies of all Archaeological Assessment reports will be submitted to MCM before construction work begins on the areas covered by those reports. Further stages of archaeological assessment (if recommended) be undertaken as early as possible during detailed design and prior to any ground disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity of the areas (sites) requiring these additional stages of archaeological assessment.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response												
			proponents should wait to receive the MCM’s written confirmation that the archaeological assessment report(s) has been entered into the Register before issuing a decision or proceeding with any ground disturbing activities. The letter will also indicate either that there are no further concerns for impacts to archaeological resources or articulate next steps to mitigate any concerns. At this time, the recommendations of the AA reports should be considered preliminary until the report is entered into the Register. Proponents must follow the recommendations of the archaeological assessment report(s). MCM recommends that further stages of archaeological assessment (if recommended) be undertaken as early as possible during detailed design and prior to any ground disturbing activities. [...]													
3.11	10/12/2025	MCM	<table><tr><td colspan="4">Please revise the “Archaeological Resources” and “Cultural Heritage” rows of Table 7-2 as follows:</td></tr><tr><th>Environmental Concern</th><th>Project Phase & Potential Effects</th><th>Mitigation Measures</th><th>Net Effects</th></tr><tr><td>Archaeological Resources</td><td>Detailed Design & Construction: Disturbance or destruction of ~~to lands with potential to contain~~ archaeological resources.</td><td>Prior to construction, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) requirements. Hydro One has made commitments to First Nations that Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments will use enhanced pedestrian survey methodology and some areas that were</td><td>[please replace with the following...] Net effects are predicted not to be significant</td></tr></table>	Please revise the “Archaeological Resources” and “Cultural Heritage” rows of Table 7-2 as follows:				Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects	Archaeological Resources	Detailed Design & Construction: Disturbance or destruction of ~~to lands with potential to contain~~ archaeological resources.	Prior to construction, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) requirements. Hydro One has made commitments to First Nations that Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments will use enhanced pedestrian survey methodology and some areas that were	[please replace with the following...] Net effects are predicted not to be significant	Hydro One does not accept the changes to the “Mitigation Measures” or the “Net Effects” columns and will be retaining the original wording in the final ESR. Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes Changes to the “Environmental Concerns, Project Phase & Potential Effects” and “Net Effects” columns have been accepted. Changes to “Mitigation Measures” will follow the completed PIA Executive Summary as requested and follows: The PIA determined the following mitigation measures: • One CHL is anticipated to be directly impacted. While the proposed work will result in changes to the landscape/natural features, this has not been identified as an adverse impact to the property’s cultural heritage value or interest. As such, not direct adverse impacts to cultural heritage value or interest are anticipated and no further cultural heritage studies are recommended for the CHL; • Construction activities (e.g. access) to thirty-eight BHRs and CHLs will constitute potential impacts. Postconstruction restoration, including the removal of all construction-related features, will return the land to pre-construction agricultural or natural conditions. No impacts are anticipated to three BHRs and CHLs and no further cultural heritage assessments or mitigation measures are recommended; and Any changes to the proposed ROW, including the alignment or if additional staging or laydown areas are added beyond the existing Project Study Area, then the proposed work must be reviewed by a qualified Cultural Heritage Specialist to confirm the anticipated impacts and confirm any new preliminary impacts. Where possible, laydown areas should be located within previously disturbed or developed areas to minimize the potential for heritage impacts and will be restored to pre-construction conditions following completion of the Project.
Please revise the “Archaeological Resources” and “Cultural Heritage” rows of Table 7-2 as follows:																
Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects													
Archaeological Resources	Detailed Design & Construction: Disturbance or destruction of ~~to lands with potential to contain~~ archaeological resources.	Prior to construction, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) requirements. Hydro One has made commitments to First Nations that Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments will use enhanced pedestrian survey methodology and some areas that were	[please replace with the following...] Net effects are predicted not to be significant													

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment					Response
					previously assessed will be revisited. If the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment identifies the need for further assessment, a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, or Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment (and any additional archaeological work required) will occur as required and as outlined in the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011). Copies of all Archaeological Assessment reports will be submitted to MCM before construction work begins on the areas covered by those reports. All associated archaeological assessment reports shall be entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports prior to any ground disturbing activities. In the event potential archaeological			

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment					Response
					resources are encountered during construction, [...]			
			Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes Resources	Construction: Based on the ~~baseline~~ findings of the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions (CHEC) and Preliminary Impact Assessment Reports, there is the potential for project-related works to ~~adversely impact affect~~ known or potential built heritage resources (BHRs) or cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) within the Study Area of the preferred route.	<u>Please revise based on the PIA's Summary Statement (pg. 53-54).</u>	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, ~~including the completion of~~ CHERs and/or Heritage Impact Assessment prior to construction, net effects from direct and impacts known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes are expected to be minimized.		
3.12	10/12/2025	MCM	There appears to be discrepancies between the findings of the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report as discussed in section 4.3.2, the report itself, and those discussed in section 7.3. MCM recommends that this section be revised based on the findings of the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report. Please consult 'Executive Summary' section. MCM recommends that section 7.3 be revised for clarity and consistency. Please also refer to our comments in the cover letter above and Table 3 below. Please revise section 7.4 as follows: Following the completion of the CHEC, Hydro One retained AECOM to complete a Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) (APPENDIX D) for the preferred route, including all properties within the 120 m buffer on either side of the proposed centreline					Thank you for bringing this error to our attention, Hydro One will update Section 7.4 as requested.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			of the preferred route. The Study Area was determined to include 556 known and potential BHRs and/or CHLs including 46 with potential cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) and 10 cultural heritage resources listed on municipal heritage registers (AECOM, 2025b).	
3.13	10/12/2025	MCM	<i>June 6, 2025 comment on the CHEC Report:</i> <i>MCM recommends that a new historical overview section be included in the report. The section should include a summary of historical development within the study area, including Indigenous land-use and Euro-Canadian land use and settlement to contextualize the existing conditions discussed later in the report. This research can be conducted using primary and secondary sources of information, review of existing heritage inventories, heritage reporting, historical mapping, etc.</i> <u>Addressed:</u> CHEC report is updated to include historical context of study area (Section 4.0 – <i>Historical Context</i>).	Thank you.
3.14	10/12/2025	MCM	<i>June 6, 2025 comments on the CHEC Report:</i> <i>MCM understands the report makes provisions for forthcoming study area maps (Appendix A: Mapping). Maps should depict the study area, project Right-Of-Way, transformer stations, along with the cultural heritage resources documented in Table 2, and the two potential route options discussed in section 1.2.</i> <u>Addressed:</u> CHEC report now includes map depicting study area, corridor ROW, route options, as well as the existing and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.	Thank you.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
3.15	10/12/2025	MCM	<i>June 6, 2025 comments on the CHEC Report:</i> MCM recommend that the section title be revised to remove the term ‘Community’ (e.g. Consultation, Information Gathering, Stakeholder Engagement). Note that MCM is not considered a community member, but a member of the Government Review Team under an environmental assessment process and the administrator of the Ontario Heritage Act. <u>Addressed:</u> The section has been retitled ‘Stakeholder Engagement.’	Thank you.
3.16	10/12/2025	MCM	<i>June 6, 2025 comments on the CHEC Report:</i> As is noted in table 1, comment 13, there is discrepancies within the PIA. For reference, Section 5.2 – Summary of the Results-Preferred Route Analysis of the CHEC concludes with the following: Based on the findings of Table 2, the CHEC has found the following number of potential and known BHRs and CHLs: Route Option A: • One (1) potential BHR • Three (3) potential CHLs Route Option B: • Two (2) potential CHLs Existing Corridor: • One (1) known BHR • Five (5) potential BHRs • Nine (9) known CHLs • Thirty-eight (38) potential CHLs The executive summary of the PIA indicates that route option B has prevailed as the preliminarily preferred route. Thus, fifty-five (55) known and potential BHRs and CHLs are situated within the preferred route. Table 1 aligns with this, tabulating forty-nine (49) CHLs and six (6) BHRs, despite that there is no ‘BHR 1’ listed in the Table; the enumeration of BHRs begins with ‘BHR 2’. Despite the above, the PIA consistently refers to a total of fifty-six (56) CHLs and BHRs as being situated in the study area. MCM recommends that the project team review the findings of the CHEC and PIA for accuracy.	Thank you for your comment. Revisions were made to the draft PIA, including updates to the introduction and summary statement, and the addition of a footnote in Table 1 under CHL 1 to provide clarification.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			<i>MCM understands that the 'BHR 1' included in the CHEC and omitted from the PIA is situated solely in Option A's study area, and thus not apart of the preferred route.</i> Revise based on findings.	

Table 3-11: Interest Group Comments on Draft ESR

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
1	10/30/2025	Construct Connect	Can you please confirm if the detailed design will be completed in house or is an external firm engaged for this phase? Will Hydro One be publicly tendering any of the work for this project, or will a construction manager be engaged for the procurement phase?	Thank you for reaching out to learn more about the Durham Kawartha Powerline project's next steps. We are in the process of retaining an engineering contractor for the DKPL work, including procurement and detailed design work. Once the contractor is selected, we will be working with directly affected property owners for any property specific considerations.
2	10/30/2025	Kawartha Land Trust	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Study Report for the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project. It appears that the choice to use an existing transmission line is a great way to limit impact. In particular I applaud Hydro One's commitment to Enhanced Community Benefit, mitigation measures and Biodiversity Initiatives. While it does appear from the report that the impact from this work will not be significant there will still be impact. I am particularly interested in knowing how offsetting this impact can be an opportunity to improve the surrounding land and communities. For example: Table 5-11 indicates that alternative route B will affect 11.7ha of ag land within ROW. While compensation to the landowner effected is good, if this is the amount of land effected by the immediate footprint of the new towers, that land is now permanently out of production. Is there an opportunity to support initiative's that offset this loss? There are existing initiatives in the community to permanently protect and make accessible agricultural lands to new farmers. Table 5-11 indicates that 12.1 ha of vegetation will be affected. Is this an opportunity to contribute to the enhancement of permanently protected natural communities in the surrounding area?	Thank you for taking the time to review the Environmental Study Report and share your thoughtful comments and ideas. We truly appreciate your recognition of Hydro One's efforts to minimize impacts through the use of an existing transmission corridor, as well as your support for our Enhanced Community Benefit, mitigation measures, and Biodiversity Initiatives. You've raised excellent points regarding opportunities to offset project impacts in ways that could provide lasting benefits to surrounding lands and communities. Suggestions such as enhancing permanently protected natural areas and contributing to local species-at-risk initiatives align well with the types of projects typically considered under our Biodiversity Initiative. While the initiative is not restricted to the project footprint, we generally prioritize opportunities within the region or watershed of the project. Our contractor will also be responsible for restoring areas within the project footprint following construction. At this stage, the project has not advanced to a level of detailed design that would allow us to assess residual effects requiring compensation. These effects are anticipated to be minimal given the use of existing transmission corridors to avoid new long-term habitat changes. Our approach will continue to prioritize avoidance, mitigation, minimization, and restoration wherever possible. The Biodiversity Initiative is intended as an additional measure to deliver regional habitat benefits after all regulatory requirements and restoration obligations have been met. In the past, Hydro One has invited interested parties to submit proposals for habitat creation and enhancement projects, which may include wetland restoration, wildlife habitat improvements, habitat restoration, and invasive species management. We anticipate a similar process for this project following completion of the Class EA and OEB Leave-to-Construct approvals.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
			It's stated that minimal vegetation and trees will be removed. Within this minimal area are there ways to utilize wood fiber or rescue plants? There are several initiatives in the region which could improve their capacity to deliver this type of mitigation service at a low cost, if given the opportunity. While the impact to recreational assets in the area is expected to be temporary, temporary impact remains an impact. Can this impact be mitigated through investments in infrastructure improvements after the temporary construction period is complete? The impact to SAR (in particular grassland birds) could be offset via contribution to local grassland bird protection projects that yield permanent results, rather than simply allowing the transient ecosystem that these birds require to be temporarily recovered under the transmission line. The above are simply ideas. I would be happy to discuss further if there is any interest. In summary, I suppose I am asking - How will your enhancing community benefit and biodiversity initiatives be as well planned as this EIS is? I expect that starting these conversations early, with those undertaking work in the surrounding area would yield high quality results that Hydro One could be proud of. Happy to discuss. Thank you	In addition to biodiversity initiatives, Hydro One provides funding through its Enhanced Community Benefit Program to local municipalities for projects that deliver lasting community improvements. These may include investments in community infrastructure, recreational facilities, or other initiatives that support local priorities. We greatly value your input and believe that early conversations can lead to meaningful outcomes. Please let me know if you'd like to be included in reach outs regarding the biodiversity initiative when the time comes. Thank you again for your engagement and for sharing these important perspectives.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Commenter	Comment	Response
3	7/11/2025	Trans Canada Trail	I hope this email finds you well. I'm reaching out on behalf of Trans Canada Trail (TCT) with regards to how the Hydro One Durham Kawartha Power Line Project relates to TCT. Based on your project map, it appears as though the new powerlines would cross over a section of the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail just before connecting to the Dobbin Transformer Station in Peterborough. I've included a screenshot of where the Kawartha Trans Canada Trail runs just south of Dobbin TS below for your reference: [map inserted] Given the project's intersection with one of our registered trails, I would greatly appreciate if you could provide further details on the construction timeline for this section and outline any expected disturbance to the trail, such as whether it will need to be realigned or temporarily closed, and for approximately how long. I would also appreciate being continued as an interest holder and notified prior to any trail disturbances so that we can update our map appropriately. Thank you kindly in advance!	Thank you for reaching out to learn more about the Durham Kawartha Powerline Project. Construction activities will generally be conducted sequentially along the transmission corridor starting in early 2027. We anticipate that construction activities along the corridor will result in short-term, temporary impacts. Once detailed design is complete, we will have a better understanding of the impacts to the area you have identified and will be able to provide notice prior to construction or potential disturbance to the area.

Table 3-12: General Public Comments on Draft ESR

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Comment	Response
1	29/10/2025	I am an impacted property owner. Please change my email address on file to the new one I have provided. Thank you	Thank you for reaching out, we will update your email on the DKPL project contact list.
2	03/11/2025	I am concerned about the electricity that comes out of the larger towers and lines. I understand that it can cause health problems. Also, this problem and the appearance of these larger towers can depreciate the property value. Please confirm that you have received my concerns.	We are writing in response to your letter regarding the Durham Kawartha Powerline project. We appreciate your interest and wanted to follow up on a few questions you asked. With regards to health concerns regarding Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF), Hydro One looks to health experts such as Health Canada who for more than 30 years have concluded scientific research does not demonstrate EMFs cause or contribute to adverse health effects. Hydro One takes safety seriously and we design and operate our equipment in accordance with all regulatory requirements to account for safety. Regarding impact on property value, we are working directly with impacted property owners about property specific questions and concerns. Your dedicated real estate representative will continue to work with you regarding your property specific questions. They can be reached by phone at [redacted]. Regarding towers outside your property, we understand property value consists of many factors, this project has leveraged the opportunity to use existing transmission line corridors to minimize the impacts of the line. We welcome your input during this planning stage of the project to take into consideration regarding the design. Please reach out to us at any time at Community.Relations@HydroOne.com or toll-free at 1-877-345-6799. Thank you for your continued engagement you have any further questions please do not hesitate to reach out.
3.1	13/11/2025	I am reading the draft report, highlights first. Here are some comments. On the whole, I am in favour of this project. We are in urgent need of better electrical transmission networks because getting off fossil fuels is an urgent mission and the replacement of such fuels is largely dependent on electricity generated by alternate means. I am not in favour of new nuclear plants because the problem of waste disposal has not been solved in spite of decades of research, but as an interim measure, use of existing reactors is acceptable. Who knows, maybe fusion will become possible in my lifetime, and thorium promises less waste. I am also pleased to see significant consulting with Indigenous communities and other affected residents.	Thank you for your interest in the Durham Kawartha Power Line project and for taking the time to read through our draft Environmental Study Report highlights. Please find below responses to the questions you've noted in your email. Vehicles Used for Construction About the equipment that will be used for the construction of the new line, again we are currently working to retain a contractor. We are still completing the detailed design phase before we identify exactly what crews and equipment will be necessary for execution. Hydro One is committed to transmitting and distributing electricity in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Feel free to check out our 2024 Sustainability Report, you might be interested in initiatives like our fleet electrification goals.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Comment	Response
3.2	13/11/2025	"Over the lifecycle of the project, we expect to create approximately 100 jobs." This is hard to evaluate. It could mean jobs for a day. It could mean work done elsewhere in manufacturing. If you want to claim a positive benefit to the community, you could say, for example, "x person-hours of local work for skilled trades". Otherwise, it's just marketing fluff. "Minimize vehicle and equipment idling and maintain equipment to reduce fossil fuel emissions". Does Hydro One expect to begin to use EVs during the project? I recognise that electric-powered heavy construction equipment is difficult or impossible to source at this time, but smaller vehicles? This would help send an important message to manufacturers.	Estimated Job Creation Regarding the job creation estimate outlined, this is our best estimate of the amount of skilled individuals needed to complete the nearly two-year construction phase of this project. We are in the process of retaining a contractor and we make every effort to hire locally.
3.3	13/11/2025	"Implosive splicing is a process to join pieces of wire." 50 years ago, I worked in a wire rope and cable factory. I had to splice by hand and weld wires with a torch. This sounds interesting. (Just a personal remark, not meant for action.)	Implosive Splicing We appreciate your interest in the implosive splicing method, it is interesting! As outlined in the highlights document, while this process does create noise, it will happen at predetermined times and is not expected to last very long. We will take steps to ensure landowners are aware of upcoming work in advance.
3.4	13/11/2025	I will read the full report shortly, perhaps it answers this question which I didn't read in the highlights: What is the expected lifetime of this upgrade, in terms of anticipated future loads and longevity of the installed infrastructure? I know the first is hard to anticipate given the uncertain nature of our transition to renewables, but I assume you have a planning estimate, together with the factors affecting variances.	Lifetime of the Upgrade Hydro One's current Transmission lines are designed to last 100 years or more with regular maintenance and component replacements throughout that period. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is responsible for the long-term planning of Ontario's electricity needs. They regularly conduct analysis to determine future load growth needs. Hydro One is responsible for building DKPL to meet the future needs identified by the IESO as the region is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years.
3.5	13/11/2025	On the certificate issue I mentioned to you, I still get the same error message today. As I said before, it doesn't affect me because I am aware of it, but it concerns the online safety of customers who may use the URL without the "www." prefix, and I note that the Draft Report Highlights uses the address without the prefix "View the full draft report and provide your input today. HydroOne.com/DKPL" What happens for you if you open that link while not accessing via Hydro One's network? Do you get "https:" in your address bar or other indication that it's secure? My browser shows a lock icon when it's secure and hovering over it shows the certificate issuer, which it does when using the www. prefix. If you can reproduce this yourself while not accessing via Hydro One's network, you can test yourself in future. I'm using the Firefox browser, with alerts on. Note the red line through the lock in the image of the address bar, below. Yes, Firefox says "What could be causing this?" • Most likely, the web site simply does not support HTTPS. • It's also possible that an attacker is involved. If you decide to visit the web site, you should not enter any sensitive information like passwords, emails, or credit card details."	The Project Website I have shared your concerns about our project website with our website team for their input and they assure me that our website uses an SSL encryption certificate and uses HTTPS. If you are continuing to experience issues accessing our website and would like to receive a hard copy of our materials, please let us know and we will be happy to provide those by mail or through your land use agent. Thank you for your interest in this project. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions.

Comment Number	Date of Comment	Comment	Response
		but having a web site not supporting HTTPS in 2025 is unprofessional at best and leaves customers vulnerable to the second point, especially if they then turn off the alerts in their browser. Bad actors are everywhere and very smart and not all customers know how to protect themselves. Electrical grids are prime targets for bad actors; surely your engineers are aware of attacks by both Russia and China on infrastructure providers? I would expect anything remotely to do with energy infrastructure to be far more secure than others. I've had my say, I won't look at this again.	
4	20/11/2025	Does the new power line being installed north along Bowmanville Avenue which runs directly in front of my house have anything to do with the DK Power line project? If so how will my property be impacted? They've already cut plenty of trees down in the road allowance along the front of my house and it appears a large hydro pole will be installed dead centre of my front lawn to run the new lines. We have two fresh water sources located in our valley which we do not want contaminated nor disturbed in any way. What further impacts can we expect?	Thank you for reaching out to learn more about the work Hydro One is doing in your area. The work you're referring to is part of our distribution line relocation, which is separate from the Durham Kawartha Power Line (DKPL) project. The DKPL project is a new 230-kilovolt line that will use mostly existing transmission corridors. You can view the map below or visit our project website at HydroOne.com/DKPL for more information. Regarding the distribution line construction, this work is taking place within the road allowance including along Bowmanville Ave in coordination with the Municipality of Clarington. To ensure the safe operation of the overhead lines, some vegetation will need to be removed to maintain proper clearances for safety and reliability. For any work on private property, our distribution team will speak directly with impacted property owners. In terms of your concerns about potential impacts to fresh water sources, distribution poles are relatively shallow in depth and are not known to affect fresh water supplies. Please let us know if you have any further questions. Thank you again for contacting us to learn more.
5	21/11/2025	A property owner left a message on the Hydro One Community Relations voicemail inquiring about the location of the Project in proximity to her home.	Hydro One Community Relations returned a phone call left on their voicemail from a property owner. The property owner shared their address and Hydro One confirmed that their property was not impacted by the Project. The property owner was encouraged to use the interactive map on the website to view the Project route.
6	28/11/2025	A property owner called to confirm their property's proximity to the line.	Hydro One Real Estate returned the property owner's call to address her questions and confirm that her property is not impacted by the line.

4 Environmental Inventory

The following sections summarize the environmental baseline conditions in the study areas. Information presented below was obtained through published documents, government agency resource databases and mapping tools, municipal websites, government planning and guidance documents, relevant project documents, reports commissioned by Hydro One, primary data collection through targeted field surveys, and input received through consultation with Rightsholders and stakeholders.

In accordance with Section 3.3.4 of the Class EA document (Hydro One Networks Inc., 2024), information for the below factors was collected for the purposes of defining existing conditions:

- Agricultural resources;
- Forestry resources;
- Cultural heritage resources (i.e., archeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes and);
- Land use and communities;
- Mineral resources;
- Natural environment resources (e.g., air, land, water, wildlife, etc.);
- Recreational resources; and,
- Visual and aesthetic resources.

Natural and Socio-Economic environment baseline conditions are described in the following sections. Desktop information for the Natural and Socio-Economic Environment was generally collected within the LSA, while Natural Environment field surveys were completed mostly within the PSA. The following Natural Environment field surveys were completed in 2024: breeding bird surveys, ELC and botanical inventory, general wildlife and wildlife habitat surveys, and eDNA sampling. Additional field studies will be conducted in the LSA in 2025 including amphibian surveys, breeding bird surveys, ELC, and botanical surveys in areas that were not accessible in 2024. Field surveys were undertaken between April 2024 and November of 2024 as well as April 2025 to June 2025 to assess baseline environmental conditions and significant natural values to inform the Class EA. Additional information beyond the PSA is provided for some environmental features where additional context is appropriate.

Hydro One offered participation in the field studies to all the First Nation communities engaged on the Project as outlined in **Section 3**. Where private property access was granted in advance of the field programs, field studies occurred within or directly adjacent to natural heritage features. Where private property access was not granted and the property was associated with

a natural feature(s), field data was collected from the public road allowance, and/or from property limits where access was granted. Field data collected from adjacent lands was supplemented with information collected through aerial imagery interpretation and secondary data sources. Results of the natural heritage field surveys are summarized in the Natural Environment Existing Conditions Technical Report for the Project (**APPENDIX B**). A summary of the 2024 and 2025 field survey program results is summarized in **Section 4.6.7**, below.

4.1 Agricultural Resources

The Canada Land Inventory (CLI) classification system rates agricultural land capability according to CLI data (1998). The CLI classification system ranges from Class 0 to Class 7 soil capability; all Classes can be found within the LSA and PSA, with Class 1 and Class 6 being the most prevalent (**Figure 4-1**). The CLI soil class descriptions for agriculture, as well as area of overlap are outlined below (AAFC, 2024):

- Class 0: Organic soils (not placed in capability classes) (578.5 ha of the LSA and 107.1 of the PSA);
- Class 1: no significant limitations in use for crops, prime agricultural lands capable of sustained production of cultivated field crops (2,554 ha of the LSA and 670.6 ha of the PSA);
- Class 2: moderate limitations that restrict the range of crops or require moderate conservation practices (178.6 ha of the LSA and 26.4 ha of the PSA);
- Class 3: moderately severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require conservation practices (141.3 ha of the LSA and 43.8 ha of the PSA);
- Class 4: severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices (246.4 ha of the LSA and 52.6 ha of the PSA);
- Class 5: very severe limitations that restrict soil capability in producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are feasible (327.1 ha of the LSA and 74.4 ha of the PSA);
- Class 6: capable only of producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are not feasible (1,275.9 ha of the LSA and 316.4 ha of the PSA); and
- Class 7: Soils in this class have no capacity for arable culture or permanent pasture (162.4 ha of the LSA and 37.7 ha of the PSA).

A large majority of lands located within the northeastern portion of the PSA and LSA between the City of Peterborough and the community of Ballyduff are classified as Class 1 to Class 3 soils, supporting agricultural lands and agricultural activities. Lands located between the community of Ballyduff and Burketon Station are mainly classified as Class 6 soils, where soils

in this class are capable of only producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are not typically feasible. Additional lands located in the southwest portion of the PSA and LSA, south of Burketon Station between Enfield and the Clarington TS are also generally classified as Class 1 and Class 2 soils. The presence of some Class 0 soils exists within the areas near Fleetwood Creek near the Village of Bethany, as well as near Hooton Drive, Parkhill Road West, and Lily Lake Road in the northeastern portion of the PSA and LSA.

As noted above, agriculture land use is present throughout a large extent of the PSA and LSA. Agriculture land use comprises the majority of the land base within the LSA along each route alternatives (MAFA, 2024). Route Alternative A overlaps 9.43 ha of agricultural lands within the ROW, whereas Route Alternative B overlaps 11.7 ha within the ROW. These lands include agricultural fields and specialty crops with the majority used for active crop production. The majority of agricultural crop production located within the LSA and PSA include grasslands, vegetables, oilseeds, wheats, as well as some cereals (AAFC, 2025).

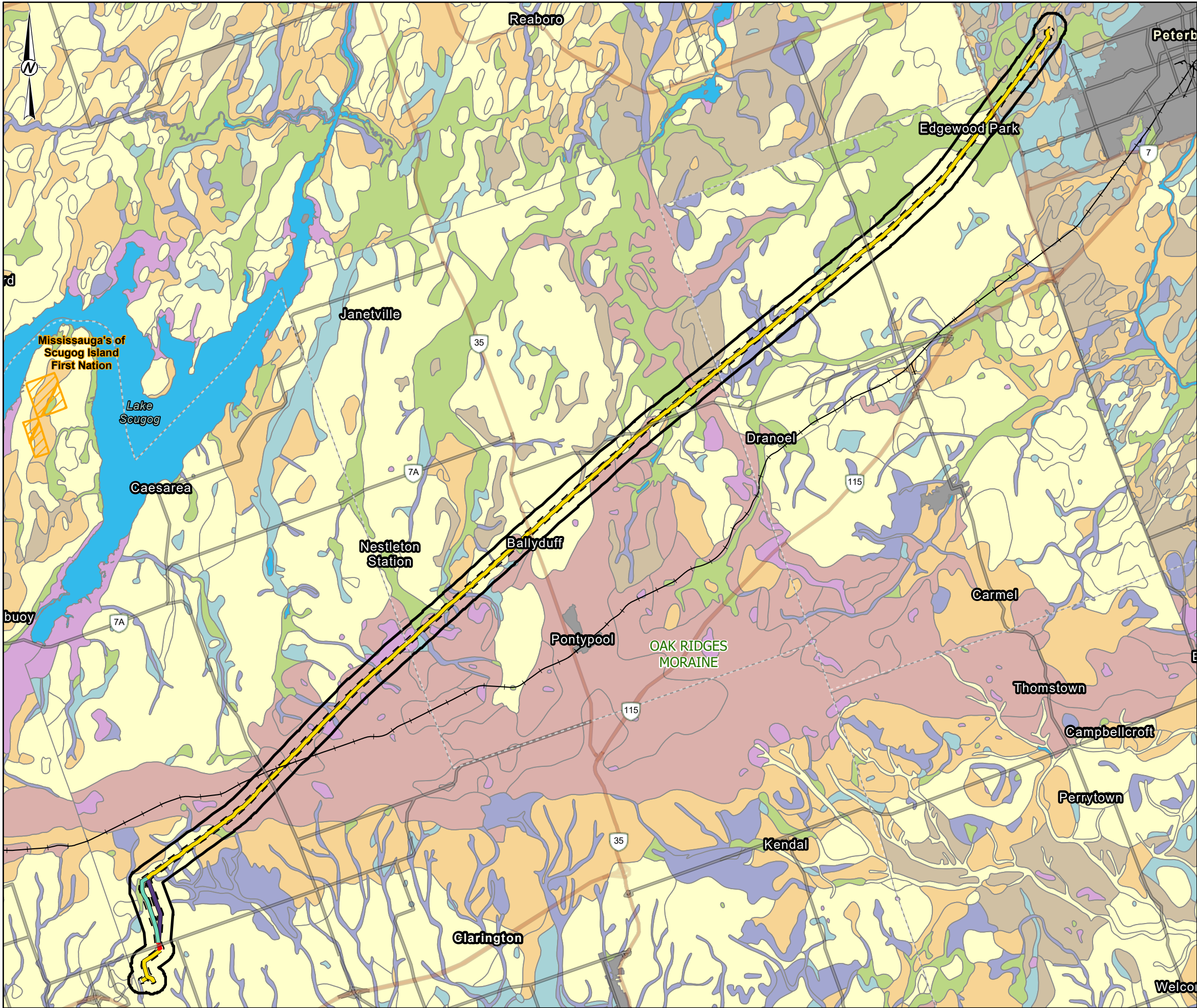
In addition, agricultural tile drainage is present north of Hooton Drive/west of Howden Quarter Line, east of Highway 10/west of Howden Quarter Line, north of Sharpe Line near Winslow Quarter Line, near the intersection of Highway 7A and Porter Road, south of Highway 7A and Forgotten Lane, north of the intersection near Ballyduff Road and Highway 35, near the intersection of Devitts Road and Manvers Scugog Townline Road, east of Mountjoy Road, within the area of Enfield Road and Concession Road 9, and west of the Clarington TS (MAFA, 2024). There are no agricultural drains mapped by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness (MAFA) overlapping the PSA or LSA (MAFA, 2024). There may be other fields with tile drainage in the study area, beyond those identified.

The majority of soils located in the northeastern extent of the PSA and LSA from the City of Peterborough to the Village of Bethany are classified as Burnisolic soils, which are typically associated with forested soils (MAFA, 2024). The parent material of these soils is typically derived from igneous rocks and typically have moderately or highly acidic pH values and support a coniferous-dominated cover. However, they are also found developed in sandy parent materials in regions underlain by base-rich sedimentary rock, which is typical of the characteristics of the PSA and LSA. Under these conditions, soils will often have a slightly acidic or basic pH and may have a Mixedwood (deciduous and coniferous) tree cover (CSSS, 2020).

Luvisolic soils are found in the southwestern extent of the PSA and LSA from the Village of Bethany to the Clarington TS (MAFA, 2024). Luvisolic soils are dominant in forested landscapes and underlain by loamy tills derived from the underlying bedrock or on clayey glaciolacustrine deposits. These soils typically have neutral or alkaline pH values; however, some acidic Luvisols may be found (CSSS, 2020). Luvisolic soils are prone to compaction

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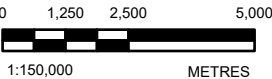
where anthropogenic activities (i.e., agriculture and/or forestry) take place due to the presence of clay within subsoil layers. Where clayey soils are present, soil permeability is often restricted (including water/air movement and root growth) (Lavkulich, & Arocena, 2011).



SCALE 1:1,500,000

LEGEND

- TRANSFORMER STATION (TS)
- RAILWAY
- SECTION OF PREFERRED ROUTE TO BE UNDERGROUND
- PREFERRED ROUTE
- ROUTE ALTERNATIVE A CENTERLINE
- ROUTE ALTERNATIVE B CENTERLINE
- PROJECT STUDY AREA (PSA)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA)
- FIRST NATION RESERVE
- SOIL CLASSIFICATION
 - CLASS 1 NO SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS IN USE FOR CROPS
 - CLASS 2 MODERATE LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CROPS
 - CLASS 3 MODERATELY SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CROPS
 - CLASS 4 SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR CROPS
 - CLASS 5 VERY SEVERE LIMITATIONS PRECLUDE ANNUAL CULTIVATION; IMPROVEMENTS FEASIBLE
 - CLASS 6 NATURAL GRAZING ONLY; NO IMPROVEMENTS FEASIBLE
 - CLASS 7 NO CAPABILITY FOR AGRICULTURE
 - O ORGANICS
 - W WATER
 - BUILT-UP AREA



NOTE(S)
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)
1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: WORLD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: ESRI, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, HERE, GARMIN, FAO, USGS, NGA, EPA, NPS, AAFC, NRCAN
HYBRID REFERENCE LAYER: SOURCES: ESRI, TOMTOM, GARMIN, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY
3. ROUTE ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED BY HYDRO ONE INC. OCTOBER 25TH, 2024.
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT
HYDRO ONE

PROJECT
DURHAM KAWARTHA POWERLINE PROJECT

TITLE
SOIL CAPABILITY

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-02
DESIGNED	DB	
PREPARED	DB	
REVIEWED	CR	
APPROVED	BV	



PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
CA0020403.4964	0014	0	4-1

4.2 Forestry Resources

Timber harvesting in Ontario occurs on both Crown and private land. Forest harvesting on Crown land occurs according to the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* (Government of Ontario, 1994). Private land harvest occurs at the discretion of landowners or municipalities that have tree removal bylaws.

While there are several woodlands located within the Study Area, they fall outside of Forestry Management Units, Agreement Forest Areas, Forest Cover Units, Forest Resource Inventory Areas, or Wood Use Areas Forest Resources as identified through the MNR Forest Resource Inventory (MNR, 2021c; MNR, 2025c). As such, there is no potential for the Project to affect the productivity or utilization of the land for timber harvesting.

4.3 Cultural Heritage Resources

Provincial heritage properties include three types of cultural heritage resources: archaeological sites, built heritage resources (BHRs) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) (MCM, 2010). Hydro One Networks Inc. is a public body prescribed under Ontario Regulation 157/10 and is required to comply with the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (issued under section 25.2 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*).

4.3.1 Archaeology

A Stage 1 archaeological assessment (under Project Information Form number P324-0967-2024) was undertaken on March 14, 2025, by TMHC Inc for the Durham to Kawartha Power Line Project study area. A Stage 1 AA consists of a review of geographic, land use and historical information for the property and the relevant surrounding area, and contacting MCM to find out whether, or not, there are any known archaeological sites on or near the property. Its purpose is to identify areas of archaeological potential and further archaeological assessment (e.g., Stage 2-4) as necessary.

The results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment are currently in draft form, pending entrance into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment determined that the LSA for all route alternatives contains lands with archaeological potential, as well as a previously recorded archaeological site (Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants Inc., 2024).

TMHC recommended that a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment be completed for all lands exhibiting archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed for the preferred route alternative. Hydro One commits to completing Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments for these identified areas of archaeological potential along the preferred route prior to construction

work occurring on these areas. Hydro One has also made commitments to First Nations that Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments will use enhanced pedestrian survey methodology and some areas that were previously assessed will be revisited.

4.3.2 Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

AECOM Canada Ltd. (AECOM) was retained by Hydro One to provide a Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions (CHEC) for the Project (AECOM, 2025a). The CHEC was completed following guidance provided by the MCM's *Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes: A Checklist for the Non-Specialist* (MCM, 2022) as well as Hydro One's *Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities* (2024) and *Cultural Heritage Identification and Evaluation (I&E) Process* (2020a).

The objective of the CHEC was to identify known (i.e., listed and/or designated) and potential built heritage resources (BHRs) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) located within the PSA and evaluate the two route alternatives (Routes Option A and Route Option B) to determine the preferred route from a cultural heritage perspective (AECOM, 2025a).

The CHEC identified three potential CHLs and one potential BHR within Route Option A, and two potential CHLs within Route Option B. Additionally, the CHEC identified one known BHR, five potential BHRs, nine known CHLs, and 38 potential CHLs in the existing corridor. Following this evaluation of the existing conditions of Route Options A and B, the CHEC determined the preferred route from a cultural heritage perspective was Route B (AECOM, 2025a).

Per the Hydro One *Cultural Heritage Identification and Evaluation (I&E) Process*, the CHEC advised the following next steps for Hydro One: 1) Hydro One to confirm and select the preferred route; 2) AECOM to complete a Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) to assess the direct or indirect impacts of the preferred route on BHRs and CHLs identified in the CHEC; and, 3) If required, Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports (CHERs) be completed following the findings of the Preliminary PIA (AECOM, 2025a).

A copy of the CHEC report is provided in **APPENDIX D**.

4.4 Land Use and Communities

4.4.1 Human Settlements

4.4.1.1 Population and Demographics

The population and median age for municipalities overlapped by the Project outlined **Table 4-1**. Based on the 2021 Statistics Canada Census Profile, the Regional Municipality of Durham (696,992) and the County of Peterborough (147, 681) had the largest populations. Both the

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Regional Municipality of Durham and the County of Peterborough are upper-tier municipalities. Upper-tier municipalities span larger geographic areas and consist of/oversee multiple lower-tier municipalities within a designated area. The Municipality of Clarington (101,427); City of Peterborough (83,651); and the City of Kawartha Lakes (79,247) are the next largest settlement areas, while the Township of Scugog (21,581); Township of Selwyn (18,653); and Township of Cavan-Monaghan (10,016) retain smaller populations in comparison. In comparison, the population for the Province of Ontario was 14,223,942 (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Table 4-1: Population and Demographics

Municipality	Population (2021)	Population (2016)	Population Change over Time (%)	Median Age (years)
Province of Ontario	14,223,942	13,448,494	5.8%	41.6
City of Peterborough	83,651	81,032	3.2%	43.2
County of Peterborough	147,681	138,236	6.8%	46.8
Township of Cavan-Monaghan	10,016	8,829	13.4%	44.8
Township of Selwyn	18,653	17,060	9.3%	52.0
Regional Municipality of Durham	696,992	645,862	7.9%	40.0
Township of Scugog	21,581	21,617	-0.2%	49.2
Municipality of Clarington	101,427	92,013	10.2%	39.2
City of Kawartha Lakes	79,247	75,423	5.1%	51.6

Note: Data contained within this table has been obtained from the Statistics Canada 2021 Census Profile.

Numbers may be rounded to the nearest tenth for presentation purposes.

Source: (Statistics Canada, 2021).

4.4.1.2 Labour Market and Economy

In 2020, the median household income for the Province of Ontario was \$91,000. Five municipalities had median household incomes that were higher than the provincial median (\$91,000) including the Municipality of Clarington (\$112,000); the Township of Cavan-

Monaghan (\$110,000); the Township of Scugog (\$108,000); the Regional Municipality of Durham (\$107,000); and the Township of Selwyn (\$95,000). Additionally, three municipalities had a lower median household income than the Province of Ontario (\$91,000) including the City of Kawartha Lakes (\$82,000); the County of Peterborough (\$78,500); and the City of Peterborough (\$71,500) (Statistics Canada, 2021).

4.4.1.3 Housing and Real Estate

In 2021, number of total private dwellings within the Province of Ontario was 5,929,250. Within the PSA and LSA, the Regional Municipality of Durham (250,559) and the County of Peterborough (73,045) had the largest number of total private dwellings (due to the fact that upper-tier municipalities span larger geographic areas and consist of/oversee multiple lower-tier municipalities within a designated area). The City of Kawartha Lakes (38,947); the Municipality of Clarington (36,852); and the City of Peterborough (38,006) have the next largest totals of private dwellings, while the Township of Scugog (8,734); Township of Selwyn (8,540); and the Township of Cavan-Monaghan (3,704) retain a smaller number of total private dwellings (Statistics Canada, 2021). The population density for the Province of Ontario was 15.9 people per km² of land area in 2021. Municipalities within the PSA and LSA that had the highest population densities included the City of Peterborough (1,291.8 people per km² of land area); the Regional Municipality of Durham (276.5 people per km² of land area) and the Municipality of Clarington (166.0 people per km² of land area). Other municipalities including the Township of Cavan-Monaghan (32.7 people per km² of land area); the County of Peterborough (39.1 people per km² of land area); the Township of Scugog (45.5 people per km² of land area); the Township of Selwyn (59.0 people per km² of land area); and the City of Kawartha Lakes (26.1 people per km² of land area) had lower population densities in comparison (Statistics Canada, 2021).

4.4.1.4 First Nations Lands and Interests

As outlined in **Section 3.5**, eight First Nation communities were consulted as part of the Class EA process. There are no First Nation reserve lands situated within the Project's PSA or LSA. The PSA and LSA are situated within the Treaty and traditional territories of all eight First Nation communities. Prior to pursuing the Project, Hydro One heard the call for consent from First Nations as the Project overlaps protected Treaty and traditional territories. Hydro One acknowledges the obligations industry has in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and has a goal to achieve the agreement and support of the engaged First Nation communities. The Project overlaps Williams Treaties (1923) (specifically, the Johnson-Butler Purchase), as well as Treaty #20 (Rice Lake Purchase) (IAFNER, 2024). First Nations with reserve lands located within the greater region surrounding the Project include Alderville First Nation (approximately 25 km northwest of the PSA); Curve Lake First Nation (approximately 16 km south of the

PSA); Hiawatha First Nation (approximately 15 km southeast of the PSA); and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (approximately 15 km northwest of the PSA) (CIRNAC, 2025).

As identified in MEM's (formerly MOE) letter on December 29, 2023, confirming the First Nation communities to be consulted on the Project, those communities were consulted on the basis that they have (or may have) constitutionally protected Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights that may be adversely affected by the Project. First Nations in the area have provided comments and input relating to historical and cultural connections to lands and some existing features in the region, including lands within the LSA and PSA.

Through the federal Special Claims process, Williams Treaties First Nations and the Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (formerly Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations) negotiated a settlement in 2018 which included the recognition of the Williams Treaties First Nations' pre-existing Treaty harvesting Rights in certain Treaty areas (CIRNAC, 2018). In April 2024 (as described in **Section 3.5.3.7**), one of the engaged First Nations inquired about accessing parts of the Project lands for harvesting, indicating the PSA and LSA may include lands used for harvesting and current or traditional uses by First Nation communities.

Two First Nation communities expressed interest in preserving and protecting existing remnants of the endangered Black Oak Savannah and Tallgrass Prairie ecosystems, of which less than 3% of the historical extent of these ecosystems remain (see **Sections 3.5.3** and **3.5.3.7**) (Alderville First Nation, 2016). In 2024, Hydro One inquired to the two First Nation communities as to whether they participated in any ecosystem management activities in particular sections of the LSA. Based on ELC studies completed to date, no Black Oak Savannah or Tallgrass Prairie have been identified.

In August of 2024 Hydro One requested input from First Nations on the route evaluation framework. As detailed in **Section 5.3.1** two First Nation community provided a non-exhaustive list of SCS. Following a review of desktop data and field survey results, it was determined that 61 SCS (including 48 plants and 13 wildlife species) were confirmed present in the study area. In November of 2024 another First Nation also identified landscapes of importance that were incorporated into the evaluation framework.

During the draft ESR comment period, MSIFN identified the importance of avoiding disturbance to animal movement corridors (in particular deer) and significant wildlife habitats (such as waterfowl stopover and staging areas) to ensure continued habitat connectivity for accessing seasonal habitats and to minimize disruptions to animal harvesting practices by First Nations communities. Hydro One committed to work collaboratively with proximate First Nations in the development of mitigation measures to address wildlife and their habitats, as

such effects have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice and culture and Rights.

4.4.2 Land Use Planning

Land Use planning and development in the PSA is guided by the Provincial Policy Statement (2024) (PPS) under the *Planning Act*, as well as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) under the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* and the Greenbelt Plan under the *Greenbelt Act, 2005* (Government of Ontario, 1994; Government of Ontario, 2001; Government of Ontario, 2005). There are seven official plans (OPs) that apply to the PSA, including the County of Peterborough OP; The Township of Cavan-Monaghan OP; The Regional Municipality of Durham OP; The Township of Scugog OP; the Municipality of Clarington OP; and the City of Kawartha Lakes OP, which are described in the sections outlined below.

4.4.2.1 Provincial Policy Statement (2024)

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is issued under Section 3 of the Ontario *Planning Act* and came into force on October 20, 2024. The PPS applies to both the PSA and LSA and provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. Section 3 of the *Planning Act* states that decisions affecting planning matters “shall be consistent with” the PPS (Government of Ontario, 1990b; MMAH, 2024). The PPS’s defines infrastructure as “physical structures (facilities and corridors) that form the foundation for development” and includes “electricity generation facilities, electricity transmission and distribution systems”. The consistency of the Project defined as “infrastructure” in the PPS with the relevant Infrastructure and Public Service Facilities included in Sections 3.1 and 3.3 (Transportation and Infrastructure Corridors) of the PPS is summarized as follows:

- Infrastructure and public service facilities shall be efficiently delivered to meet future needs;
- Planning for infrastructure and public service facilities shall align with land use planning and growth management for financial sustainability, leverage the development proponent’s capacity where appropriate, and meet current and future needs. In addition, it shall consider co-location with parks and open space, where appropriate, to enhance cost-effectiveness, service integration, and access to transit and active transportation;
- Existing infrastructure and public service facilities should be optimized and considered for adaptive re-use before developing new infrastructure and public service facilities;
- Infrastructure and public service facilities should be strategically placed to efficiently support emergency management services and the protection of public health and safety as indicated in PPS’ Chapter 5 policies;

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- Planning and protection of corridors and rights-of-way for infrastructure, including electricity generation facilities and transmission systems, to meet current and projected needs;
- Avoidance of development in planned corridors that could negatively affect the original intended use of the corridor;
- New development proposed on adjacent lands to existing or planned corridors and transportation facilities should be compatible with, and supportive of, the long-term purposes of the corridor and should be designed to avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate negative impacts on and adverse effects from the corridor and transportation facilities;
- The prevention and reuse of abandoned corridors for purposes that maintain the corridor's integrity and continuous linear characteristics should be encouraged, where feasible; and,
- The co-location of linear infrastructure should be promoted, where appropriate.

In addition, the Project falls within the definition of infrastructure considered by the PPS (2024) as “*Major Facilities*” (i.e., facilities which may require separation from sensitive land uses, including “*energy generation facilities and transmission systems*”). Section 3.5 of the PPS provides policies on the land use compatibility of Major Facilities, which are summarized as follows:

- Major facilities and sensitive land uses should be planned to avoid (if necessary), minimize, and mitigate effects from odour, noise and contaminants, reduce risks to public health and safety, and ensure long-term viability as aligned with provincial guidelines, standards, and procedures;
- If avoidance is not possible, planning authorities must protect the sustainability of existing or planned industrial and major facilities. Authorities shall also ensure that new adjacent sensitive land uses are only allowed if adverse effects are minimized and mitigated, following provincial guidelines.

Section 3.8 of the PPS (2024) encourages planning authorities to promote development of energy supplies, including electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems to meet current needs and future demands.

The Project has considered these criteria as per the guidance in the PPS, taking into consideration the potential for effects to significant resources, as identified by Chapter 4 (Wise Use and Management of Resources) of the PPS. A map of land use designations is included in **Figure 4-2**.

4.4.2.2 Other Provincial Planning Legislation

The Greenbelt Plan (2017)

The Greenbelt Plan, together with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP), identifies where growth should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base, as well as the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions occurring throughout Ontario's greenbelt. The Greenbelt Plan, as defined by *Ontario Regulation 59/05 – Designation of Greenbelt Area (O. Reg. 59/05)*, includes lands located in the ORMCP; the NEP; the Parkway Belt West Plan Area; lands designated as Protected Countryside; and lands designated as Urban River Valley by this Plan, building upon the ecological protections as well as the policies of the PPS (Government of Ontario, 2001; Government of Ontario, 2005; MMAH, 2017a; MMAH, 2017b).

The Greenbelt Plan applies to the PSA and LSA, whereas the NEP does not apply to either area. The Project overlaps lands defined within the Greenbelt Plan including Protected Countryside Area located south and west of Clarington TS near Concession Road 7 and Highway 3, as well as near the intersection of Mountjoy Road and Cartwright East Quarter Line. New development or site alteration relating to infrastructure is permitted within lands defined as Projected Countryside as long as it serves significant growth and economic development in Southern Ontario by providing appropriate infrastructure connections. The location and construction of infrastructure and expansions, extensions, operations and maintenance will also minimize, wherever possible, negative impacts on (including impacts to connectivity) and disturbance of features. The amount of Greenbelt traversed and or occupied by infrastructure will also be minimized, wherever possible, particularly in NHS and Water Resource Systems. It will also avoid key natural heritage and key hydrologic features/areas unless it is demonstrated or established that there is no alternative (MMAH, 2017a).

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017)

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) is set out in Ontario Regulation 140/02 – Oak Ridges Moraine Conversation Plan (O. Reg. 140/02) under the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act*, 2001. The purpose of the ORMCP is to provide land use and resource management planning direction to provincial ministers, ministries, agencies, municipalities, landowners, and other stakeholders on how to protect the Moraine's ecological and hydrological features and functions, which includes 190,000 hectares of land and water within the Moraine (MMAH, 2017b). Lands that are defined under the ORMCP are primarily concentrated in the southern portion of the Project and apply to the PSA and LSA. Lands located north and northeast of the Clarington TS near Concession Road 7 and Langmaid Road (southeast of Enfield) covering the intersection at Highway 7A and Highway 32, and near the intersection at Sharpe Line and Winslow Quarter Line (southwest of Bethany) are defined

within the ORMCP. As shown in **Figure 4-2**, the PSA and LSA bisects lands designated as Countryside Area, Natural Linkage Area, Natural Core Area, and Rural Settlement Areas by the ORMCP. These lands are subject to sections of the ORMCP including Section 11 (Natural Core), Section 12 (Natural Linkages), Section 13 (Countryside), and Section 18 (Settlement Areas) of the plan. Policies under Sections 11 through Section 13 also permit infrastructure use in these lands subject to Part III and IV of the ORMCP. Policies for Settlement Areas under Section 18 also permit uses designated by the ORMCP, subject to specific policies outlined in Part III and IV of the ORMCP.

Infrastructure is permitted in the areas subject to Part III (Protecting Ecological and Hydrological Integrity) and Part IV (Specific Land Use Policies) of the ORMCP. Section 41 outlines provisions related to infrastructure within lands which fall under the ORMCP designations. In Part IV (Section 41.1.(f)) infrastructure is defined as all physical structures, facilities, and corridors that form the foundation for development of an area and includes electricity transmission and distribution systems (MMAH, 2017b).

Further, Part IV (Section 41.1) notes that development must be coordinated with land use planning; financially feasible over the long-term; and must undergo appropriate studies (e.g., asset management plans, environmental assessments, etc.), where applicable. Additionally, Part IV (Section 41.2 and 41.3) of the ORCMP highlights other areas of important consideration to permit the development of infrastructure in or on land in Natural Linkage and Natural Core areas especially that the need for the project has been demonstrated and there is no reasonable alternative (MMAH, 2017b).

Part IV (Section 41.4 and 41.5) indicates that development of land in key natural heritage and key hydrologic features, is prohibited unless the need for the project has been demonstrated and with no reasonable alternatives and minimizes adverse effects to the ecological integrity of the feature. The development should also be designed to maintain, and where practical, improve or restore the feature. Service and utility trenches must also minimize disruption of the natural groundwater flow (Section 41.6) (MMAH, 2017b).

4.4.2.3 The County of Peterborough Official Plan

On June 29, 2022, Peterborough County Council adopted a new OP for the County of Peterborough through By-law Number 2022-47; however, the new OP is awaiting final approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) prior to coming into effect (County of Peterborough, 2022a). With the approval of the PPS 2024 in October 2024, portions of the adopted OP are currently being reviewed to bring into conformity from the new PPS 2024. A red-line revised version of the new OP will then be provided to the MMAH for approval.

The County of Peterborough OP applies to the PSA and LSA and sets out a framework for growth and land use planning at a county-level, while ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated planning approach amongst the local municipalities. Where local municipalities have their own OP, it must conform to and implement the policies of the County OP (County of Peterborough, 2022a). The County of Peterborough establishes land use policies and schedules for seven local municipalities, including the Township of Asphodel-Norwood;; the Township of Douro-Dummer; the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen; the Township of North Kawartha; the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan; the Township of Selwyn; and the Municipality of Trent Lakes (County of Peterborough, 2022a). The County of Peterborough does not include land use designations for the Township of Cavan-Monaghan as this township has chosen to maintain its own OP; however, the County does identify the agricultural system for the Township of Cavan-Monaghan and delineate the settlement area boundary (County of Peterborough, 2022a). The Township of Cavan-Monaghan and the Township of Selwyn both overlap the PSA and the LSA (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

Lands located within the County of Peterborough overlapping the PSA and LSA generally consist of agricultural, rural, and lands considered as natural heritage in the Township of Cavan-Monaghan and the Township of Selwyn. The PSA and LSA also overlaps Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) Regulated Area defined as floodplain, natural heritage resource areas, as well as areas identified as for aggregate resource potential (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

Section 10.2.5.6 (Active Transportation) of the County of Peterborough OP highlights the incorporation of utility corridors, municipal easements, and former rail lines into the existing active transportation trail network, where meaningful and feasible connections can be made (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

Section 10.3 (Infrastructure) indicates that in planning for the development or expansion of existing and planned infrastructure corridors and supporting facilities, it must be demonstrated that impacts on key natural heritage features and hydrologic features and areas have been avoided, or the impact minimized or mitigated (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

Section 10.3.4 (Utilities) indicates that new utility facilities/corridors, such as hydro/electricity, are generally permitted in any land use designation as long as they meet provisions set out in Section 10.3.4.1. This includes satisfying the policies for infrastructure development within Natural Heritage Systems, no adverse impacts on adjacent uses, and the consideration of locating new utility corridors adjacent to existing utility and/or transportation corridors, wherever possible (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

Land within transmission corridors are also encouraged for recreational uses (i.e., hiking, biking); market or allotment gardens; agricultural cultivation; and other uses (except buildings). Section 10.3.2.4 also outlines the need to satisfy the local municipality with respect to potential impacts to the environmental, economic, social, cultural, transportation, and other concerns related to major new utility or corridor expansions. This may include entering into an agreement with the municipality (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

4.4.2.4 City of Peterborough

The City of Peterborough OP Plan (2024) overlaps the LSA, but not the PSA and is the key planning document that guides the long-term growth and development in the City of Peterborough. It describes the goals, objectives, and policies that will guide growth and land use planning decisions (City of Peterborough, 2024; City of Peterborough, n.d.).

Section 5.3.2 (Provision of Parkland) of the OP highlights the promotion of linking parks and open space, where practical, through pedestrian pathways; sidewalks; trail systems; bicycle routes; natural heritage corridors; utility or hydro corridors; and drainage systems. This will allow the city to provide a continuous and accessible linked system of open space using linear parks and trail systems to connect larger blocks of parkland (City of Peterborough, 2024).

Section 6.1 (Servicing and Utilities) of the OP highlights the general policies governing the planning and provision of municipal infrastructure in the City of Peterborough. Section 6.1.2. (f) of the OP notes that utilities including hydro are permitted within any land use designation within the plan. However, the plan notes that the location of public utilities should make efforts to avoid lands designated as Natural Heritage Areas. For lands on or within 120 meters of a Natural Heritage Area will require an Environmental Impact Study (City of Peterborough, 2024).

Section 6.1.6 (Utilities and Telecommunications) provides guidance and direction relating to the considerations for the development of utilities (including hydro) in the City of Peterborough. This includes a preference for locating utilities underground and grouped in a single utility trench in new development and relocated them underground and grouped in built up areas as part of major road reconstruction, where feasible. Utility services are permitted in all land use designations; however, they will need an Environmental Impact Study or similar study on lands in the Natural Areas Designation or within 120 m of this designation. It also supports shared placement within easements and rights-of-way to minimize land requirements and increase efficiency of utility construction and maintenance (City of Peterborough, 2024).

As noted above, the PSA does not overlap lands located within the City of Peterborough. A small portion of the LSA overlaps the City of Peterborough and is concentrated within the northeast portion of the Project near the intersection at Lily Lake Road and Ackison Road.

Land use within this area contains lands defined in the OP as “Rural Transitional Area Designation” and “Natural Areas Designation” on Schedule B (Land Use Plan) of the OP, as well as “Flood Plain Area” on Schedule F (Natural Heritage System and Environmental Constraints) of the OP. Development within flood plain and/or erosion hazard limits should be avoided, or subject to appropriate permitting approvals as approved by the appropriate authorities (City of Peterborough, 2024).

4.4.2.5 Township of Cavan-Monaghan

The Township of Cavan-Monaghan OP overlaps both the PSA and LSA and provides a policy framework for guiding growth and development within the municipality while considering important social, economic, and environmental matters. The OP incorporates local land use directions and any required provincial policies including the ORMCP; the PPS; and direction regarding growth and development from the County of Peterborough OP (Township of Cavan-Monaghan, 2013).

Utility infrastructure is generally permitted within the Township of Cavan-Monaghan including in parks and open spaces; agricultural areas; natural core areas; natural linkage areas; as well as key natural heritage (i.e., ORMCP) and hydraulically sensitive features provided the features and functions of these lands are protected. Subsection 2.1.4(d) of the OP states that the township will support infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of residents and businesses. This includes new infrastructure and expansions to existing infrastructure, ensuring compatibility with adjacent land uses while minimizing adverse social impacts. For natural core areas; natural linkage areas; and key natural heritage and hydraulically sensitive features it must be demonstrated that there is a need, that there is no reasonable alternative and that requirements are met, such as, minimizing impacts and disturbances, allows for wildlife movement, minimizes disruption of nature groundwater flow and co-located with other transportation, infrastructure and utility uses within a single corridor (Township of Cavan-Monaghan, 2013).

Although the Township of Cavan-Monaghan has its own OP, the policies generally align with those described within the County of Peterborough OP. In the case of redevelopment, conversion of overhead service to inground service shall be installed, where technically and economically feasible to improve the visual appearance of the local landscape (Township of Cavan-Monaghan, 2013). Land within transmission corridors are also encouraged for recreational uses (i.e., hiking, biking); market or allotment gardens; agricultural cultivation; and other uses (except buildings).

Based on Schedule A (Land Use) of the OP, the PSA and LSA bisect lands designated as Agricultural, Rural, Natural Core Area, and Natural Linkage Area (Township of Cavan-Monaghan, 2013). Section 5.1.2 of the OP generally permits utility facilities as additional uses

within Agricultural lands, subject to general development policies in Subsections 5.1.4. Additionally, Section 5.2.2 of the OP indicates that permitted uses for Agricultural lands (Section 5.1.2 of the OP) are permitted on lands with Rural designation. As such, utility facilities are permitted on both land designations.

Lands located within the Natural Heritage System (including Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas) generally permit existing, expanded, or new infrastructure, as long as it complies with *the Environmental Assessment Act* and the policies of Section 6 of the OP. This infrastructure must support the significant growth and economic development expected in Southern Ontario by connecting urban growth centres and Ontario's borders.

Generally, the OP allows infrastructure and utilities development within lands categorized as Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas if there is a need for the project and if there is no reasonable alternative (Subsections 6.3.2 and 6.4.2 of the OP).

Subsection 6.2(d) of the OP indicates that development is not permitted in the event an Environmental Impact Statement identifies unacceptable negative impacts on natural heritage systems; however, an Environmental Impact Statement may designate a vegetation protection zone deemed adequate to safeguard Key Natural Heritage or Sensitive Hydrologic Features from development activities that also work to enhance or restore their features or functions.

The PSA and the LSA also bisect lands designated as Special Study Area No. 1 (SSA-1), which are subject to policies under Section 2.6 of the OP. The OP notes that SSA-1 is not a designated Settlement Area but is set aside for future growth. The Township of Cavan-Monaghan will need to conduct a comprehensive review to determine the need for additional urban lands based on growth projections and policies. Developments within these lands are contingent on the completion of a municipal comprehensive review to determine the need for additional urban lands.

The majority of lands located within the PSA and LSA in the Township of Cavan-Monaghan are classified as Rural/Rural Residential.

4.4.2.6 Township of Selwyn

The Township of Selwyn has included its local policies in the County of Peterborough OP to create a consistent approach to planning and development within the County. Specific land use policies related to the Township are outlined in Section 11.6 (Selwyn) of the County of Peterborough OP. The Township policies are to be considered in conjunction with the other County OP policies and apply to both the PSA and LSA. If there is a conflict between policies, the more restrictive of the policies will apply. Policies related to infrastructure and utilities generally adhere those outlined within Section 10.2.5 (Active Transportation), Section 10.3

(Infrastructure) and Section 10.3.2.4 (Utilities) of the County of Peterborough OP (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

The majority of lands located within the PSA and LSA in the Township of Selwyn are classified as Rural and Natural Core Areas. Policies under section 10.3.4 of the OP indicate that utilities, including transmission and distribution of hydro/electricity, are generally permitted within any land use designation if: the development satisfies the policies for infrastructure development within Natural Heritage Systems; the development does not negatively impact adjacent land use; and new utility corridors are located adjacent to existing utility corridors (wherever feasible) (County of Peterborough, 2022a). In addition, new electrical generating stations proposed by private corporations are permitted by amendment to the OP and subject to approvals under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Multi-use applications for utility corridors are also encouraged and may include recreational trails, gardens, agriculture, and other compatible uses (subject to Hydro One's approval). Major new utilities or expansions must address potential impacts and may require consultation or agreements with local.

The Environmental Schedule for the Township of Selwyn (provided in the County of Peterborough OP) shows that the LSA and PSA overlap lands designated as Provincially Significant Wetland as well as Unevaluated-Evaluated Wetlands. According to the policies for wetlands set out in Section 6.3.1 of the OP, while provincially and locally significant wetlands have been evaluated and their boundaries clearly defined, non-evaluated wetlands might not be as accurately mapped. If consultation with the local Conservation Authority or a qualified professional confirms that wetlands and their vegetation protection zones are not present on a site, development can proceed according to the OP's policies. However, if the site is within 120 meters of a wetland, a Natural Heritage Evaluation may still be necessary (County of Peterborough, 2022a).

4.4.2.7 Region of Durham Official Plan

The Region of Durham OP was approved by the MMAH, on September 3, 2024 (excluding certain matters on figures, maps, and policies related to proposed settlement area boundary expansions in northeast Pickering). On December 13, 2024, MMAH approved all remaining parts of the Regional OP not previously approved in September 2024. (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2025b). This new OP outlines policies and strategies for future growth, infrastructure, land use planning and development within the Region. The Region of Durham OP applies to both the PSA and LSA and provides guidance to the municipal OPs within its boundaries, which include the Municipality of Clarington and the Township of Scugog. Pursuant to Bill 23, the Regional Municipality of Durham became an upper-tier municipality

without planning responsibilities as of January 1, 2025. This means that the Region of Durham OP will now be part of the planning framework for each municipality within its jurisdiction.

Based on the Region of Durham OP, the PSA and LSA are located within the existing hydro ROW, which also overlaps lands designated under the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan, including a small area of land classified as “Prime Agricultural Area” and “Hamlet Settlement Area” (Burketon) (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024b; Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024c). Features defined within the Greenbelt Plan and the ORMCP are also present and designated under the Greenlands System of the OP (see **Section 4.4.1.1** for more details). Policies outlined in Section 7.1 (Protected Greenland System Policies) and Section 6.2 (Prime Agricultural Areas) of the OP outline provisions relating to land use designations including “Prime Agricultural Areas”, the ORMCP, and protections and/or prohibitions related to infrastructure development within these areas (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2025b).

Section 4.1 (Municipal Servicing) discusses infrastructure being determined and provided in a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner which includes capitalizing on existing infrastructure and opportunities for adaptive reuse, as well as minimizing adverse impact on the natural environment. It also promotes co-location of linear infrastructure, where appropriate and that the location and/or construction of infrastructure within the Greenbelt Plan adhere to its policies (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2025b).

Section 4.3 of the Regional OP provides general policies for utility providers for proposed utilities and energy development within the Regional Municipality of Durham (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024a). These policies aim to provide adequate direction to meet current and future energy needs of the throughout the region. relevant policies outlined under this section are as follows:

- Utility infrastructure considered as “Major Facilities” of the OP to occur in any designation subject to the OP’s policies (Subsection 4.3.2)
- According to the definition provided by OP, “Major Facilities” include electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024a).
- Proposed utility infrastructures within the Region should consider existing utility corridors when determining their location and design, and should consider minimizing impacts to natural, built, and cultural environment while planning the location and design as well as construction activities of the proposed new infrastructure (Subsections 4.3.3 and 4.3.4).
- In addition, the OP permits secondary uses (e.g., recreation, agriculture, community gardens, and parking lots) within utility corridors if they are compatible with surrounding

land uses and approved by the area municipality, subject to approval from Hydro One (Subsection 4.3.5).

Some policies indicated in the OP highlight the consultation requirements for new infrastructure utilities within the Region. Section 4.3.14 of the OP indicates the need for electricity providers to consult with the Region on the location of proposed electric power facilities, as well as to consult throughout the EA process. In addition, Section 4.3.6 of the OP indicates that Regional Council encourages various agencies, boards, and commissions that issue licenses and/or have jurisdiction over utilities to consult with the Region during their licensing process (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024a).

Section 6.2.8 of the OP also indicates that new non-agricultural uses are permitted in lands designated as Prime Agricultural Areas after the completion of an agricultural impact assessment.

4.4.2.8 Township of Scugog Official Plan

The Township of Scugog OP applies to both the PSA and LSA and provides policies on the land use and strategic growth and development of the municipality. The OP was prepared in accordance with the Regional Official Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan, as well as the Provincial Policy Statement. The PSA and LSA overlap the Township of Scugog near the western side of Manvers Scugog Townline Road and Old Scugog Road. Based on the Township of Scugog OP, the PSA and LSA overlap lands designated under the Greenbelt System, which include Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Areas, as well as lands designated under the ORMCP including ORM Natural Core Area, ORM Natural Linkage Area, and ORM Countryside Area (Township of Scugog, 2025).

The OPs General Development Policies for lands designated under Greenlands System (Section 6.2) includes provisions for infrastructure development within its jurisdiction. Subsection 6.2 (g) indicates that existing, expanded, or new infrastructure subject to or approved under the *Environmental Assessment Act* is permitted within the Greenlands System if it supports existing uses including agriculture, recreation and tourism, rural settlement areas, resource use, and/or rural economic activity within the Greenbelt System. Or, permitted that the infrastructure supports significant economic development in Southern Ontario beyond the boundaries of the Greenbelt System.

Furthermore, Section 6.3.2 of the OP permits development of infrastructure and utilities in lands designated as Greenbelt – Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area if it has been demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternatives to the Project.

Section 6.7.2 of the OP permits infrastructure and utilities development within lands designated as ORM – Natural Core Area, Natural Linkage Area, and Countryside Area, subject to Section 6.13.6 of the OP.

Section 6.13.6 (Infrastructure Policies for lands within the ORM) notes that where there is a conflict between the policies this subsection and Section 8 (Utilities) that the policies in Section 6.13.6 prevail. Section 6.13.6 permits infrastructure and utility development within lands designated under ORM if the appropriate studies have been conducted, and if the studies have demonstrated that the development is necessary and there is no reasonable alternative to the development. The development (or undertaking) must also provide proof of meeting the ORMCP requirements to protect its ecological and hydrological integrity, which is typically part of an EA process. In addition, infrastructure and utility projects are permitted in Natural Linkage Areas and Natural Core Areas if the development is necessary and there is no reasonable alternative, and if the development meets the requirements outlined in Subsection 6.13.6 (d) (ii) and (iii) to minimize environmental impacts.

General Development Policies for Transportation and Infrastructure projects are also outlined in Section 8.2 of the OP including subsections 8.2 (i) and (j) of the OP, which outline the policies considering the location and construction of infrastructure, and design considerations to minimize environmental and social impacts to the existing environment.

Section 8.10 notes that utilities include hydro transformer stations and corridors. It also indicates that generally development is permitted within any land use if the development complies with the infrastructure policies outlined in Section 8 of the OP and does not negatively impact adjacent land uses and is located within an existing utility corridor (Township of Scugog, 2017).

4.4.2.9 Municipality of Clarington Official Plan

The Municipality of Clarington OP applies to both the PSA and LSA and provides policies to manage land use, growth and development in the municipality until 2031. These policies serve as framework for managing current and future land use within its jurisdiction to foster the economic, environmental, cultural, physical, and social well-being of its residents (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a).

According to land use mapping provided within the OP schedules (Map A1), The PSA and LSA overlap lands classified as Hamlet (Burketon Station), Rural, Prime Agricultural Areas, Natural Core Area Environmental Protection Areas, Hamlet Areas, Natural Linkage Areas, Utility, and Aggregate Extraction Areas (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a) .

In addition, the LSA and PSA bisect Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine features that are present within the municipality (Map H of OP, see **Section 4.4.1.1** for further information). The

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LSA and PSA also bisect Provincially Significant Wetlands, Area of Natural or Scientific Interest, and Natural Heritage Systems along Enfield Road and Concession Road 10 (Map D2) (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a). The Enfield Wetlands, categorized as Provincially Significant Wetland, overlap the PSA and LSA north of Regional Road 3 between Enfield Road and Townline Road, extending north towards Concession Road 10 (MNR, 2023a). According to Section 3.4.8 of the OP, development and site alterations in relation to infrastructure and utilities within lands designated as natural heritage feature and/or hydrologically sensitive feature (e.g., wetlands) or within its vegetation protection zone are allowed if there is a need for the project is demonstrated through the *Environmental Assessment* process, if there is no reasonable alternative, and if the project has an Environmental Impact Study (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a). Development within wetlands will not be proposed without the consultation of the First Nations and with regard to industry Reconciliation obligations towards agreement and support of those First Nations.

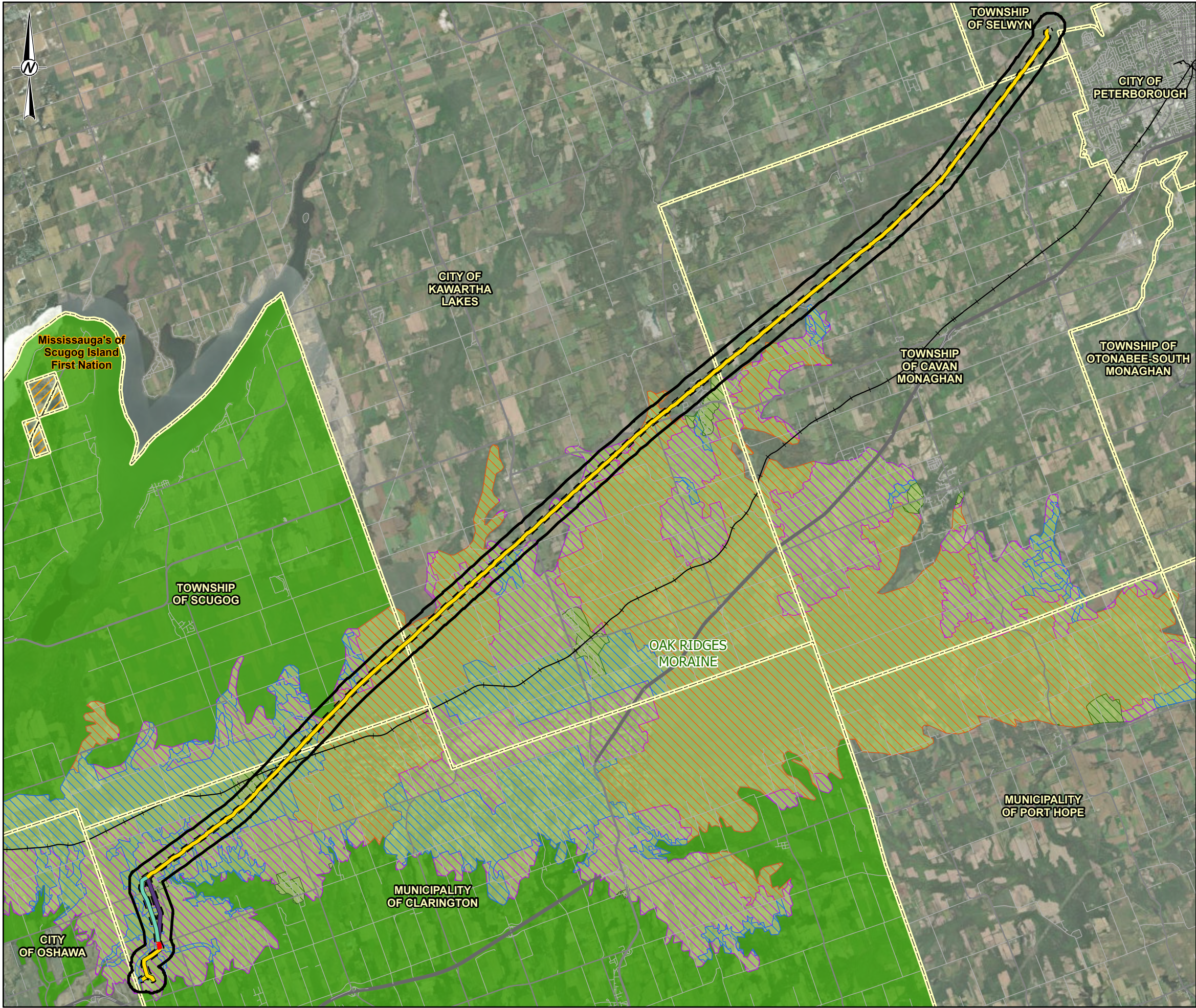
In addition, Landform Conservation Areas defined by the ORMCP are present within the Municipality of Clarington. These landforms are outlined within the OP's (Map E1) and overlap both Category 1 and Category 2 landforms, which are located between Townline Road North near the Clarington TS, extending towards Burketon near the intersection of Boundary Road and Highway 57 (Municipality of Clarington, 2018b). Section 30 of the ORMCP indicates that development and alteration within Category 1 and Category 2 lands shall be subject to planning, design, and construction practices that minimize disturbance to landform characteristics, while maintaining significant landform features (i.e., steep slopes, kames, kettles, ravines, and ridges).

A flood plain area located near Wotten Road, as outlined in the OP (Map F1) are within the LSA and the PSA. Although development within Environmental Protection Areas and floodplain areas are generally not permitted, the development of utilities is allowed in any land use designation provided if an EA is completed that has demonstrated that there is no reasonable alternative; adverse impacts do not occur; the development is supported by a Project-specific Environmental Impact Statement; and Project activities comply with Section 23.1 and Section 14.1 of the OP.

Section 21 (Infrastructure and Utilities) of the OP provide the goals and policies for existing and planned infrastructure and utilities within the municipality. This section indicates that new infrastructure and utility facilities and/or corridors are generally allowed within any land use designations, provided that they do not adversely impact adjacent land uses, are adjacent to existing utility and transportation corridors, where practical, and comply with other relevant policies in the OP, ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a).

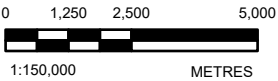
4.4.2.10 City of Kawartha Lakes

The City of Kawartha Lakes OP applies to both the PSA and LSA and provides policy direction on land use and strategic growth and development within the City. Some sections of the OP are under appeal as of June 11, 2012, as listed in Appendix K of the OP. According to the Schedules provided by the OP, the proposed corridor bisects areas identified in Schedule A-1 of the OP (City of Kawartha Lakes, 2012b). Some of the land use designations that are overlapped by the Project include lands designated under the ORMCP (including Countryside Area, Natural Core Area, Natural Linkage Area, Rural Settlement Area, and Prime Agricultural Areas, Hamlet Settlement Area), and lands defined within the OP as Rural, Provincially Significant Wetland, Aggregate Resource Areas (including sand and gravel). The presence of utility within these land use designations are generally permitted under Section 3.5; Section 16.3; and 28.10 of the OP, permitted that they are planned for and installed on a coordinated and integrated basis to support efficiency, cost-effectiveness, while minimizing disruptions. Additionally, the OP notes that large, above-ground infrastructure should be located and designed to be compatible with its environment (City of Kawartha Lakes, 2012b).



SCALE 1:1,500,000

LEGEND	
	TRANSFORMER STATION (TS)
	RAILWAY
	LOCAL ROAD
	MAJOR ROAD
	SECONDARY HIGHWAY
	PRIMARY HIGHWAY
	SECTION OF PREFERRED ROUTE TO BE UNDERGROUND
	PREFERRED ROUTE
	ROUTE ALTERNATIVE A CENTERLINE
	ROUTE ALTERNATIVE B CENTERLINE
	PROJECT STUDY AREA (PSA)
	LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA)
	FIRST NATION RESERVE
	MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
LAND USE DESIGNATION	
	COUNTRYSIDE AREA
	NATURAL CORE AREA
	NATURAL LINKAGE AREA
	RURAL SETTLEMENT
GREENBELT DESIGNATION	
	OAK RIDGES MORaine CONSERVATION PLAN
	PROTECTED COUNTRYSIDE



NOTE(S)
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)
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3. ROUTE ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED BY HYDRO ONE INC. OCTOBER 25TH, 2024.
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT HYDRO ONE		
PROJECT DURHAM KAWARTHA POWERLINE PROJECT		
TITLE LAND USE		
CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-02
	DESIGNED	DB
	PREPARED	DB
	REVIEWED	CR
	APPROVED	BV
PROJECT NO. CA0020403.4964	CONTROL 0014	REV. 0
		FIGURE 4-2

4.4.3 Infrastructure and Services

4.4.3.1 Traffic and Transportation

The PSA comprises multiple road networks in the Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan-Monaghan, Township of Selwyn and the City of Peterborough. Road classifications within the PSA are summarized in **Table 4-2**.

Table 4-2: Road Classifications within PSA

Municipality	Road Classification	Reference
City of Kawartha Lakes	- Provincial Highway (e.g., Highway 35, Highway 7, Highway 7A) - Arterial Roads (e.g., Porter Road, Ski Hill Road, Emily Park Road) - Collector/Local Roads (e.g., Ballyduff Road, Gray Road, Pit Road)	City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan (City of Kawartha Lakes, 2012b) Figure 2-1 – City Roadway Functional Classification (City of Kawartha Lakes, 2012a)
City of Peterborough	High-Capacity Arterial Road (e.g., Lily Lake Road, Ackison Road)	Schedule D – Road Network Plan (City of Peterborough, 2024)
County of Peterborough	- King’s Highway (e.g., Highway 7) - County Road (e.g., Mount Pleasant Road, Highway 3, Highway 10) - Township Road (e.g., Lily Lake Road, Hooton Drive, Howden Quarter Line, Stewart Line, Sharpe Line, Winslow Quarter Line, Dranoel Road).	Map B – Roads Plan County of Peterborough (County of Peterborough, 2022a) County of Peterborough Let Me Map 2.0 (County of Peterborough, 2025)
Municipality of Clarington	- Type A Arterial Road (e.g., Regional Road 57, Regional Road 20, Regional Road 34) - Type B Arterial Road (e.g., Regional Road 3) - Collector Road (e.g., Old Scugog Road, Concession Road 10)	Map J1 – Transportation Network Roads and Transit Map of Clarington Rural Area (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a)

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Municipality	Road Classification	Reference
Regional Municipality of Durham	• Type A Arterial Road (e.g., Bowmanville Avenue, Regional Road 57, Enfield Road) • Type B Arterial Road (e.g., Columbus Road East, Region Road 3) • Collector Roads/Local Roads (e.g., Wotten Road, Union School Road, Old Scugog Road)	Map 3b – Road Network (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024a) Exhibit 6.1: Existing Road Classification (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2017)
Township of Cavan-Monaghan ¹	• County Road (e.g., Mount Pleasant Road, County Road 10) • King's Highway (e.g., Highway 7; Highway 7A) • Township Road (e.g., Hooton Drive, Stewart Line, Morton Line)	Township of Cavan Monaghan Official Plan – Schedule 'A' Land Use (Township of Cavan-Monaghan, 2013)
Township of Scugog	• Type A Arterial Road (Regional Road 57) • Local Roads (e.g., Manvers Scugog Townline, Fowler Road, Mountjoy Road)	Schedule C – Transportation System from Township of Scugog Official Plan (Township of Scugog, 2017) Map 5 – Township of Scugog Active Transportation and Transportation Master Plans (Township of Scugog, 2021)
Township of Selwyn	• King's Highway (e.g., Highway 7) • County Road (e.g., Ackison Road, Parkhill Road W) • Township Road (e.g., Lily Lake Road)	Map B – Roads Plan County of Peterborough Official Plan (County of Peterborough, 2022a) County of Peterborough Let Me Map 2.0 (County of Peterborough, 2025)

(1) The Township of Cavan-Monaghan is located within the County of Peterborough; however, maintains its own Official Plan. Additional planning policy including the County of Peterborough 2022 Transportation Master Plan Update provides additional information related to Road Classification details for lands located within the Township of Cavan-Monaghan.

Two airports are located within the vicinity of the Project including the Oshawa Executive Airport, which is located approximately 8 km southwest of the Clarington TS and the Peterborough Regional Airport, which is situated approximately 6 km southeast of the existing transmission corridor (MNR, 2022a). In addition, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre's Hospital Heliport is located approximately 4 km southeast of the Dobbin TS (MNR, 2022a). Hydro One has also learned of a private airstrip in the ROW and will continue to work with the property owner on their unique property features.

Railway lines for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP Rail) intersect the PSA and LSA (MNR, 2017). The CP Rail line provides connection from the City of Toronto to the City of Peterborough and bisects communities including Burketon Station, Pontypool, and Cavan (MNR, 2017).

4.4.3.2 Utilities, Infrastructure Crossings, and Other Municipal Services

Utilities and Infrastructure Crossings

Utility infrastructure is present within the PSA and LSA including additional hydro transmission lines (Hydro) located within the vicinity of the Clarington TS; the Dobbin TS; Burketon Station (MNR, 2025e). Based on information available from MNR's Ontario GeoHub, there are no other utility sites (i.e., fibre optic stations, hydro stations, lock pumping stations); towers (i.e., communication, fire, lighthouses, lightning, meteorological, microwave, navigation, radio); dams; or wastewater treatment plants located within the PSA or LSA (MNR, 2024c; MNR, 2020a; MNR, 2020b). Additionally, there are no waste management facilities or landfill sites located within the PSA or LSA (MNR, 2020c).

The Project ROW also overlaps existing linear infrastructure including rail lines (described above); provincial highways such as Highways 7; Highway 7A; Highway 35; and several municipal roads as described in **Section 4.4.3.1**.

Municipal Services

Healthcare and clinic services are available within the PSA, LSA, and greater region surrounding the study areas and generally include services within the City of Peterborough and the City of Oshawa (i.e., Peterborough Regional Health Centre and Lakeridge Health Oshawa). Emergency services such as police, fire, and EMS are also available within the PSA, LSA, and greater region surrounding the study areas. Fire and EMS services are generally supported by the Region of Durham Paramedic Services; Peterborough Paramedics; and Kawartha Lakes Paramedic Services, as well as fire stations located within the City of Oshawa (Oshawa Fire Station 5); the Municipality of Clarington (Clarington Fire Station 5); the City of Kawartha Lakes (Kawartha Lakes Fire Rescue Stations 7 and 8); the Township of Cavan-Monaghan (Cavan Monaghan Township fire Hall 2); and the City of Peterborough (Peterborough Fire Station 3).

Police services within the PSA and LSA are generally overseen by a combination of the Peterborough Police Service; the Region of Durham Police Service; the Kawartha Lakes Police Service; and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

4.5 Mineral Resources

No partially surrendered authorized aggregate sites or authorized – inactive aggregate sites were found within the PSA and LSA (MNR, 2024b; MNR, 2024a). However, one authorized inactive/surrendered aggregate site is located near Burketon Station adjacent to the LSA (approximately 1 km north of the existing corridor). This pit site has Class B License with an area of 4.7 ha (MNR, 2024a).

Based on a review of information obtained from MNR's Land Information Ontario database, there no quarries within the PSA or LSA. There are five active aggregate sites located within the LSA, three of these active aggregate sites overlap the PSA. A summary of the active aggregate sites can be found in **Table 4-3** below (MNR, 2025b).

Table 4-3: Active Aggregate Sites Found Within the PSA and LSA

Site ID	Site Owner	Location	License	Operating Type	Licensed Area (ha)
3372	Katherine Elizabeth Bigelow/Allan Bigelow	Within LSA, north of the intersection of Dranoel Road and Morton Line at Bethany, ON	Class B	Pit	5.6
3489	The Corporation of The City of Kawartha Lakes	Within the PSA and LSA, at the intersection of Gray Road and Wild Turkey Road near Pontypool ON	Class A	Pit	40.1
3239	North York Sand And Gravel Limited	Within LSA, southwest of the intersection of Ballyduff Road and Highway 35 near Pontypool ON	Class A	Pit	77.8

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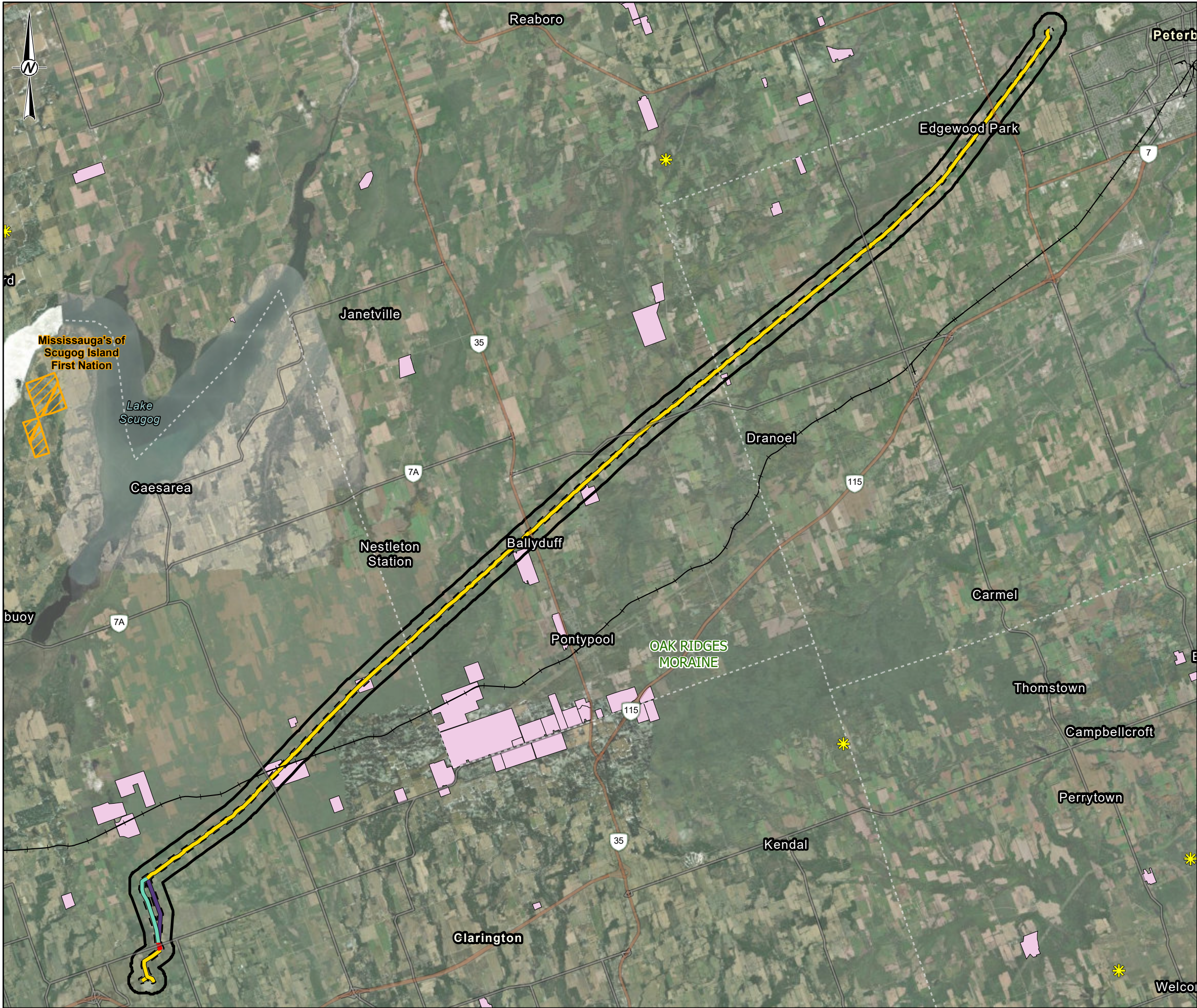
Site ID	Site Owner	Location	License	Operating Type	Licensed Area (ha)
3302	Martyn, James	Within PSA and LSA, northeast of Burketon and west of intersection at Cartwright East Quarter Line and Mount Joy Road	Class A	Pit	30.3
3198	St. Marys Cement Inc. (Canada)	Within PSA and LSA, west of Burketon Station and intersection at Bowmanville Avenue and Concession Road 10	Class A	Pit	120

Source: (MNR, 2025a; Open Aggregates, n.d.; MNR, 2023b).

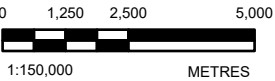
Three unrehabilitated aggregate sites are found within the LSA including south of Burketon Station south of Concession Road 10; southeast of the intersection at Fowler Road and Mountjoy Road, and southeast of the eastern end of Mountjoy Road (MNR, 2021a).

Information from Geology Ontario's Mineral Inventory indicates that the Cavan Bog/Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area is located within the LSA and bisects Hooton Drive, Stewart Line, and Mount Pleasant Road in Cavan-Monaghan, Ontario (MEM, 2022). This site is identified as a discretionary occurrence, where the primary commodity is identified as peat (Peatland 31d-844) (MEM, 2022).

No active and/or abandoned mine features were identified within the PSA or on adjacent lands (MEM, 2022). Information obtained from the MNR's Land Information Ontario database notes the presence of additional hydro utility lines within the PSA and LSA. These hydro lines are associated with the existing ROW and are located east of the intersection at Hooton Drive and Howden Quarter Line, as well as southeast of the intersection near Wotten Drive and Concession Road 10 (MNR, 2025e). Similarly, no designated gas storage areas or petroleum wells were found within the area (MNR, 2021b; MNR, 2025d).



- LEGEND
- TRANSFORMER STATION (TS)
 - PETROLEUM WELL
 - RAILWAY
 - SECTION OF PREFERRED ROUTE TO BE UNDERGROUND
 - PREFERRED ROUTE
 - ROUTE ALTERNATIVE A CENTERLINE
 - ROUTE ALTERNATIVE B CENTERLINE
 - PROJECT STUDY AREA (PSA)
 - LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA)
 - FIRST NATION RESERVE
 - PITS AND QUARRIES



NOTE(S)
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

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3. ROUTE ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED BY HYDRO ONE INC. OCTOBER 25TH, 2024.
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT HYDRO ONE		
PROJECT DURHAM KAWARTHA POWERLINE PROJECT		
TITLE MINERAL RESOURCES		
CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-02
	DESIGNED	DB
	PREPARED	DB
	REVIEWED	CR
	APPROVED	BV
PROJECT NO. CA0020403.4964	CONTROL 0014	REV. 0
		FIGURE 4-3

4.6 Natural Environment Resources

Natural environment features including air, land, water, wildlife and wildlife habitat resources and features were factors considered within the PSA and LSA.

This section addresses physical and biological features in the PSA and LSA including baseline information for the following:

- Physical environment;
- Atmospheric environment;
- Surface and groundwater resources;
- Source water protection;
- Designated or special natural areas; and
- Natural heritage features.

4.6.1 Physical Environment

Bedrock

The bedrock geology beneath the PSA consists of sedimentary rock of upper Ordovician age and the formations subcrop beneath in a series of roughly northwest to southeast trending bands. The bedrock formations beneath the PSA from west to east are: Blue Mountain shale, Lindsay shale to limestone, and Verulam limestone and shale. **Figure 4-4** shows the distribution of these bedrock formations in the PSA and LSA.

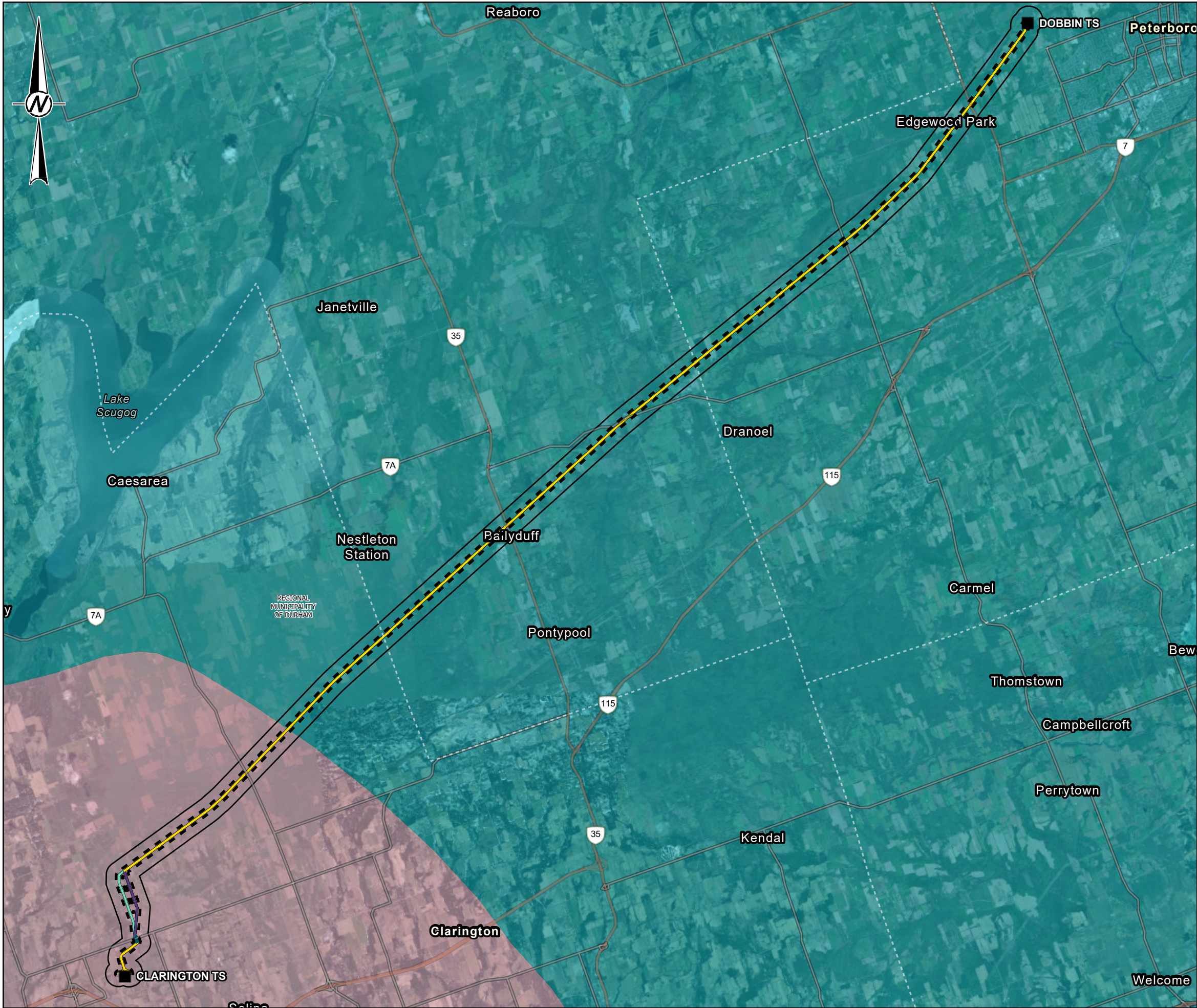
The overburden thicknesses are greater than 100 m and up to 180 m in the western parts of the Project, including the route alternatives. Northwest of Bethany, the overburden thickness is about 50 m and it varies in thickness between 50 to 80 m until west of Highway 7 and south of Mount. Pleasant Road where the overburden thickness reduces to less than 10 m within a creek valley and wetland area. The overburden thickness at the Dobbin TS is around 20 m.

Surficial Geology

The Project crosses through three physiographic regions as defined by Chapman and Putnam (1984). From the Clarington TS, the Project is located in the South Slope physiographic region which comprises the sloped lands between the flatter Iroquois Plain to the south and the hillier Oak Ridges Moraine to the north. Southwest of Burketon Station, the Project crosses into the Oak Ridges Moraine region and then follows along the northwest boundary of the Oak Ridges Moraine region and the adjoining Peterborough Drumlin Field region until reaching the area of Bethany. The Oak Ridges Moraine region is an upland, hilly area with varied relief and typically

sandy soils. The Peterborough Drumlin Field region is a rolling till plain with numerous drumlins and drumlinoid hills.

The surficial geology of the PSA varies widely as shown on **Figure 4-5**. The southwest section of the Project crosses mostly till soils as well as some areas of glaciolacustrine and alluvial soils along the Bowmanville Creek headwaters northeast of Enfield. As the Project enters the Oak Ridges Moraine region, the surficial geology becomes dominated by coarse-grained ice-contact, glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine deposits. Minor areas of fine-grained glaciolacustrine, organic, and alluvial deposits are present in creek valleys and lower lying areas. Near the village of Bethany the surficial geology along the Project becomes varied with coarse- and fine-grained glaciolacustrine, till, organic, and alluvial deposits all present. Towards the eastern end of the Project, the surficial geology is mainly comprised of till with minor areas of glaciofluvial, glaciolacustrine and organic deposits. The Project crosses over or near several drumlin features near both transformer stations and a few others scattered along the extent of the Project.

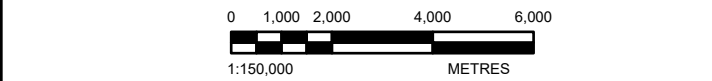


LEGEND

- TRANSFORMER STATION (TS)
- ROUTE ALTERNATIVE A
- ROUTE ALTERNATIVE B
- PREFERRED ROUTE
- POTENTIAL UNDERGROUND LINE
- PROJECT STUDY AREA
- LOCAL STUDY AREA

BEDROCK GEOLOGY:

- 55B GEORGIAN BAY FM.; BLUE MOUNTAIN FM.; BILLINGS FM.; COLLINGWOOD MB.; EASTVIEW MB.
- 54A OTTAWA GP.; SIMCOE GP.; SHADOW LAKE FM.



NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

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3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N
4. BEDROCK GEOLOGY ONTARIO ACCESSED FROM OGS EARTH

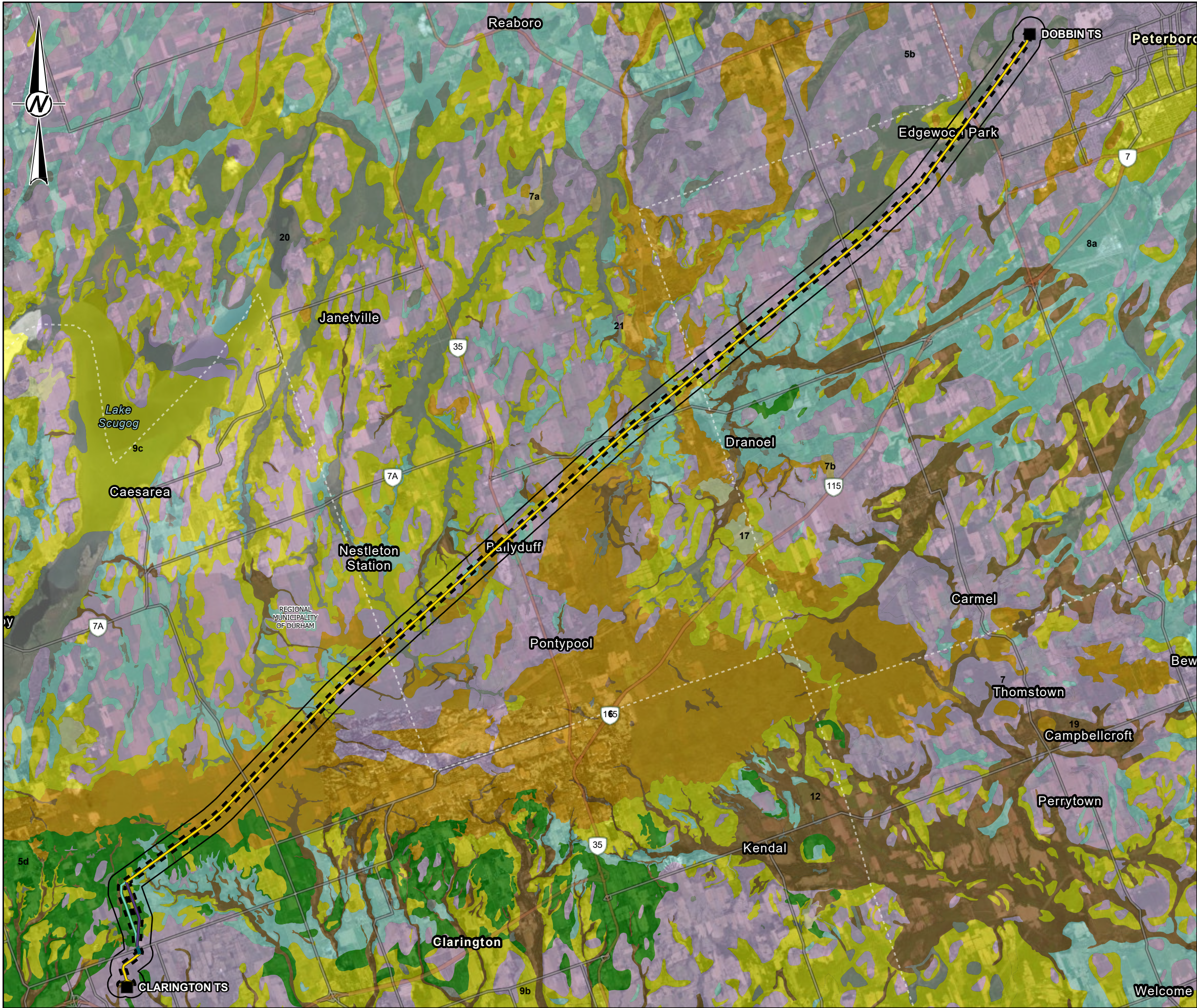
CLIENT
HYDRO ONE

PROJECT
DURHAM KAWARTHA POWER LINE CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

TITLE
BEDROCK GEOLOGY

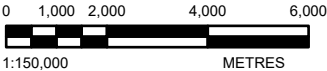
CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-02
DESIGNED	SO	
PREPARED	AP	
REVIEWED	JH	
APPROVED	BV	

PROJECT NO. CA0020403.4964	CONTROL 0001	REV. 0	FIGURE 4-4



SCALE 1:1,500,000

LEGEND	
	TRANSFORMER STATION (TS)
	ROUTE ALTERNATIVE A
	ROUTE ALTERNATIVE B
	PREFERRED ROUTE
	POTENTIAL UNDERGROUND LINE
	PROJECT STUDY AREA
	LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA)
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY:	
	5B: STONE-POOR, CARBONATE-DERIVED SILTY TO SANDY TILL
	5D: GLACIOLACUSTRINE-DERIVED SILTY TO CLAYEY TILL
	6: ICE-CONTACT STRATIFIED DEPOSITS
	7: GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS
	7A: SANDY DEPOSITS
	7B: GRAVELLY DEPOSITS
	8A: MASSIVE-WELL LAMINATED
	9B: LITTORAL-FORESHORE DEPOSITS
	9C: FORESHORE-BASINAL DEPOSITS
	12: OLDER ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS
	17: EOLIAN DEPOSITS
	19: MODERN ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS
	20: ORGANIC DEPOSITS
	21: MAN-MADE DEPOSITS



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3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT HYDRO ONE		
PROJECT DURHAM KAWARTHA POWER LINE CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT		
TITLE SURFICIAL GEOLOGY		
CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-02
DESIGNED	SO	
PREPARED	AP	
REVIEWED	JH	
APPROVED	BV	
PROJECT NO. CA0020403.4964	CONTROL 0001	REV. 0
FIGURE 4-5		

4.6.2 Atmospheric Environment

4.6.2.1 Climate and Climate Change

Climate

The PSA is located within the Humid High Moderate Temperature Ecoclimatic Region within the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone in Southeastern Ontario which is characterized by a mild and moist climate (Crins et al., 2009).

To assess the current climate for the Project, Climate Normals from climate stations near the Project were obtained. The data presented in this section is based on annual Climate Normals data available from 1991 to 2020, and is comprised of data from Canadian climate composite stations with at least 15 years of data between 1991-2020 (Government of Canada, 2024a).

The length of the proposed transmission line (approximately 53 km) and the variation in land features from one end to the other suggests that there could be climatic variation across the transmission line. For example, temperature and precipitation at the Clarington end of the transmission line could be more heavily impacted by Lake Ontario due to proximity. To account for this spatial variability, Climate Normals from climate stations near each end of the proposed transmission line have been selected. Although there is some variation in elevation in between the two ends of the proposed transmission line, capturing Climate Normals on either end of the 53 km distance is assumed to sufficiently capture variation as there are no significant land features in the middle of the transmission line. **Table 4-4** provides details on the climate stations selected for this assessment. The distances from each climate station to the Dobbin or Clarington Transformer Stations are provided. Most stations used are within 10 km of one end of the proposed transmission line.

Table 4-4: Climate Normal Station Locations

Climate Normal Location	Climate Stations
Oshawa	• Oshawa WPCP (6155878) • Approximately 13 km from Clarington TS • Oshawa (6155875) • Approximately 8 km from Clarington TS
Peterborough	• Peterborough AWOS (6166402) • Approximately 8 km from Dobbin TS • Peterborough A (6166481) • Approximately 8 km from Dobbin TS • Peterborough A (6166415) • Approximately 9 km from Dobbin TS

The 1991-2020 Climate Normal mean annual temperature for the Oshawa and Peterborough regions were 8.1°C and 6.5°C respectively. The maximum daily mean temperature in the highest month was consistent between the two regions, at 30.2°C and 30.5°C for Oshawa and Peterborough respectively, however for Oshawa the highest month was July, and for Peterborough the highest month was August.

For both regions, the lowest minimum daily mean was in January, at -24.5°C in Oshawa and -29.5°C in Peterborough. For precipitation, there is slightly higher precipitation in the Oshawa area with an average annual total precipitation of 906.3 mm compared to 839.6 mm in Peterborough. However, extreme precipitation is higher for Peterborough at 83.3 mm, compared to 75.3 mm for Oshawa. The Climate Normal for annual days with snowfall above 10 cm for Oshawa and Peterborough are 2.5 days and 2.8 days, respectively. The extreme wind 1991-2020 Climate Normal for Oshawa is 98 km/h, while Peterborough was 63 km/h. This variation in wind extremes could be explained by close proximity to Lake Ontario for the Oshawa climate stations, causing higher wind off the lake. **Table 4-5** provides a summary of 1991-2020 Climate Normals for regions at each end of the proposed transmission line.

Table 4-5: Summary of Published Annual Climate Normals for the 1991 to 2020 Period for the Oshawa and Peterborough Regions

Climate Parameter	Oshawa Climate Normal	Peterborough Climate Normal
Mean Annual Temperature	8.1°C	6.5°C
Maximum Daily Mean (highest month)	30.2°C (July)	30.5°C (August)
Minimum Daily Mean (lowest month)	-24.5°C (January)	-29.5°C (January)
Average Total Annual Precipitation	906.3 mm	839.6 mm
Extreme Daily Rainfall	75.3 mm	83.3 mm
Highest Wind Extremes	98 km/h	63 km/h
Annual Days with Snowfall Above 10 cm	2.5 days	2.8 days

Wildfires, which do not have an associated Climate Normal, are also a potential climate-related hazard to the Project. However, the project area is in a developed agricultural region where wildfires are uncommon. There are no records of wildfires in close proximity to the project region identified in the Canadian Disaster Database, which includes data dating back to the early 1900s (Government of Canada, 2024b).

4.6.2.2 Air Quality

In Ontario, air quality is monitored through a network of air quality monitoring stations operated by the MECP and Environment Canada (MECP, 2024a; ECCC, 2022); the MECP monitors air quality throughout the province as part of the Air Quality Monitoring System (MECP, 2024a). The nearest stations are located approximately 3.6 km west (Oshawa) and 3.7 km east southeast (10 Hospital Drive - Peterborough) from each end of the PSA. Ozone, particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide are measured at the Oshawa and Peterborough stations.

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) creates a score (i.e., 1 to 10+) totalling the overall risk associated with hourly levels recorded for ground level ozone, particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide. A score of 1 to 3 indicates a low risk, a score of 4 to 6 indicates a moderate risk, a score of 7 to 10 indicates a high risk, while a score of 10+ indicates a very high risk to ambient air quality.

Air monitoring data summarized to provide AQHI scores from the Oshawa and Peterborough stations represent the combined effect of emissions from nearby sources, as well as the effect of emissions transported into the region. The averaged daily AQHI scores for the Oshawa area during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 is low (1 to 3) and, therefore, a low risk to air quality (MECP, 2024b). Similarly, annual daily AQHI scores for the Peterborough area also indicated an overall low score (1 to 3) during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 (MECP, 2024c).

4.6.2.3 Noise and Vibration

Potential points of reception (PORs) for noise are locations where human activities may occur and include a noise and/or vibration sensitive land use. PORs in the LSA were reviewed.

A desktop analysis of orthoimagery and spatial data for the Project was completed to identify potential PORs. The potential PORs in the LSA were identified to be rural dwellings and places of worship.

To characterize existing noise levels, a desktop study was carried out using NPC-300 and orthoimagery. Due to the rural nature of many of the potential PORs within the LSA, existing noise levels of a Class 3 area from NPC-300 (i.e., a rural area with an acoustical environment that is dominated by natural sounds, such as an agricultural area) are considered appropriate as an estimation of existing noise levels within the LSA: 45 dBA during the daytime (07:00 to 19:00) and 40 dBA during the evening (19:00 to 23:00) and nighttime (23:00 to 07:00). Existing noise levels are expected to be dominated by noise sources associated with agricultural activities, rail traffic and local road traffic.

Based on a desktop review and previous project experiences, existing vibration levels are expected to be negligible or minimal, similar to other areas across Canada for receptors within

rural land uses and adjacent to road corridors. No other potential vibration sources were identified through the desktop review.

4.6.3 Surface Water Resources

For the purposes of field studies conducted in 2024 and 2025 in support of the Class EA, surface aquatic features were defined as watercourses (i.e., rivers, streams/creeks and constructed drains) and waterbodies (i.e., natural or man-made ponds or pools that are land-locked within the landscape). As summarized in the Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report (**APPENDIX B**), the Project footprint intersects watercourses and waterbodies at 71 locations.

Physical conditions of watercourses assessed in 2024 and 2025 were summarized in Section 5.2 of the Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report (**APPENDIX B**). Most of the watercourse features within the PSA flow into four Tertiary Watersheds: Kawartha Lakes, North Lake Ontario Shoreline, Otonabee River, and Scugog River. Watercourses along the PSA include Bowmanville Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek and the Pigeon River.

The topography across the PSA is relatively hilly, with general sloping observed towards watercourse systems and surface drainage features. In general, surface flow from constructed drains and watercourses flow east, north and northeast within the Kawartha Lakes, Otonabee River, and Scugog River tertiary watersheds and south within the North Lake Ontario Shoreline tertiary watershed (MNR 2019).

A total of five active Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) stations were identified within the vicinity of the PSA. This includes one station from the Kawartha Lakes watershed (Station 17002107402), three stations from the North Lake Ontario Shoreline watershed (Stations 6011600502, 6011600602, and 6011600102), and one station from the Otonabee River watershed (Station 17002103802), noting that each monitoring station was active at the time of reporting. As identified in the Central Lake Ontario 2023 Watershed Report Card, Kawartha Lakes 2023 Watershed Report Card, and Otonabee Conservation 2023 Watershed Report Card, surface water quality for the subwatersheds identified within, and in the general vicinity of the PSA were considered Good to Poor on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor (i.e., subwatersheds classified as Fair in the Central Lake Ontario report, subwatersheds classified as Good and Poor in the Kawartha Lakes report, and subwatersheds classified as Good in the Otonabee Conservation report).

4.6.4 Groundwater Resources

Groundwater resources were evaluated within the PSA and LSA to effectively capture potential effects on groundwater resources from the proposed Project. Well records mapped for the province of Ontario were reviewed to determine groundwater quality (MECP, 2024d).

Background review determined that 1018 water well records are located within the extent of the LSA; mapping identifying the extent of well records for the PSA and LSA are illustrated in **APPENDIX B**. Water well records indicate that well depths range from 3.0 m to 152.4 m depth and average 36.5 m depth. The recorded static groundwater levels range from -0.6 m (above ground) to 84.4 m depth and average 15.8 m depth. Sixty of the water well records recorded depths to bedrock that ranged from 0.3 m to 128.3 m depth and averaged 37.5 m depth. Most of the well records (900 of 1018) are used for local water supply (agricultural/livestock and domestic residential). Groundwater quality was described as “fresh” for 750 of the records with only 11 records indicating quality issues (gas, sulphur, mineral, or salty). Summary water well records are presented in **APPENDIX B**.

Four of the water well records in the LSA indicated a use for municipal water supply. These well records are located in the town of Bethany. One well appears to have been installed for fire hall use and the other three well records appear to be associated with the Woodfield municipal well system and related test or monitoring wells.

Groundwater Hydrogeology

Regional groundwater mapping (Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program, 2018) indicates that groundwater levels along the Project route are typically less than 5 m below ground surface around the Clarington TS and on to north of Enfield. Through the Oak Ridges Moraine region, the depth to groundwater is variable but typically greater than 5 m and up to more than 30 m below ground surface. Between Burketon Station and Ballyduff and continuing on to Bethany, the typical groundwater depths become less than 5 m with occasional local depths of up to 25 m below ground surface. Northeast of Bethany the Project route crosses a height of land and the mapped depths to groundwater become greater than 20 m and up to over 45 m below ground surface. After this area the route continues to the Dobbin TS across areas where the typical groundwater depth is less than 5 m below ground surface with local topographic highs having groundwater depths reaching up to 10 or 15 m below ground surface. Areas with potential for groundwater discharge (i.e. predicted groundwater level above ground surface) are mapped along the Project route and are typically localized to low-lying stream valleys.

The Clarington TS is located near discharge areas and there are more extensive areas of potential groundwater discharge between Bethany and Peterborough associated with wetland and creek valleys and including the Dobbins TS area.

4.6.5 Source Water Protection

The Project passes through two Source Protection Regions (CTC and Trent Conservation Coalition) and three Source Protection Areas (Central Lake Ontario, Kawartha-Haliburton, and Otonabee-Peterborough).

Review of Source Protection Information Atlas (MECP, 2026) showed no Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) 1 and IPZ 2 areas along the Project route; however, within the Kawartha-Haliburton Source Protection and Otonabee-Peterborough Areas, the Project route passes over waterbodies that are designed as IPZ 3.

The Project route passes through two designated Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA). These WHPA are shown on the Figure set in **APPENDIX B** and include the Woodfield municipal well system (Well #1 and Well #2) in Bethany (Kawartha Conservation, 2016) and the Lansdowne planned municipal system, near Highway 7 and Highway 5, just west of Peterborough (Otonabee Region Conservation, 2025).

Areas designated as Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVA) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRA) are also present in the PSA and LSA (Land Information Ontario, 2024). These designations indicate areas where the groundwater is deemed to be vulnerable to surficial contamination impacts (HVA) or areas where the infiltration rates are above average and form a significant source of groundwater recharge (SGRA). HVA areas are most common in the Oak Ridges Moraine area between Burketon Station and Bethany. Fewer HVA areas are located near the LSA to the east of Bethany. SGRA are similarly distributed along the LSA and are closely associated with coarser grained surficial deposits.

The Trent Source Protection Plan (SPP) (2022) and CTC Source Protection Plan (2024) identify policies that are to be implemented for the protection of source water. In particular, the identified policies focus on specific land use activities that are identified in the Clean Water Act as Prescribed Drinking Water Threats (PDWTs) that may pose a low, moderate or significant threat to the source water. Under the Clean Water Act, there are 22 PDWTs identified. The PDWTs most relevant to the Project are related to construction and operation activities that are performed within designated vulnerable areas, and include:

- Application of Pesticides (PDWT #10), as part of the anticipated regular operations activities along the transmission corridor.
- Storage and Handling of Fuel (PDWT #15), related to refuelling activities for construction equipment.

A review of the Trent SPP and CTC SPP identified that the policies related to the Storage and Handling of Fuel and the Application of Pesticides were only applicable to limited areas of WHPA that are located outside of the Project route.

4.6.6 Designated or Special Natural Areas

The following Designated Areas are present or potentially present in the PSA and/or LSA:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
 - Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area
 - Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area
- Significant Woodlands (including culturally significant)
- Conservation Areas
- Enfield Conservation Area
- Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area
- Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area
- Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
 - Enfield Wetlands ANSI
 - Caven Creek Headwaters ANSI
- Valleylands
- Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs)
 - Enfield Wetland Complex PSW
 - Pigeon River No. 20 Complex PSW
 - Pigeon River No. 23 Complex PSW
 - Cavan Bog Wetland Complex PSW
 - Jackson Creek Complex PSW
 - Jackson Creek East Complex PSW

Refer to Section 6 of the Natural Environment Existing Conditions Report (NER) in **APPENDIX B** for further details.

4.6.7 Natural Heritage Features

The following Natural Heritage Features are present or potentially present in the PSA and/or LSA:

- Wetlands (unevaluated, culturally significant)
- Fish and Aquatic Habitat
- Woodlands (unevaluated)
- Species at Risk (SAR)
- Savannas (culturally significant)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat (candidate and confirmed)

Refer to Section 6 of the NER in **APPENDIX B** for further details.

4.7 Recreational Resources

Recreational trails that are part of the Ontario Trail Network (OTN) overlap the PSA and LSA, including the Trans-Canada Trail (Jackson Creek Kiwanis Trail); the Victoria Rail Trail (South Corridor); and the Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route), which are further described below.

Trans Canada Trail (Jackson Creek Kiwanis Trail)

The Trans Canada Trail (Jackson Creek Kiwanis Trail section) is located south of the Dobbin TS. This trail is part of Canada's national trail network and is the longest recreational multi-use trail system in the world, which traverses every Canadian province and territory (Trans Canada Trail, 2023a). The trail offers a wide range of outdoor activities, such as hiking, paddling, cycling, and horseback riding, among other activities (Trans Canada Trail, 2023b).

Victoria Rail Trail (South Corridor)

The Victoria Rail Trail (South Corridor) is located west of Ski Hill Road within the village of Bethany. This trail runs along the former CP Rail line and is part of an 85 km year-round trail used for hiking, fishing, dogsledding, horseback riding, cycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling (City of Kawartha Lake, 2023; MNR, 2021d; OTC, 2025).

Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route)

The Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route), which is associated with the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail Association, located northeast of Burketon Station along Boundary Road and Avery Road (AllTrails, 2025; MNR, 2021d). This trail provides connections to the Long Sault Conservation Area (CLOCA) and Great Lakes Waterfront trail and includes a long-distance cycling route which extends across Ontario (CLOCA, n.d.; Waterfront Regeneration Trust, 2018).

Kawartha Conservation

Durham East Cross Forest Conversation Area

In addition to the above, the Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area overlaps the PSA and the LSA near south of Devitts Road and north of Mountjoy Road and is overseen by Kawartha Conservation (AllTrails, 2025; Kawartha Conservation, n.d.a). The Durham East Cross Forest is a unique natural core area on the Oak Ridges Moraine which is celebrated for remarkable geological features and ecological importance. The forest provides refuge to a wide array of plant and animal species, playing a crucial role in sustaining the local

environment. There are approximately 7 km of marked trails within the Durham East Cross Forest which provide recreational opportunities such as hiking; mountain biking; horseback riding; bird/wildlife viewing; snowshoeing and cross-country skiing; snowmobiling; and picnic areas (Kawartha Conservation, n.d.a).

Fleetwood Creek Natural Area

Fleetwood Creek Natural Area is located east of the intersection near Wild Turkey Road and Ballyduff Road. The area does not overlap the PSA or LSA; however, is located in close proximity to the Project study area. Fleetwood Creek Natural Area is approximately 380 hectares in size, providing approximately 8 km of trails. This area is characterized by steep valleys many cold-water streams and also holds the designation of a Provincially Significant Earth and Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). The Fleetwood Creek Natural Area provides opportunities for hiking, biking, bird/wildlife viewing, dog-walking, as well as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing (Kawartha Conservation, n.d.b).

Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area

Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area is located northwest of Ballyduff, near the intersection at Gary Road and Century Farm Road. It does not overlap the PSA or LSA; however, the Pigeon River does, providing hydraulic connection to the Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area. The Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area provides approximately 3.4 km of trails and boardwalks and provides opportunities for hiking; biking; dog-walking; bird/wildlife viewing; cross-country skiing and snowshoeing; and picnic areas (Kawartha Conservation, n.d.d). The Pigeon River is hydraulically connected to Pigeon Lake, which offers a variety of recreational activities (e.g., fishing, boating, camping, and swimming) (Kawartha Conservation, n.d.c).

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA)

Long Sault Forest Conservation Area

The Long Sault Forest Conservation is located southeast of Burketon Station northeast of the intersection at Highway 20 (Concession Road 9 and Highway 57 (Bowmanville Avenue). The area does not overlap the PSA or LSA; however, trail systems within this area provide connection to the Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route) (described above). The Long Sault Forest Conservation Area is approximately 400 hectares in size, provides more than 18 km of marked trails, and is managed by the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority. This area provides opportunities for hiking, biking, dog-walking, snowshoeing and skiing, as well as bird/wildlife viewing (CLOCA, n.d.).

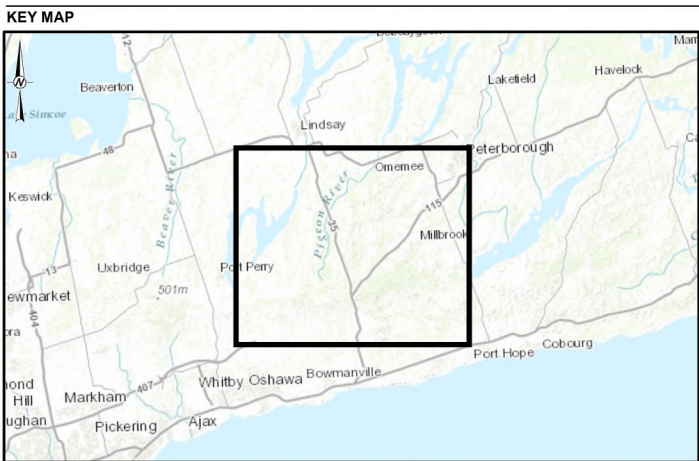
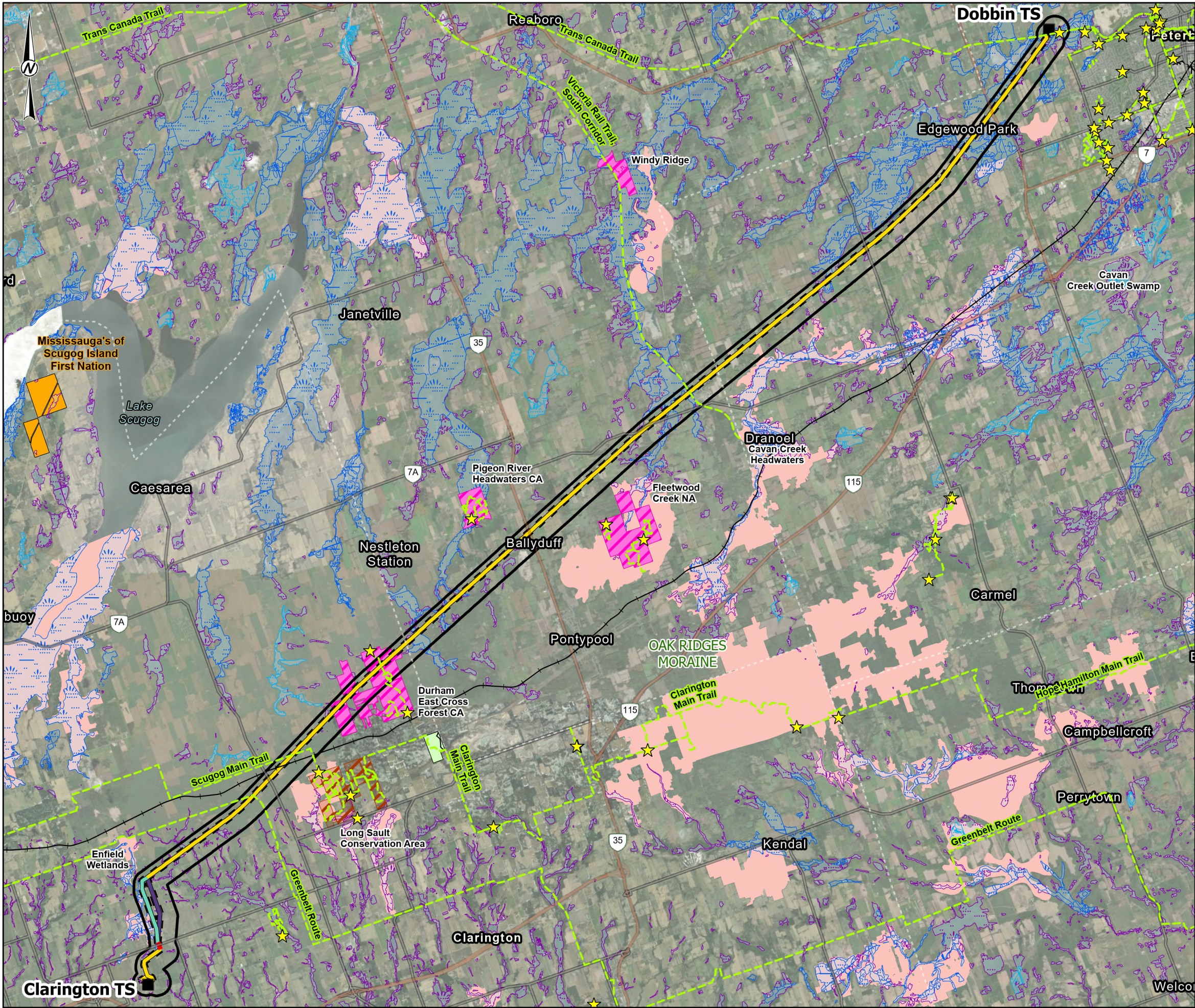
Surface Water Features & Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area/Cavan Bog Complex

There are several natural areas identified within the PSA and LSA that may be utilized for outdoor recreational purposes including Bowmanville Creek, Pigeon River, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek, and wetland areas such as the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area/Cavan Bog Wetland Complex (MNR, 2023a). Sections of Fleetwood Creek, the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area/Cavan Bog Wetland Complex, and Jackson Creek Trail offer various outdoor activities such as birding, hunting, cycling, cross-county skiing, and hiking (Kawartha Conservation, n.d.b; Otonabee Conservation, n.d.a; Otonabee Conservation, n.d.b).

Other Identified Recreational Resources

A review of the Official Plans described in **Section 4.4.1** (Provincial Policy Statement [2024]) above was conducted to determine the presence of recreational land uses present within the PSA and LSA. Information reviewed within the Municipality of Clarington OP indicates that sections of Regional Road 3; Scugog Road; and Regional Road 57 within the Municipality of Clarington may provide potential regional trail connections to the Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route), described above (Municipality of Clarington, 2018a).

There are two candidate ANSIs bisected by the preferred route including the Cavan Creek Headwaters, which overlap a small portion of the LSA northeast of the intersection at Morton Line and Dranoel Road, as well as the Enfield Wetlands, which overlap the PSA and LSA north of Regional Road 3 between Enfield Road and Townline Road, extending north towards Concession Road 10 (MNR, 2023a).



LEGEND	
	TRANSFORMER STATION (TS)
	TRAILHEAD
	TRAIL
	RAILWAY
	SECTION OF PREFERRED ROUTE TO BE UNDERGROUND
	PREFERRED ROUTE
	ROUTE ALTERNATIVE A CENTERLINE
	ROUTE ALTERNATIVE B CENTERLINE
	PROJECT STUDY AREA (PSA)
	LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA)
	FIRST NATION RESERVE
	MUNICIPAL PARK
	UNEVALUATED WETLAND
	EVALUATED WETLAND (NO SIGNIFICANCE)
	PROVINCIALY SIGNIFICANT WETLAND (PSW)
	ANSIS (CANDIDATE AND RECOGNIZED AND CANDIDATE)
	CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (CLOCA)
	KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

NOTE(S)
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)
1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: WORLD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: ESRI, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, HERE, GARMIN, FAO, USGS, NGA, EPA, NPS, AAFC, NRCAN
3. ROUTE ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED BY HYDRO ONE INC. OCTOBER 25TH, 2024.
4. DURHAM CROSS TRAILS DIGITIZED FROM "DECFC_A_MAP_JUNE2014.PDF"
5. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT		HYDRO ONE	
PROJECT		DURHAM KAWARTHA POWERLINE PROJECT	
TITLE		RECREATION	
CONSULTANT		YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-24
		DESIGNED	DB
		PREPARED	DB
		REVIEWED	CR
		APPROVED	BV
PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
CA0020403.4964	0014	0	4-6



4.8 Visual and Aesthetic Resources

This factor summarizes baseline characterizations of the physical appearances across the landscapes in the PSA and LSA and their susceptibility to change as a result of the Project.

As noted in **Section 4.1**, agricultural land is present through a large extent of the PSA and LSA. Natural elements include woodlots, tree canopies of rural communities, as well as forest cover and other successional riparian vegetation adjacent to waterways such as Pigeon River. Existing vertical elements include traffic and light standards and existing transmission lines. One existing transmission corridor will be repurposed for the Project as described in **Section 1.2**.

Most of the visual receptors are residential properties with expansive views of the horizon. Many of these properties feature tree-lined windbreaks and hedgerows that provide privacy from nearby visual elements. The majority of the Project is proposed within an existing transmission line ROW which would currently be visible to adjacent visual receptors.

5 Identification and Evaluation of Alternative Routes

This section describes the alternative route evaluation undertaken to identify the preferred route for the Project. “Alternative methods” refer to different means of carrying out the same task to achieve the purpose of the undertaking, which in this case involves the construction of a double-circuit 230 kV transmission line connecting Clarington TS in the Municipality of Clarington and Dobbin TS in the County of Peterborough. Once “alternative methods” for the undertaking are identified, evaluation criteria are established, and a subsequent comparative evaluation is completed to determine the preferred alternative.

Hydro One’s Class EA for Transmission Facilities (**Section 1.4.1**) requires the identification of reasonable and feasible alternatives that can be assessed based on Natural Environment, Socio-Economic Environment, Technical and Costs factors to determine the preferred alternative. The assessment considers both quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential effects associated with each route alternative identified. For this undertaking The Golder Sustainability Evaluation Option Analysis Web Tool (GoldSET™) was used to complete the evaluation of route alternatives.

GoldSET™ is a simplified multi-criteria analysis tool that offers a systematic process to evaluate Project alternatives across the criteria categories relevant to the Project. The purpose of the tool is to generate a recommendation about the most optimal preferred route for the Project. The GoldSET™ framework facilitates communication about the key impacts, benefits, and drawbacks of different alternatives, and provides traceability and transparency throughout the decision-making process. The following sections provide an overview of the methods used for the alternative route evaluation process.

The alternative route evaluation framework is comprised of themes, criteria and indicators:

- A theme is the broad category that helps to organize the assessment into manageable sections (i.e., Natural Environment, Social-Economic).
- A criterion is a subset category to a theme that is used to evaluate the potential impacts within that theme. For example, the Natural Environment theme can be broken into criteria categories such as surface water and aquatics, species at risk, and natural areas of importance.
- An indicator is a measure used to assess the performance or condition of each criterion. They offer concrete data to support the evaluation, making the assessment more objective and transparent. For example, the indicators of natural areas of importance

criteria could include provincial parks, environmentally significant areas, and natural heritage systems.

5.1 Step 1: Establish Need

As outlined in **Section 1.1**, the IESO identified the need for a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from Clarington TS to Dobbin TS in a recommended solution package for addressing the end-of-life of the Gatineau transmission corridor and forecasted reliability needs in the Peterborough to Quinte West and Ottawa regions.

5.2 Step 2: Identify Route Alternatives

The Class EA process requires identification of technically feasible and reasonable alternatives to address the need of the Project. In March of 2024, the IESO accepted that the project would involve the construction of a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line from Clarington TS to Dobbin TS. Following this decision, Hydro One conducted an internal assessment to identify viable routes (the “route alternatives”) for the Project. Using readily available secondary source information, the Project team researched and mapped clear Technical, Socio-Economic, and Natural Environment constraints and, where possible, identified opportunities for paralleling linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, and potential to repurpose existing transmission corridors.

During the initial routing for the Project, it was identified that there was an existing idle transmission line from near Clarington TS to Dobbin TS. Preliminary engineering confirmed that the new infrastructure could be accommodated within the existing transmission corridor with the exception of a small 3 km section near Clarington TS (north of Regional Road 3). For this 3 km section, the existing corridor would require widening the easement to support the Project.

The Hydro One Project team conducted a constraint analysis to help identify any other potential paths for a transmission line from Dobbin TS to Clarington TS. Technical and environmental constraints were identified from desktop data and orthophotos, and were generally categorized as high, medium or low constraints, and mapped. High constraints included features that would likely preclude technical or economic feasibility, such as large waterbodies, dense residential areas, and close proximity to known wind turbines.

Based on the constraint analysis, it was determined that no additional viable route options were available for 50 km of the total 53 km, mostly where it was possible to make use of the existing transmission corridor. Making use of the existing corridor avoids additional new crossings of the Oak Ridges Moraine, several Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) and minimizes required vegetation clearing.

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For the small 3 km section near Clarington TS (north of Regional Road 3), the Project Team identified a second viable route alternative (Figure 5-1) that would meet the need for the Project.

Since the release of the NoC, the Project Team has continued to collect information, initiate field studies and engage with First Nation communities, impacted property owners and the public to gather input to support the route evaluation process. Based on information gathered, minor route refinements have been made to accommodate technical constraints. In October 2024, prior to COH #2, Hydro One made two route refinements associated with the project:

Route Alternative A was refined to:

- Avoid wetlands and an ANSI; and
- Add an extra angle tower east so it was setback 7 m from a dirt road.

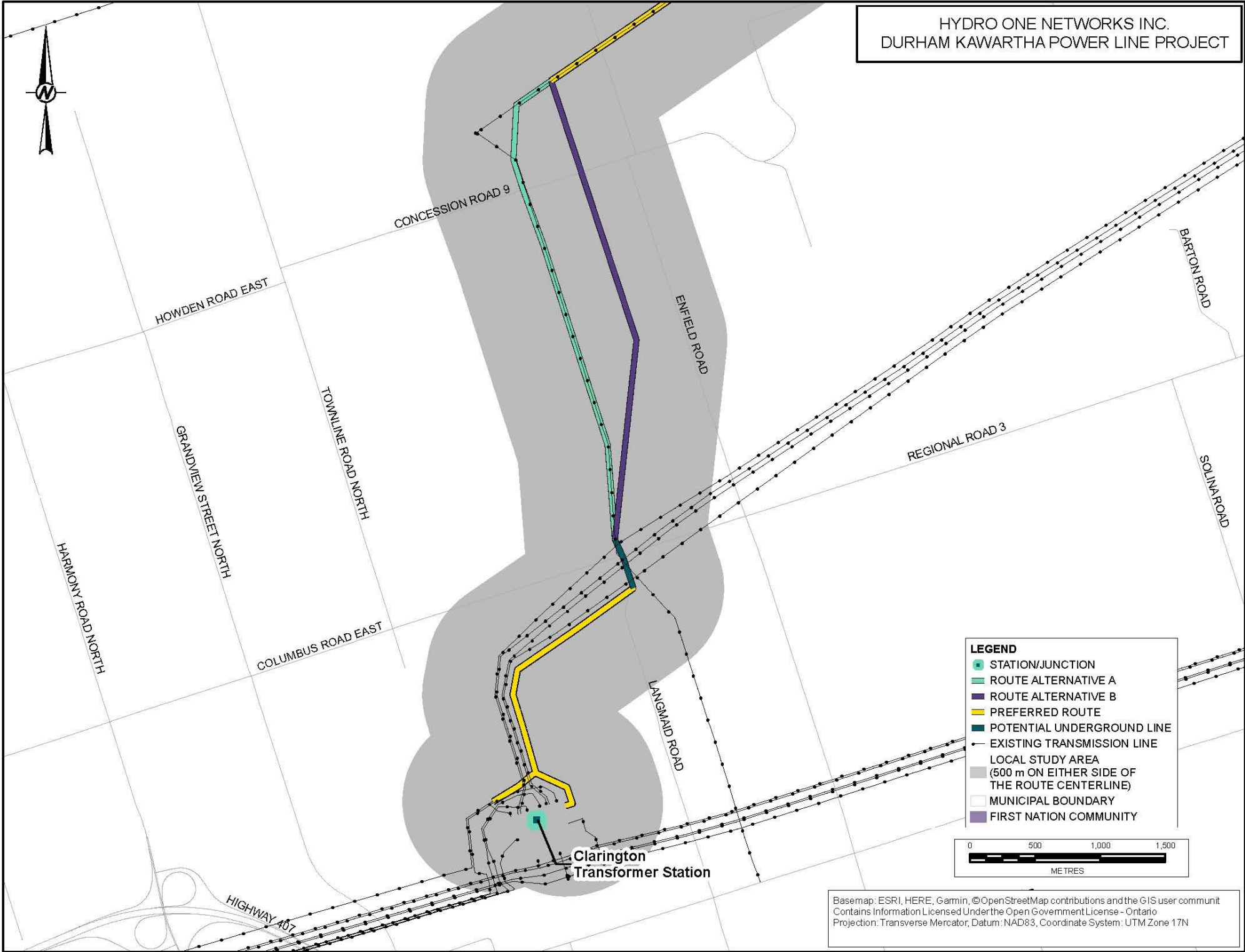
Route Alternative B was refined to:

- Move the line away from residences;
- Avoid wetland area, though a 120 m setback was not achievable;
- Shorten its length; and
- Avoid the requirement of extra angle towers.

The route alternatives, including the route refinements were carried forward for the comparative evaluation:

- Route Alternative A, shown in green in **Figure 5-1** follows an existing Hydro One corridor north of Clarington TS. This route would require widening to accommodate the new transmission line.
- Route Alternative B, shown in purple in **Figure 5-1** would be a new corridor north of Clarington TS, east of Route Alternative A.

Figure 5-1: Route Alternatives



5.3 Step 3: Define Criteria

Following the identification of routes alternatives, categories, criteria and indicators that make up the alternative route evaluation framework are established in the GoldSET™ process. The development of the evaluation framework was based on input and comments provided by Project team members and subject matter experts, First Nation communities and stakeholders. Criteria and indicators for the Project were grouped into four categories as follows:

- Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use;
- Natural Environment;
- Socio-Economic Environment; and
- Technical.

Hydro One provided First Nation communities detail about the alternative route evaluation process. Information was provided during monthly meetings, discussions and a survey. The sections below summarize the alternative route evaluation discussion with First Nation communities and how input provided was considered as part of the alternative route evaluation framework. Feedback received from the public and stakeholders was also considered during development of the alternative route evaluation framework as is also summarized below.

Alternative Route Evaluation Communication with First Nation Communities

Hydro One shared information and opportunities related to the Project with all First Nation communities identified in the Duty to Consult letter from MEM (formerly MOE).

On August 29, 2024 Hydro One emailed the Southern Williams Treaty First Nations to advise them that the Project team was working on creating an evaluation framework to determine the preferred route. The email requested First Nation community input on the Indigenous Culture, Values, and Land Use category and noted the alternative route evaluation would be an agenda item at their September 11, 2024 meeting. The email listed the following as potential criteria for the category:

- Areas of Indigenous Significance;
- Wetlands or Amphibian Habitats;
- Woodlots; and
- Vegetation (reflective of inputs regarding remnant prairie grass habitats, regionally rare plants or plants for harvesting or traditional medicines).

During the September 11, 2024 Project meeting with the Southern Williams Treaty First Nations, a presentation on the alternative route evaluation and GoldSET™ was provided. The

presentation included an overview of how GoldSET™ uses geospatial, qualitative and quantitative data from environmental, social, economic and technical dimensions to identify a preferred route. Following the presentation, Hydro One requested feedback from communities on criteria and indicators to be included in the evaluation framework for the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use category.

On November 1, 2024, Hydro One sent an email to all First Nation communities with a link to a survey requesting their feedback on the importance of the criteria and indicators used to evaluate Route Alternatives A and B to determine the preferred route. The survey also requested communities provide any missing inputs that they would like to see included in the evaluation. The survey concluded on November 29, 2024 and one response was received. Hydro One also received written feedback via email from First Nation communities on the criteria and indicators. Feedback from First Nation communities on the evaluation of the alternative routes is included below.

Alderville First Nation

In response to Hydro One August 29, 2024 email about the creation of an alternative route evaluation framework, Alderville First Nation (AFN) requested adding protection of a specific species of cultural significance as a criteria. The community cited that there was approximately only 1% of what once existed, and they were proud protectors and maintainers of the remaining ecosystems. AFN also provided a non-exhaustive list of some species of cultural significance the community identified as potentially existing along the proposed transmission corridor from road allowances, which were considered in the evaluation.

Hydro One reviewed available desktop data and field survey results and determined that none of the identified species of cultural significance identified by AFN were present in the study area; therefore, additional criteria were not included in the evaluation.

Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN) responded to Hydro One's November 1, 2024 survey requesting responses on the importance of the criteria and indicators used to determine the preferred route. MSIFN provided feedback on the importance of criteria and indicators for all four categories. In general, the First Nation's survey response assigned the highest level of importance to criteria and indicators in the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use and Natural Environment categories compared to the Socio-Economic Environment and Technical categories.

In their survey response, MSIFN identified areas of importance, some of which were deemed to be outside of the study area. The community provided feedback that all water features (e.g.

lakes, rivers, tributaries, cold water streams) should be considered as part of the alternative route evaluation also informed the refinement of the “Water Features” criteria for the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use category.

Based on field observations within the PSA, MSIFN indicated traditional use plants and vegetation to be considered as part of the route evaluation.

MSIFN suggested the addition of the following criteria and indicators to the evaluation:

- Lands available to Williams Treaties First Nation (WTFN) members to practice Treaty Rights;
- Landscapes of importance;
- Cumulative impacts to Treaty Rights;
- Habitat fragmentation; and
- Air quality and noise.

The Project team considered the additional criteria and determined that indicators for “lands available to WTFN member to practice Treaty Rights” and “landscapes of importance” would be added to the description of the “Areas of Indigenous Significance” criterion included in the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use category.

A criterion called “Identified Impacts to Treaty Rights” was added to the evaluation framework that considers the First Nation community’s assessment of the routes based on impacts to their Treaty Rights and preservation of ecosystems.

Additionally, the Project team captured “habitat fragmentation” in the existing Natural Environment category with criteria assessing vegetation communities, habitat and potential restoration opportunities. The Project team did not add “air quality and noise” as a criteria or indicator since the metric would be the same or similar for both routes and have no impact, or minimal impact on the final evaluation.

Alternative Route Evaluation Communication with the Public and Stakeholder

During the three Community Open Houses that took place in June of 2024, Hydro One received feedback from the public that was considered as part of the development of the alternative route evaluation framework. Themes of feedback relevant to the evaluation of route alternatives include:

- Tower proximity to residential structures;
- Importance of the environment;
- Use of an existing transmission corridor;

- Wildlife and species at risk habitat; and
- Impacts to farmland.

Given Route Alternative A crosses one of CLOCA's properties, CLOCA was engaged to discuss the alternative route evaluation framework. The sections below summarize the alternative route evaluation discussion with CLOCA and how input provided was considered as part of the alternative route evaluation framework.

The Project team met with the CLOCA to discuss the Project and the evaluation of the route alternatives on October 17, 2024. Hydro One explained the alternative route evaluation framework and asked if they had any feedback on criteria as both route alternatives were located within their jurisdiction. CLOCA highlighted consideration of natural heritage impacts from transmission corridors, impacts to wetland and forest features as well as the socio-economic impacts of lost farmland. Given Route Alternative A crosses one of CLOCA's properties, it was suggested that a new category be added for restoration opportunities as CLOCA would be able to restore this area. Hydro One requested information on any restoration plans in this area.

On November 21, 2024, Hydro One sent an email to CLOCA with a link to a survey requesting their feedback on the importance of the criteria and indicators used to evaluate Route Alternatives A and B to determine the preferred route. The survey also requested CLOCA provide information that could feed into the restoration criteria.

A response to the survey was received from CLOCA on December 16, 2024. CLOCA assigned the highest level of importance to criteria in the Natural Environment and Technical categories. The Conservation Authority suggested the addition of criteria and indicators that consider the long-term potential for creating forest interior, impacts to restoration between Provincially Significant Wetlands cells, their Natural Heritage Restoration Prioritization Model and their Natural Heritage System and Oshawa Creek Watershed Plan.

The Project team captured the additional criteria and indicators identified by CLOCA in the "Restoration" criteria in the Natural Environment category that identifies areas of restoration opportunity within the CLOCA-owned property.

5.3.1 Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use

The Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use category consisted of six criteria.

- Co-Location of Existing infrastructure
- Areas Identified by Indigenous Communities as Significant (including lands available to WFTN members to practice Treaty Rights and landscapes of importance)
- Identified Traditional Use Plants

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- Water Features
- Woodlots
- Potential Impacts to Treaty Rights as Identified by Indigenous Communities

The criteria are defined by indicators (**Table 5-1**) that measure the potential effects of the route alternatives on features and areas of Indigenous value within the study area.

Table 5-1: Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use Criteria and Indicators

Criteria	Indicator(s)
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.
Areas Identified by Indigenous Communities as Significant (including lands available to WTFN members to practice Treaty Rights and landscapes of importance)	Areas of Indigenous significance are largely avoided in the PSA.
Identified Traditional Use Plants	Area of ELC polygons within the PSA (ha) that have the potential to support traditional use plant species identified by Indigenous communities.
Water Features	Area (ha) of water features within the PSA (ha) including wetlands, amphibian habitats, lakes and tributaries.
Woodlots	Area (ha) of woodlots within the ROW.
Potential Impacts to Treaty Rights as Identified by Indigenous Communities	Identified potential impacts to Treaty Rights based on feedback from Indigenous communities ranked on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 having the least potential impacts to Treaty Rights and 3 having the most potential impacts to Treaty Rights.

The following data was used to evaluate Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use criteria:

- Hydro One datasets associated with route alternative pathways;
- Information provided by First Nation Communities;
- Ecological Land Classification;

- Field survey data (eDNA sampling, aquatics habitat assessments, botanical assessments);
- Aerial photography; and
- Publicly accessible Land Information Ontario (LIO) geographic datasets.

5.3.2 Natural Environment

The Natural Environment category consists of seven criteria:

1. Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat;
2. Vegetation and Vegetation Communities;
3. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat;
4. Species at Risk;
5. Wetland, Natural Hazards and Floodplain;
6. Designated Natural Areas; and
7. Areas of Potential Restoration.

The criteria are defined by indicators (**Table 5-2**) that measure the potential effects of the route alternatives on Natural Environment features and areas within the study area.

Table 5-2: Natural Environment Criteria and Indicators

Criteria	Indicator(s)
Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat	Number of watercourse crossings traversing the centreline of the route. Length (km) of identified water features within the ROW.
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities	Area (ha) of natural vegetation within the ROW. Area (ha) of incompatible vegetation communities within the ROW.
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Area (ha) of confirmed or candidate significant wildlife habitat (SWH) within the ROW. Area (ha) of confirmed or candidate SWH within the PSA.
Species at Risk	Area (ha) of SAR habitat and field observations of SAR within the ROW. Area (ha) of SAR habitat and field observations of SAR within the PSA.
Wetland, Natural Hazards and Floodplain	Area (ha) of Provincially Significant Wetlands within the ROW. Area (ha) of other wetlands identified by MNR and field observations within the ROW. Area (ha) of Conservation Authority regulated lands within the ROW.

Criteria	Indicator(s)
Designated Natural Areas	Area (ha) of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) within the ROW. Area (ha) of Environmentally Sensitive Areas within the ROW. Area (ha) of natural heritage system (NHS) within the ROW.
Areas of Potential Restoration	Area (ha) of restoration opportunity within the ROW.

The following data was used to evaluate Natural Environment criteria:

- Hydro One datasets associated with route alternative pathways;
- Publicly accessible LIO and CLOCA geographic datasets.
- Field survey data (breeding bird and other wildlife surveys, SAR habitat assessments, eDNA sampling, aquatics habitat assessments, botanical assessments);
- Preliminary engineering and system planning information on the route alternatives;
- Ecological Land Classifications; and
- Aerial photography.

5.3.3 Socio-Economic Environment

The Socio-Economic Environment category consists of seven criteria:

1. Agriculture Resources;
2. Property Impacts;
3. Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational Business and Facilities Land Uses;
4. Water Wells and Source Water Protection;
5. Archaeological Resources;
6. Preliminary engineering and system planning information on the route alternatives;
7. Cultural Resources; and
8. Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure.

The criteria are defined by indicators (**Table 5-3**) that measure the potential effects of the route alternatives on Socio-Economic Environment features and areas within the study area.

Table 5-3: Socio-Economic Environment Criteria and Indicators

Criteria	Indicator(s)
Agricultural Resources	Area (ha) of agricultural land designated by ELC delineation within the ROW. Ranking of crossing type complexity on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being less complex and 3 being more complex.

Criteria	Indicator(s)
Property Impacts	Number of residential structures in close proximity to the route (within the PSA). Number of impacted properties.
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational Business and Facilities Land Uses	Area (ha) of commercial, industrial, institutional or recreational, and business land use properties within the ROW.
Water Wells and Source Water Protection	Number of domestic water wells within the ROW. Area (ha) of significant groundwater recharge area, highly vulnerable aquifer and designated vulnerable area within the ROW.
Archaeological Resources	Number of areas of archaeological potential within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within 300 m of ROW. Area (ha) that requires Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment within ROW.
Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	Number of known and potential Built Heritage Resources (BHRs) and Cultural Heritage Landscapes (CHLs) within PSA.
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.

The following data was used to evaluate Socio-Economic Environment criteria:

- Preliminary engineering and system planning information on the route alternatives;
- Publicly accessible LIO, MECP, CLOCA, and CanVec geographic datasets;
- Ecological Land Classification;
- Datasets associated with property parcel fabric;
- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment undertaken for the Project;
- Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report (CHEC); and
- Aerial photography.

5.3.4 Technical

The Technical category consists of seven criteria:

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1. Line Length;
2. Angle Structures;
3. Non-Transmission Crossings;
4. Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure;
5. Real Estate Considerations;
6. Constructability; and
7. Operability.

The criteria are defined by indicators (**Table 5-4**) that measure the difference between alternatives in the Technical category.

Table 5-4: Technical Criteria and Indicators

Criteria	Indicator(s)
Line Length	Total line length (km).
Angle Structures	Number of light angle transmission structures. Number of heavy angle transmission structures.
Non-Transmission Crossings	Number of crossings of waterbodies, distribution lines, and roads by route.
Co-Location of existing infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.
Real Estate Considerations	Number of impacted properties. Net new hectares of land encumbrance.
Constructability	Ranking of constructability on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very difficult to construct and 10 being without any obstructions.
Operability	Ranking of operability on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very difficult to operate and 10 being without any obstructions.

The following data was used to evaluate Technical criteria:

- Publicly accessible LIO geographic datasets;
- Engineering standards and best practices;
- Datasets associated with property parcel fabric; and
- Preliminary engineering and system planning information on the route alternatives.

5.4 Step 4: Weight Criteria

Once criteria and indicators were identified, the Project team assigned weights for the criteria within each category. Criteria with higher weights were considered to hold higher importance in the evaluation.

At the inception of the evaluation framework, the Project team determined the importance of each category (Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use, Natural Environment, Socio-Economic Environment and Technical) was equal. Each category was assigned a weight of 25% in the overall GoldSET™ process to ensure that no category had more influence over the results than any other. However, the weights assigned to criteria within each category were distinctive to accurately represent their relative significance within that category. Each category was assigned a value of 100% to be distributed amongst the criteria within said category.

For the Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use, Environmental and Social-Economic criteria, weights reflected the importance communicated through the consultation process (e.g. input received at community open houses, evaluation framework survey response, etc.). The Technical criteria weights were allocated by the Hydro One Project team based on overall cost impact of each criterion (e.g. criteria with greater potential cost impacts received a higher weighting).

A summary of weighting is provided in **Table 5-5** through **Table 5-8**.

Table 5-5: Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use Theme Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Co-Location of Existing infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.	16.5%
Areas Identified by Indigenous Communities as Significant (including lands available to WFN members to practice Treaty Rights and landscapes of importance)	Areas of Indigenous significance are largely avoided in the PSA.	16.5%
Identified Traditional Use Plants	Area of ELC polygons within the PSA (ha) that have the potential to support traditional use plant species identified by Indigenous communities.	16.5%

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Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Water Features	Area (ha) of water features within the PSA (ha) including wetlands, amphibian habitats, lakes and tributaries.	16.5%
Woodlots	Area (ha) of woodlots within the ROW.	16.5%
Potential Impacts to Treaty Rights as Identified by Indigenous Communities	Identified potential impacts to Treaty Rights based on feedback from Indigenous communities ranked on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 having the least potential impacts to Treaty Rights and 3 having the most potential impacts to Treaty Rights.	17.0%

Table 5-6: Natural Environment Theme Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat	Number of watercourse crossings traversing the centreline of the route. Length (km) of identified water features within the ROW.	10%
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities	Area (ha) of natural vegetation within the ROW. Area (ha) of incompatible vegetation communities within the ROW.	12.5%
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Area (ha) of confirmed or candidate significant wildlife habitat (SWH) within the ROW. Area (ha) of confirmed or candidate SWH within the PSA.	12.5%
Species at Risk	Area (ha) of SAR habitat and field observations of SAR within the ROW. Area (ha) of SAR habitat and field observations of SAR within the PSA.	20%
Wetland, Natural Hazards and Floodplain	Area (ha) of Provincially Significant Wetlands within the ROW. Area (ha) of other wetlands identified by MNR and field observations within the ROW. Area (ha) of Conservation Authority regulated lands within the ROW.	20%

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Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Designated Natural Areas	Area (ha) of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) within the ROW. Area (ha) of Environmentally Sensitive Areas within the ROW. Area (ha) of natural heritage system (NHS) within the ROW.	15%
Areas of Potential Restoration	Area (ha) of restoration opportunity within the ROW.	10%

Table 5-7: Socio-Economic Environment Theme Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Agriculture Resources	Area (ha) of agricultural land designated by ELC delineation within the ROW. Ranking of crossing type complexity on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being less complex and 3 being more complex.	20%
Property Impacts	Number of residential structures within the PSA. Number of impacted properties.	30%
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational Business and Facilities	Area (ha) of commercial, industrial, institutional or recreational, and business land use properties within the ROW.	10%
Water Wells and Sources Water Protection	Number of domestic water wells within the ROW. Area (ha) of significant groundwater recharge area, highly vulnerable aquifer and designated vulnerable area within the ROW.	10%
Archaeological Resources	Number of features of archaeological potential within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within 300 m of ROW. Area (ha) that requires Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment within ROW.	10%

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	Number of BHRs and CHLs within PSA.	10%
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.	10%

Table 5-8: Technical Theme Criteria Weighting

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Criteria Weight
Line Length	Total line length (km).	15%
Angle Structures	Number of light angle transmission structures. Number of heavy angle transmission structures.	15%
Non-Transmission Crossings	Number of crossings of waterbodies, distribution lines, and roads by route.	10%
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.	10%
Real Estate Considerations	Number of impacted properties. Net new hectares of land encumbrance.	25%
Constructability	Ranking of constructability on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very difficult to construct and 10 being without any obstructions.	15%
Operability	Ranking of operability on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very difficult to operate and 10 being without any obstructions.	10%

5.5 Step 5: Evaluate and Select

Following identification and weighting of the evaluation criteria, The Project team compiled information and metrics for indicators that were subsequently fed into the GoldSET™ model with the weighting of categories, criteria and indicators discussed in **Section 5.4**. The GoldSET™ model results are found in **Table 5-9** to **Table 5-12**.

Table 5-9: Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use Theme Comparative Evaluation Results

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Route Alternative A	Route Alternative B
Co-Location of Existing infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.	Co-locates with 2.42 km of existing transmission line infrastructure and/or ROW. Preferred	Does not co-locate with existing transmission line infrastructure and/or ROW.
Areas Identified by Indigenous Communities as Significant (including lands available to WTFN members to practice Treaty Rights and landscapes of importance)	Areas of Indigenous significance are largely avoided in the PSA.	The PSA includes areas of interest identified by Indigenous communities as significant. 23.94 ha of landscapes identified by Indigenous communities as significant are present within the PSA of Route Alternative A.	The PSA includes areas of interest identified by Indigenous communities as significant. 0.03 ha of landscapes identified by Indigenous communities as significant are present within the PSA of Route Alternative B. Preferred
Identified Traditional Use Plants	Area of ELC polygons within the PSA (ha) that have the potential to support traditional use plant species identified by Indigenous communities.	Affects 4.65 ha of potential habitat for identified traditional use plants within the PSA.	Does not affect potential habitat for identified traditional use plants within the PSA. Preferred
Water Features	Area (ha) of water features within the PSA (ha) including wetlands, amphibian habitats, lakes and tributaries.	Affects 1.03 ha of water features (wetlands, amphibian habitat, lakes and tributaries) in the PSA.	Affects 0.44 ha of water features (wetlands, amphibian habitat, lakes and tributaries) in the PSA. Preferred
Woodlots	Area (ha) of woodlots within the ROW.	Traverses 0.79 ha of woodlots within the ROW.	Does not traverse woodlots within the ROW. Preferred
Potential Impacts to Treaty Rights as Identified by Indigenous Communities	Identified potential impacts to Treaty Rights based on feedback from Indigenous communities ranked on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 having the least potential impacts to Treaty Rights and 3 having the most potential impacts to Treaty Rights.	The PSA and LSA include areas identified by Indigenous communities where they indicated their Treaty Rights could be affected. These areas are traversed by Route Alternative A, resulting in a ranking of 3 (least preferred).	The PSA and LSA include areas identified by Indigenous communities where they indicated their Treaty Rights could be affected. These areas are not traversed by Route Alternative B, resulting in a ranking of 1 (most preferred). Preferred

Table 5-10: Natural Environment Theme Comparative Evaluation Results

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Route Alternative A	Route Alternative B
Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat	Number of watercourse crossings traversing the centreline of the route. Length (km) of identified water features within the ROW.	3 watercourse crossings are intersected by the centreline of the route and 0.07 km of water features are within the ROW, with potential to affect fish, fish habitat and riparian vegetation. No Preference	2 watercourse crossings are intersected by the centreline of the route and 0.1 km of water features are within the ROW, with potential to affect fish, fish habitat and riparian vegetation. No Preference
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities	Area (ha) of natural vegetation within the ROW. Area (ha) of incompatible vegetation communities within the ROW.	Affects 12.5 ha of natural vegetation communities in the ROW. 1.68 ha of lands within the ROW are incompatible with transmission lines.	Affects 12.1 ha of natural vegetation communities in the ROW. No lands within the ROW are incompatible with transmission lines. Preferred
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Area (ha) of confirmed or candidate significant wildlife habitat (SWH) within the ROW. Area (ha) of confirmed or candidate SWH within the PSA.	Traverses 0.85 ha of significant wildlife habitat within the ROW and 5.68 ha in the PSA.	Does not traverse significant wildlife habitat within the ROW. Traverses 0.84 ha of significant wildlife habitat in the PSA. Preferred
Species at Risk	Area (ha) of SAR habitat and field observations of SAR within the ROW. Area (ha) of SAR habitat and field observations of SAR within the PSA.	0.85 ha of SAR habitat within the ROW and 5.68 ha of SAR habitat within the PSA.	Does not affect SAR habitat within the ROW. Affects 0.84 ha of SAR habitat within the PSA. Preferred
Wetland, Natural Hazards and Floodplain	Area (ha) of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) within the ROW. Area (ha) of other wetlands identified by MNR and field observations within the ROW. Area (ha) of Conservation Authority regulated lands within the ROW.	Traverses 1.85 ha of PSW within the ROW and 0.07 ha of other wetlands in the ROW Affects 9.5 ha of land regulated by a Conservation Authority.	Traverses 0.38 ha of PSW within the ROW and does not traverse other wetlands in the ROW. Affects 5.03 ha of land regulated by a Conservation Authority. Preferred
Designated Natural Areas	Area (ha) of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) within the ROW. Area (ha) of Environmentally Sensitive Areas within the ROW. Area (ha) of natural heritage system (NHS) within the ROW.	Traverses 2.55 ha of ANSI, 1.22 ha of Environmentally Sensitive Areas and 3.67 ha of NHS within the ROW.	Traverses 0.62 ha of ANSI, 0.29 ha of Environmentally Sensitive Areas and 1.44 ha of NHS within the ROW. Preferred
Areas of Potential Restoration	Area (ha) of restoration opportunity within the ROW.	Affects 1.03 ha of potentiation areas of restoration (non-agricultural zoned lands regulated by a Conservation Authority) within the ROW.	Does not affect potentiation areas of restoration (non-agricultural zoned lands regulated by a Conservation Authority) within the ROW. Preferred

Table 5-11: Socio-Economic Environment Theme Comparative Evaluation Results

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Route Alternative A	Route Alternative B
Agricultural Resources	Area (ha) of agricultural land designated by ELC delineation within the ROW. Ranking of crossing type complexity on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being less complex and 3 being more complex.	Affects 9.43 ha of agricultural zoned land within the ROW. Transmission tower crossing complexity is ranked 2 on a scale where 1 is less complex and 3 is more complex. Preferred	Affects 11.7 ha of agricultural zoned land within the ROW. Transmission tower crossing complexity is ranked 3 on a scale where 1 is less complex and 3 is more complex.
Property Impacts	Number of residential structures within the PSA. Number of impacted properties.	6 residential structures are within the PSA. Three properties are traversed by the ROW.	2 residential structures are within the PSA. Four properties are traversed by the ROW. Preferred
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Recreational Business and Facilities	Area (ha) of commercial, industrial, institutional or recreational, and business land use properties within the ROW.	Affects 7.36 ha of properties zoned commercial, industrial, institutional or recreation within the ROW.	Affects 3.71 ha of properties zoned commercial, industrial, institutional or recreation within the ROW. Preferred
Water Wells and Sources Water Protection	Number of domestic water wells within the ROW. Area (ha) of significant groundwater recharge area, highly vulnerable aquifer and designated vulnerable area within the ROW.	There are no water wells within the ROW. Affects 0.56 ha of source water protection areas within the ROW. Preferred	There are no water wells within the ROW. Affects 5.69 ha of source water protection areas within the ROW.
Archaeological Resources	Number of features of archaeological potential within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within the ROW. Number of registered archaeological sites within 300 m of ROW. Area (ha) that requires Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment within ROW.	Traverses 9 features of archaeological potential within the ROW. There are no archeological sites within the ROW or within 300 m of the ROW. The ROW crosses 13.1 ha that requires Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment.	Traverses 7 features of archaeological potential within the ROW. There are no archeological sites within the ROW or within 300 m of the ROW. The ROW crosses 13.6 ha that requires Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment. Preferred
Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	Number of Built Heritage Resource (BHR) and Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) within the PSA.	Affects 1 BHR and 3 CHLs within the PSA.	Affects no BHRs and 2 CHLs within the PSA. Preferred
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.	Co-locates with 2.42 km of existing transmission line infrastructure and/or ROW. Preferred	Does not co-locate with existing transmission line infrastructure and/or ROW.

Table 5-12: Technical Theme Comparative Evaluation Results

Criteria	Indicator(s)	Route Alternative A	Route Alternative B
Line Length	Total line length (km).	Total line length is 2.7 km.	Total line length is 2.6 km. Preferred
Angle Structures	Number of light angle transmission structures. Number of heavy angle transmission structures.	Requires 2 light angle structures and 2 heavy angle structures. Preferred	Requires no light angle structures and 3 heavy angle structures.
Non-Transmission Crossings	Number of crossings of waterbodies, distribution lines, and roads by route.	Crosses 6 waterbodies, distribution lines or roads.	Crosses 5 waterbodies, distribution lines or roads. Preferred
Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure	Length (km) of route paralleling existing utility infrastructure.	Co-locates with 2.42 km of existing transmission line infrastructure and/or ROW. Preferred	Does not co-locate with existing transmission line infrastructure and/or ROW.
Real Estate Considerations	Number of impacted properties. Net new hectares of land encumbrance.	Three properties are traversed by the ROW. Encumbrance of 5.05 ha of land excluding hectares for the existing ROW. Preferred	Four properties are traversed by the ROW. Encumbrance of 11.4 ha of land excluding hectares for the existing ROW.
Constructability	Constructability on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very difficult to construct and 10 being without any obstructions. The Project Team ranked constructability based on ease of access to line, ground conditions, tree and/or vegetation trimming and required preparation for line construction.	Route Alternative A was given a ranking of 5.	Route Alternative B was given a ranking of 8. Preferred
Operability	Operability on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being very difficult to operate and 10 being without any obstructions. The Project Team ranked operability based on ease of access to line, ground conditions, tree and/or vegetation trimming and required preparation for line access.	Route Alternative A was given a ranking of 7.	Route Alternative B was given a ranking of 9. Preferred

A summary for the final criteria in **Table 5-9** to **Table 5-12** is available in **Table 5-13**.

Table 5-13: Summary of Preferred Route by Category

Category	Preferred Route
Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use	Route Alternative B
Natural Environment	Route Alternative B
Socio-Economic Environment	Route Alternative B
Technical	Route Alternative B

5.6 Summary of Comparative Evaluation

5.6.1 Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use Summary

Route Alternative B crosses the least area of land identified by Indigenous communities as significant, least area of land with potential for traditional use plants and smallest area of woodlots. The only criterion in this category which Route Alternative B did not score the highest was “Co-Location of Existing Infrastructure” as the route does not parallel existing utility infrastructure. Overall, Route Alternative B is the preferred route from an Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use perspective.

5.6.2 Natural Environment Summary

Route Alternative B is expected to have lower potential effects on vegetation communities, wildlife and wildlife habitat, SAR, wetlands, natural hazards, floodplains, designated natural areas and areas of potential restoration. Both routes are ranked equally for the “Surface Water and Aquatic Habitat” criterion because Route Alternative A intersects more watercourses while Route Alternative B crosses a greater total length of water features even though the number of crossings is lower. As a result, Route Alternative B is the preferred route from a Natural Environment perspective.

5.6.3 Socio-Economic Environment Summary

Route Alternative B is expected to have lower potential effects on residential structures as well as commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, business and facilities lands. The PSA for Route Alternative B contains the lowest number of built heritages resources and cultural heritage landscapes. Both routes are similar in terms of archaeology, with Route Alternative B ranked slightly higher due to the ROW crossing fewer features of archaeological potential. Route Alternative A’s ROW maximizes the use of an existing utility infrastructure corridor, traverses the least amount of agriculturally zoned lands, and impacts source water protection areas the least. Overall, Route Alternative B is ranked slightly higher from a Socio-Economic Environment perspective compared to Route Alternative A.

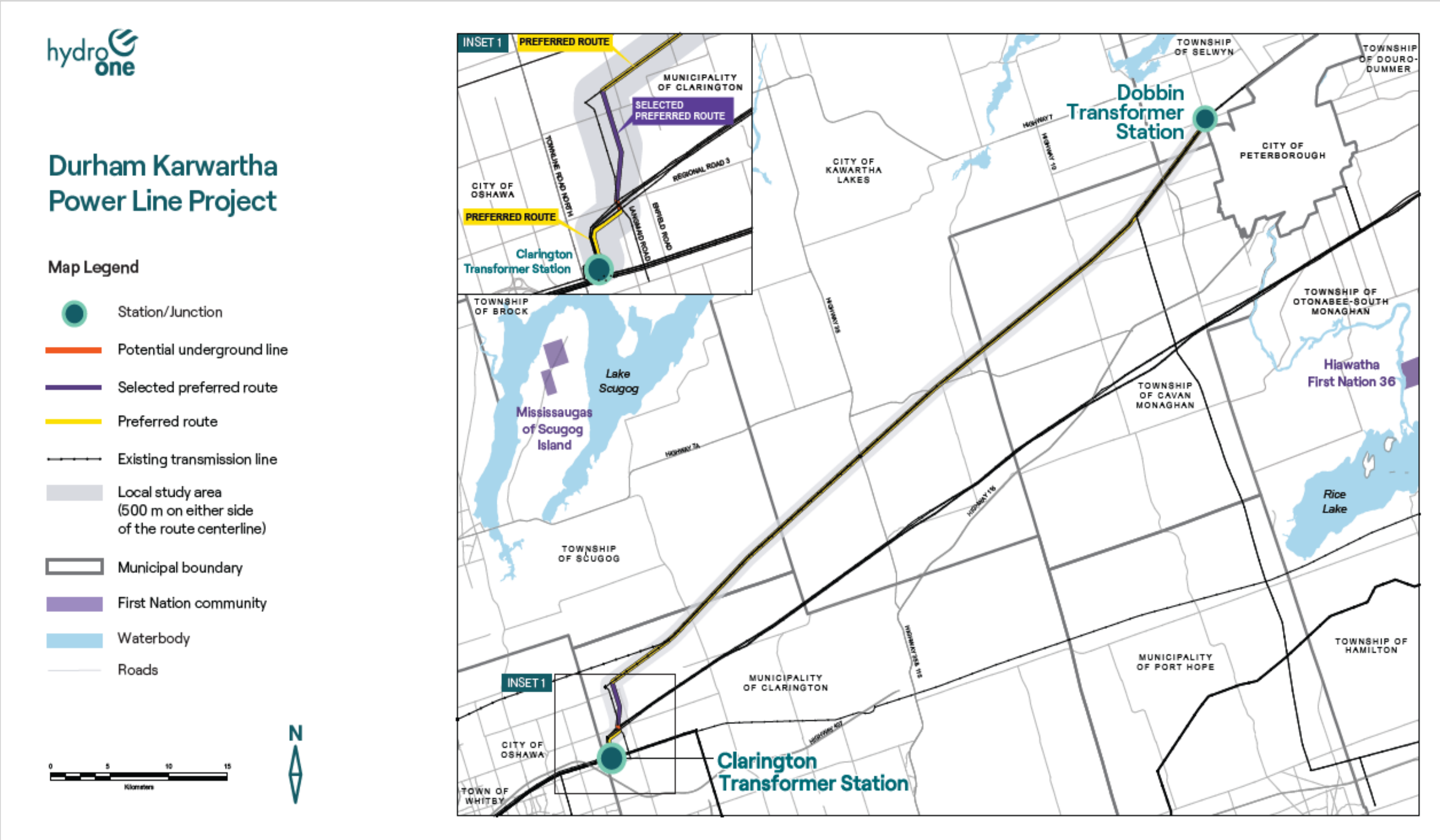
5.6.4 Technical Summary

Route Alternative B has the shortest line length, requires no light angle transmission structures, crosses the lowest number of waterbodies, distributions lines and roads, and is expected to be easier to construct and operate. However, Route Alternative B does not repurpose an existing transmission corridor, requires more heavy angle transmission structures, and has higher real estate considerations. Overall, Route Alternative B is ranked slightly higher in the Technical category compared to Route Alternative A.

5.6.5 Preferred Route Alternative

Overall, Route Alternative B is the preferred route because it ranked highest in all categories compared to Route Alternative A. From an Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use perspective, Route Alternative B largely avoids areas of Indigenous significance and traditional use plants and has lower potential effects on water features and woodlots. From a Natural Environment perspective, Route Alternative B has the least potential effects on vegetation communities, wildlife and wildlife habitat, species at risk, wetlands, natural hazards, floodplains, designated natural areas and areas of potential restoration. From a Socio-Economic Environment perspective, Route Alternative B has the least potential effects on residential structures, commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, business and facilities lands, and cultural resources. From a technical perspective, Route Alternative B is the shortest line length, requires no light angle transmission structures and crosses the lowest number of waterbodies, distributions lines and roads. Though Route Alternative B does not repurpose an existing right-of-way, it was assessed by the Project team to be preferred related to constructability and operability.

Figure 5-2: Preferred Route Alternative



6 Project Description

The IESO identified the need for the Project in the 2022 Gatineau EOL study which called for the construction of a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between the Clarington TS in the Municipality of Clarington and the Dobbin TS in Peterborough County. The purpose of the new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line was to:

- Maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure (lines and stations) that has served Eastern Ontario for many years.
- Increase resiliency in Eastern Ontario, while also increasing supply capacity to Eastern Ontario by over 400 megawatts (MW).

Refer to **Figure 6-1** for an example of the type of transmission structures (i.e. towers) proposed for the Project. The structure shown in the figure is considered a preliminary illustrative example as it is subject to the continuation of engineering and design work.

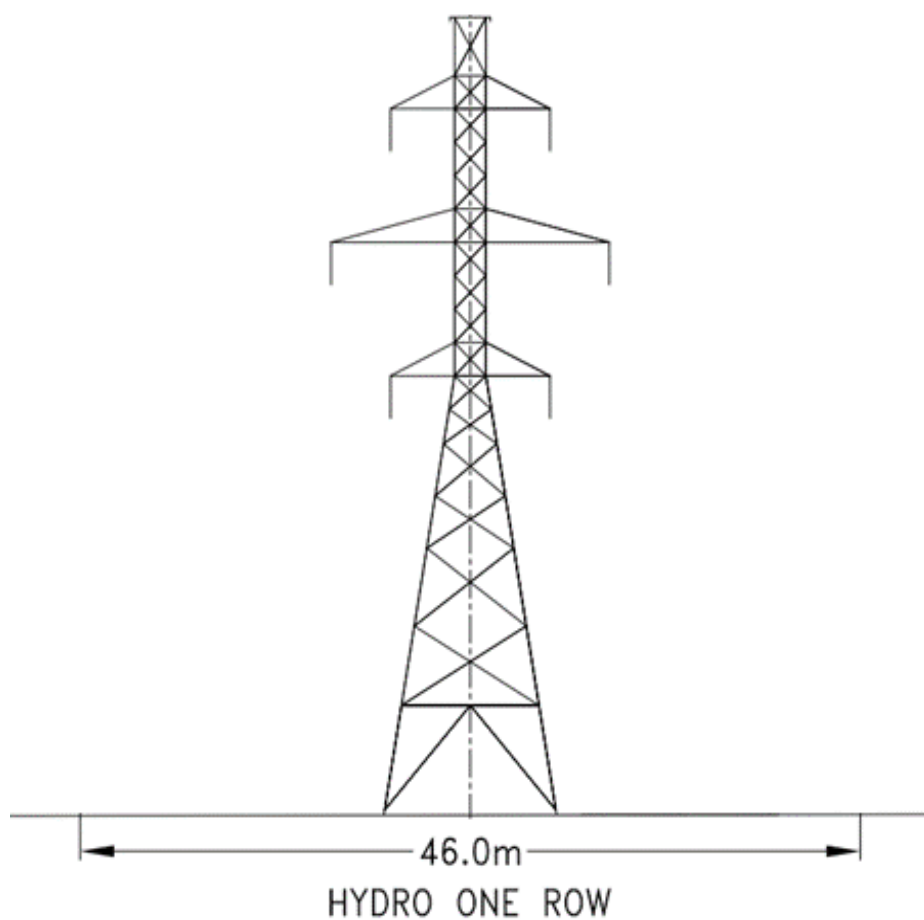
As the preferred route will repurpose approximately 50 km of an existing transmission line corridor, the Project will involve dismantling and removal of the existing transmission structures, conductor and associated components and equipment along this stretch of the existing transmission line. The removed structures will be replaced with new 230 kV double-circuit transmission structures, conductors and associated components.

A portion of the line is planned to be placed underground in order to cross four separate 230 kV transmission lines and a regional road. Both Clarington TS and Dobbin TS will require reconfiguration within their existing fences to facilitate connection of the new transmission line.

The line entrances at Clarington TS will be reconfigured to accommodate the new 230 kV transmission lines. Upgrades to Clarington TS will also include new bus work, switchgear and associated equipment. An existing 230 kV circuit from Seaton Junction in Pickering to outside Clarington TS will also be disconnected and remain idle from Seaton Junction to Clarington TS. As the preferred route will include using the existing transmission corridor between Clarington and Peterborough, the existing transmission structures and associated equipment will require dismantling and removal. This may include the addition of dead-end structures to aid in line removal.

As a result of the project, an approximately 8km section of Skywire on an existing transmission line extending northeast from Dobbin TS will be upgraded. This work is not subject to the Class EA for TF but is referenced here for notification and communication purposes.

Figure 6-1: Example of Transmission Structure Proposed for the Project



6.1 Design Phase

Once the Class EA process is completed, Hydro One will proceed with detailed engineering and design for the Project. The final design plans will be informed by essential surveys, such as completion of geotechnical surveys, and ongoing consultations with right holders and stakeholders. During the design phase, Hydro One will also conduct additional studies and surveys as needed, including a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment and further geotechnical investigations. Concurrent with finalization of the design, required permits, licences and approvals, as listed in **Section 1.4** will be obtained. Hydro One will also finalize restoration plans in consultation with appropriate rightsholders, stakeholders and the local communities, as necessary.

Hydro One recognizes a changing climate is likely to result in an increase of unusual weather patterns and severe weather events, which could potentially damage or adversely affect infrastructure and other public facilities. Hydro One is confident the facilities being planned for this Project will be engineered to adequately withstand effects of climate change throughout the duration of their planned lifespan.

6.2 Construction Phase

Construction activities will be guided by Hydro One standards and guidelines as well as Project-specific documents; these are to be adhered to by all construction personnel including contractors and sub-contractors. In addition, a project-specific Environmental Management Plan will be prepared, outlining specific requirements to be followed for the proposed Project.

Prior to construction, a detailed construction plan will be developed. Construction activities will be restricted to designated work areas and protective barriers, such as fencing, and will be erected to protect features from construction related effects.

Throughout the construction period, an Environmental Specialist will be available to address unforeseen environmental effects and mitigation requirements. The Environmental Specialist will monitor activities to ensure conformance with the requirements set out in the Environmental Management Plan.

Should any archaeological finds be uncovered during construction, work in the vicinity will stop immediately pending assessment by the Project archaeologist and further consultation with the MCM – Heritage Program Unit, as well as interested First Nation communities.

Upon completion of construction, clean up and restoration (e.g., seeding, plantings) of areas disturbed by construction would occur, as required. Documents covering ongoing

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commitments, including monitoring and notification requirements will be prepared, and operation and maintenance staff will be briefed, as necessary.

Construction of the new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line will involve the following activities:

- Site preparation including; clearing, demolition and removal of existing structures (including dismantling and removal of the existing transmission line structures, conductors and associated equipment), temporary road building, and grading;
- Installation of foundations at the new structure locations;
- Assembly, construction and erection of the transmission structures;
- Stringing new transmission conductors and OPGW (wires) on the structures and installation of associated equipment;
- Potential underground crossing including; duct bank and underground cables
- Clean up and site restoration.

Upgrading of the Clarington TS will involve the following activities:

- Relocating capacitor banks
- Site preparation including removing insulating gravel;
- Expansion of the station grounding grid;
- Re-routing sub-grade station drainage systems;
- Installation of new foundations for new structures and equipment;
- Construction of new bus work and installation of associated equipment;
- Construction of new trenches for control and power wiring;
- Installation of two new Circuit Breakers; and
- Clean up and site restoration.

Upgrading of the Dobbin TS will involve the following activities:

- Site preparation including clearing, grading and stockpiling;
- Expansion of the station grounding grid;
- Expansion of sub-grade station drainage systems;
- Expanding station access roads;
- Installation of new foundations for new structures and equipment;
- Construction of new bus work, and installation of associated equipment;
- Spread new insulating gravel over top of grounding grid; and

- Clean up and site restoration.

No air emission emitting equipment, such as new emergency or standby generators, or new boilers or heaters, will be installed for the Clarington TS and Dobbin TS station works associated with this Project.

Temporary facilities for the purpose of the proposed Project may include equipment staging areas and temporary stockpile areas, temporary rider poles or similar protective measures required during conductor stringing, and temporary structures near the transmission stations for the staging of outages. Temporary facilities will be required prior to, and during, the construction period. The location of the temporary facilities will be determined by the Project team and their contractor(s) during detailed design and construction planning.

6.3 Operation and Retirement Phase

The proposed Project is planned to be in service by 2029 or earlier. The new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line will undergo regular maintenance (including vegetation maintenance of incompatible species within the ROW) in adherence with Hydro One's maintenance standards and regulatory requirements to maintain a safe and reliable electricity transmission system.

When transmission facilities become obsolete or unserviceable and/or deemed to be at end-of-life, the equipment will be retired from service or replaced. Transmission facilities retired from service are often left in place (idle) for potential future use. The facilities may eventually be removed, and the site made suitable for other purposes. The foundations are typically cut back 1.0 m below ground surface when transmission structures are removed.

If a station site is suspected to be environmentally contaminated, the decommissioning of facilities will follow the guidance provided by O. Reg. 153/04 of the *Environmental Protection Act*.

6.4 Project Schedule

The anticipated schedule for the proposed Project activities is provided below in **Table 6-1**. This schedule shows key steps remaining in the Class EA process and subsequent anticipated timing of the start of construction.

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Table 6-1: Project Schedule

Activity	Period
Draft ESR 30-day comment period	Q4 2025
Comment integration and response	Q4 2025
Filing of final ESR and Class EA Statement of Completion with the MECP	Q1 2026
Submission of Section 92 application to the Ontario Energy Board	Q2 2026
Ontario Energy Board Section 92 Approval	Q4 2026
Construction Start	Q1 2027
Planned in-service date	December 2029

7 Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

This section describes the potential environmental effects and mitigation measures associated with construction and operation activities of the Project. Operation activities include operations, maintenance, reporting, rehabilitation, upgrading and replacement, provided that the function or capacity of the facility remains similar (Hydro One Networks Inc., 2024). The assessment of potential environmental effects for the Project considered the baseline information on the environmental features collected for the PSA and LSA, as presented in **Section 3.12.1**.

The potential environmental effects resulting from the construction and operation of the Project are similar to other projects undertaken by Hydro One and are well understood by the Project team. Hydro One has a strong track record of environmental compliance and stewardship and is committed to the completion of comprehensive environmental and social analysis and mitigation of potential effects.

The selection of mitigation measures is based on the following seven guiding principles:

- Avoidance of sensitive areas, where feasible;
- Avoidance of watercourse crossings, where feasible, by use of existing nearby crossings, access to structures from either side of a watercourse, or use of off-corridor access;
- Appropriate timing of construction activities, where feasible, to avoid sensitive time periods, such as fish spawning and egg incubation periods, or migratory bird nesting periods;
- Proactive communication with First Nations, government agencies, stakeholders, and interest groups regarding the Project;
- Proactive communication with landowners, businesses, and interested community members on the Project timelines and construction areas;
- Implementation of conventional, proven mitigation measures during construction consistent with the criteria set out in Appendix E of the Class EA for Transmission Facilities (Hydro One Networks Inc., 2024), and in accordance with applicable legislative requirements; and
- Development of environmental enhancement or compensation measures to offset the net effects of the Project where such effects exist.

Sections 7.1 to 7.9 detail the effects assessment and identify avoidance, mitigation and/or compensation commitments required for the proposed Project. Based on the Project design

and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, net effects (i.e., effects that remain following the implementation of mitigation) are anticipated and are described in **Section 7.10**.

A cumulative effects assessment is also completed in **Section 7.12** to identify if the Project's net effects have the potential to combine cumulatively with the effects from other proposed undertakings.

7.1 Agricultural Resources

Agriculture is a predominant land use within the PSA and LSA and is an important component of the regional economy. Potential effects from the Project include:

- Permanent loss of agricultural land for production of crops within the physical footprint of new infrastructure (**Section 7.1.1**);
- Temporary loss of agricultural land for production of crops associated with construction activities in the ROW (**Section 7.1.1**);
- Temporary soil compaction from construction vehicles (**Section 7.1.2**);
- Potential for construction activities to mix soil horizons, lowering the quality of soil or mixing of soil across agricultural properties (**Section 7.1.3**);
- Potential temporary disturbance to farm operations including planting and harvesting schedules, spraying, and tilling activities (**Section 7.1.4**);
- Removal of sections of agricultural hedgerows (**Section 7.1.5**);
- Application of herbicides within the ROW with potential to spread into adjacent farm operations (**Section 7.1.5**);
- Potential effects related to the introduction of invasive species (**Section 7.1.6**);
- Contamination of Organic or Identity Preserved (IP) Crops (**Section 7.1.7**);
- Potential damage to field tile drains (**Section 7.1.8**); and
- Potential effects to adjacent livestock including stress, injury, or loss from construction activities including use of implosive conductor splicing methods (**Section 7.1.9**).

The following subsections outline the effects assessment for each potential agricultural effect and outline anticipated avoidance, mitigation, and/or compensation strategies to be employed by Hydro One.

7.1.1 Loss of Agricultural Lands and Crops

Approximately 50 km of the Project will repurpose an existing transmission corridor, remove existing towers and reduce effects on agricultural lands and crops, and construction activities will result in temporary removal of planted/established crops and/or lands available for crop

production within the transmission line ROW. Also, some agricultural lands will be permanently lost as a result of Project infrastructure (e.g., new infrastructure such as new towers, tower footings). Additionally, for the majority of the transmission line route, tower footings represent the only long-term loss of agricultural lands as the majority of the ROW can still be utilized for crops or pasture. Hydro One does recognize that individual circumstances, such as some transmission line crossing locations, may become more encumbered due to the need to maintain appropriate technical clearances from both the ground surface and other conductors, leading to additional crossing structures and lower vertical clearances. In such circumstances, there is potential for a slightly larger area (beyond the individual tower footings) of agricultural lands being rendered out of production.

The following mitigation measures are proposed for effects to agricultural lands and crops:

- All lands out of production and crops lost as a result of the Project's construction activities will be compensated in accordance with Hydro One's crop loss/crop lands out of production policies;
- Contact will be maintained with landowners and stakeholders regarding work schedules and other items of interest (e.g., access roads, minimizing disturbances to existing and planned farm operations);
- Where practical, the construction or operation schedule will be reviewed to determine whether activities can be scheduled to avoid the growing season or sensitive times of year (e.g., extreme wet periods), although it is recognized that this may not be possible in all circumstances;
- Access roads, staging areas, tower construction, and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment;
- Existing farm lanes and other existing access routes will be used whenever practical. In the event farm lanes are absent, access will be focused within the ROW or along field edges, to the extent practical;
- Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging, and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance;
- Towers will be located along fence/property lines where practical to minimize encroachment on agricultural operations; and,
- Restoration measures, as informed by discussions with landowners (e.g., alleviate soil compaction, remove excess aggregate, disking of lands, aeration) on areas affected by construction, may be undertaken following the completion of construction and removal of temporary construction access, as necessary.

7.1.2 Soil Compaction

Project activities have potential to cause soil compaction through the use of heavy equipment. Compaction of soil may occur during both the construction and operation phases of the Project. Soil compaction resulting from these activities is anticipated to be temporary in nature. Mitigation measures for soil compaction include:

- Equipment with low bearing capacity will be used, where practical;
- Construction activities will be scheduled to times of year when soils are least susceptible to compaction, where practical;
- Access will be located along existing farm lanes or field edges, where practical;
- Access roads, staging areas and tower and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment;
- Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging, and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance;
- Temporary access roads and work pads will be built in agricultural fields using mats, or geotextile and crushed rock, or equivalent means, which can be easily removed when construction is complete to allow for re-cultivation of the area; and
- Restoration measures, as informed by discussions with landowners (e.g., alleviate soil compaction, remove excess aggregate, disking of lands, aeration) on areas affected by construction, may be undertaken following the completion of construction and removal of temporary construction access, as necessary.

7.1.3 Soil Mixing

Mixing of soil including soil horizons and movement of soil between property parcels is a potential effect of the Project. Excavations may be required for construction activities that may result in mixing of soil horizons, reducing the quality of surface topsoil for agricultural purposes. This potential effect is anticipated to be minimal and limited to areas of deep ground disturbance (e.g., some tower footing locations) but may be permanent. Additionally, movement of construction equipment through the ROW may cause migration of soils from one agricultural field to another. Mitigation measures to minimize topsoil and subsoil mixing will include:

- Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, use of foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize surface disturbance and do not require soil excavation or soil stripping of the foundation site;
- Stripping or excavation of soils will be minimized to the extent practical;

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- Where soil stripping is required, topsoil and subsoils will be removed and stockpiled separately;
- Depths of soil being removed will be carefully monitored and soil mixing and removal will be minimized during stripping activities;
- Volume of topsoil and subsoil salvaged for replacement or re-use on site will be maximized, where practical;
- Soils will be stripped under generally dry conditions (not saturated), such that rutting, soil mixing, or other undesired ground disturbance is minimized to the extent practical;
- Vegetation, stone piles, fencing, and deleterious materials will be removed prior to stripping;
- For backfilling operations, topsoil and subsoil will be replaced in reverse order of excavation to minimize the potential for additional mixing and maximizing future growing potential;
- Soil cover on exposed areas within agricultural areas will be discussed with the landowner for the most appropriate solution;
- Equipment and vehicle inspections and cleaning will be conducted as required during construction, to minimize the potential for inadvertent transport of trace soils between contaminated and non-contaminated agricultural fields;
- Cleaning will be conducted using a risk-based approach, whereby vehicles and equipment that have come in contact with soils will be inspected and cleaned of dirt/debris/seeds;
- Cleaning will occur in a manner that ensures that runoff is contained, and waste materials can be collected;
- Any imported topsoil onto or directly adjacent to agricultural fields will be tested for soybean cyst nematode (SCN) or otherwise shown to be free of SCN; and
- All stockpiled materials will be placed at a safe distance from waterbodies, wetlands, and drainage courses. Typically, stockpiles will be located at least 30 m away from the high-water mark of any waterbody or wetland, unless site-specific conditions require a greater setback. The 30 m buffer will help to prevent sediment runoff and protect water quality during periods of heavy precipitation. Additionally, other erosion and sediment control measures (such as the use of silt fencing) will be installed around stockpiles, as needed, to minimize the risk of sediment entering nearby aquatic habitats. These requirements will be communicated to the contractor and monitored throughout the construction period.

- All efforts will be made to reuse soils onsite where practical and feasible. If soils are stockpiled, they will also be managed to prevent bank swallow nesting (e.g., maintaining slopes at 70° or less, and covering/seeding bare soils during the breeding season). Additionally, soil testing will be completed as required under O.Reg. 406/19 (On-Site Excess Soil Management) under the *Environmental Protection Act*, and any excess material that cannot be reused onsite will be tracked and transported to an approved facility or beneficial reuse site, in compliance with the appropriate regulatory requirements.

7.1.4 Disturbance to Farm Operations

Potential effects to agricultural operations from construction and operation activities may include impediments to farm vehicle maneuverability or disruption to farm operations including planting and harvesting or tilling and spraying. Generally, disruption effects are anticipated to be temporary in nature and can be mitigated by:

- Where practical, the location of towers will be placed to minimize impacts to maneuverability of agricultural equipment (e.g., along lot lines or field boundaries);
- Contact will be maintained with affected landowners regarding work schedules and other items of interest (e.g., access roads, minimizing disturbances to farm operations);
- Access roads, staging areas, tower construction, and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment;
- Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging, and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance;
- To the extent practical, some activities during construction and operation will be scheduled to avoid sensitive times of the year with regards to agricultural operations, although it is recognized that this will not be feasible in all circumstances; and
- Crossovers and/or feathering of constructed access roads will be implemented to allow vehicular and equipment crossing, where applicable.

7.1.5 Vegetation Removal

Although the majority of the construction and operation of the transmission line will take place within an existing ROW, construction and maintenance activities may require removal of incompatible vegetation. Mechanical removal of vegetation (tree felling) and/or application of herbicides to species incompatible with overhead transmission lines may be required. Potential effects to agriculture resources include potential for herbicide overspray and/or fragmentation of existing hedgerows and windbreak systems. Where incompatible vegetation (i.e. any vegetation that may encroach on the applicable clearance standard, typically, vegetation that

reaches 3 m or above at maturity) must be removed, these areas will be restored with compatible vegetation (e.g., low-growing shrubs and herbaceous plants) in discussion with landowners and First Nations, as appropriate. Additional mitigation measures include:

- Vegetation that will not affect construction or line clearances will be retained, where practical;
- Hedgerows and windbreak areas impacted by construction will be replaced with compatible vegetation post-construction, in consultation with landowners;
- Restoration within the existing ROW will include returning the area to the condition it was found. Where opportunity exists, in consultation with landowners and First Nation partners, Hydro One will prioritize planting native species. The final determination of species will be made in consultation with landowners and First Nations partners, as appropriate; and
- Following established vegetation management procedures regarding herbicide use to ensure protection of wildlife and adjacent vegetation, including consultation with landowners and notification of First Nations. Integrated pest management principles will be used to determine appropriate work methods. Herbicides will be applied by forestry professionals who are properly licensed, certified, and supervised in accordance with provincial rules, regulations, and internal standards.

7.1.6 Invasive Species

There is potential for the Project to inadvertently facilitate the spread of invasive species that may occur within or adjacent to work areas during the construction phase. Construction staff will be educated on the identification of invasive species and the importance of avoiding their spread to new areas. Additional mitigation measures that would be undertaken to reduce the spread of invasive species include:

- Using native plant species where practical during construction restoration, in consultation with landowners and First Nations;
- Identifying populations of invasive plant species ahead of construction, and mapping them in the EMP, such that they can be avoided to the extent practical;
- Educating crews on the identification of invasive species and importance of preventing the spread of invasive species;
- Abiding by the *Invasive Species Act, 2015* and regulations (Government of Ontario, 2015);
- Properly handling, containing, and disposing of invasive plant material, where required;

- Inspecting and cleaning equipment and vehicles as necessary to reduce potential for spreading invasive species propagules, in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry (Halloran, Anderson, & Tassie, 2013); and
- Tracking special treatment areas (e.g., large established populations of invasive species within the ROW) for consideration when planning future maintenance works.

Species listed as noxious weeds under the *Weed Control Act, 1990* (Government of Ontario; 1990) will be considered during Project planning, such as where there are large concentrations or high human interaction risk (for toxic species).

7.1.7 Contamination of Organic or Identity Preserved (IP) Crops

Construction and operation activities have potential to utilize herbicides to control noxious weeds and/or incompatible vegetation. There is also potential for inadvertent movement of trace soils between agricultural fields. Chemical control methods have potential to overspray to adjacent crops and movement of soils has potential to transport undesirable soil types and compounds. It is recognized that some agricultural operations in the PSA may be certified organic or produce Identity Preserved (IP) crops. Other agricultural operations may transition to organic/IP crop types. To minimize potential disruption or contamination to organic or IP agricultural operations the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

- Contact will be made with landowners to determine if organic or IP operations are present which may require additional considerations during construction planning;
- Field crews will be informed if working in organic or IP croplands;
- Equipment and vehicle inspections and cleaning will be established during construction to minimize the potential for inadvertent transport of trace soils between contaminated and non-contaminated agricultural fields;
- Cleaning will be conducted using a risk-based approach, whereby vehicles and equipment that have come in contact with soils will be inspected and cleaned of dirt/debris/seeds as deemed necessary;
- Cleaning will occur in a manner that ensures that runoff is contained, and waste materials can be collected;
- Work areas will be assessed during pre-construction activities to identify the presence of weed species, degree of infestation, and the distribution of weeds within the Project footprint and the immediately adjacent areas;
 - Work areas will be monitored for weeds throughout the Project and until the Project has been completed;
 - A Project-specific Weed Control Plan will be developed in consultation with landowners prior to construction, as necessary;

- The Weed Control Plan will be developed and managed in consultation with an Ontario Professional Agrologist, or equivalent to meet the requirements of the municipal and land use authority;
- The transmission line ROW will be monitored for establishment of weeds until construction is completed;
- Corrective measures for managing weeds may include herbicide application, mowing, and hand pulling; and
- Weed control during construction will be conducted by the construction contractor.

7.1.8 Damage to Field Tile Drains

The use of heavy equipment for construction and operation activities have potential to cause damage to agricultural tile drains. If damage to tile drains occurs as a result of activities during construction or operation, the tile will be repaired by a licensed tile drainage contractor in consultation with the affected landowner. To minimize potential for damage to tile drainage, the following mitigation measures will be implemented for the Project:

- If tile damage to tile drains occurs as a result of construction activities and/or operation activities, the tile will be repaired by a licensed tile drainage contractor in consultation with the affected landowner;
- Landowners will be consulted to determine existing field tile locations in support of avoidance/protection measures;
- Tile drains will be avoided and/or protected (e.g., tower locations, temporary construction access), to the extent practical;
- Access roads, staging areas, tower construction, and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment;
- Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging, and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance;
- Where temporary access roads and work pads are built in tiled agricultural areas, mats, or geotextile and crushed rock, or equivalent means, will be utilized to protect tile drains;
- Equipment with low bearing capacity will be used to minimize potential damage to tile drains, where practical; and
- Where practical, some activities during construction and operation will be scheduled to avoid sensitive times of the year (e.g., extreme wet periods), although it is recognized that this may not be feasible in all circumstances.

7.1.9 Livestock Stress, Loss or Injury

Construction and operation activities are inherently loud and will occur in proximity to livestock managed areas (e.g. grazing fields, pastures) resulting in potential for livestock stress, injury or loss. Some construction activities such as the potential use of implosive conductor splicing may scare or startle agricultural livestock. These effects are anticipated to be temporary in nature and of a relatively short duration. To minimize impacts to livestock the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

- Landowners will be informed in advance of upcoming work activities which may disturb or pose a risk to livestock, and consulted with respect to potential mitigation measures, such as moving or containing livestock, as necessary;
- Field crews will be informed about livestock in the vicinity of work areas to confirm they are aware of the need to secure gates, are cognizant of noise sensitivity controls, and to ensure clean-up of construction materials and debris at the end of each day to minimize potential livestock ingestion;
- If excavations cannot be closed immediately, exclusion fencing will be erected to protect livestock from entering;
- Vehicle and equipment travel on agricultural lands will follow the transmission line ROW, or existing roads, trails, and paths to the extent practical;
- Vehicles and equipment will be inspected and cleaned as necessary to prevent the potential introduction or spreading of diseases;
- Existing gates and fences will be used as required. All fences and gates will be left in "as-found" condition following construction;
- Livestock access control gates and fencing will be installed during construction at roads and between fenced fields as necessary to prevent escape of livestock or movement of livestock into work areas;
- Equipment and machinery used on site will be maintained in good working condition with functioning mufflers;
- Prior to any use of implosive splicing, a Blasting Communication and Management Plan will be developed outlining proper storage, security, detonation, and notification requirements;
- Area residents, municipal authorities, the police department, and other crews within 1.6km will be notified about the use of implosive splicing, at least one week prior to the work commencing;
- Compensation will be made for loss or injury to livestock directly resulting from activities associated with the Project;

- Signs shall be posted on all roadways leading to a blasting area in accordance with government rules and regulations; and
- Safe distances of the blasting site will be maintained from other employees, vehicles, equipment, structures, and fire hazard sources. Blasts will be performed during pre-determined times.

7.2 Forestry Resources

As indicated in **Section 4.2**, although there are several woodlots located within the Study Area, they fall outside of Forestry Management Units, Agreement Forest Areas, Forest Cover Units, forest Resource Inventory Areas, or Wood Use Areas identified through the MNR Forest Resource Inventory (MNR, 2021c; MNR, 2025c). As such, there is no potential for the Project to affect commercial/industry forestry resources.

7.3 Archaeological Resources

As noted in **Section 4.3.1**, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (**APPENDIX C**) was completed by TMHC (2024). The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment determined that the PSA for all route alternatives contains lands with archaeological potential, as well as a previously recorded archaeological site.

A Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment is required for the preferred route, for all lands exhibiting archaeological potential that have not been previously assessed. Prior to construction in these areas, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with MCM requirements. If the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment identifies the need for further assessment, a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment or Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment will occur as required and as outlined in the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011).

Copies of all Archaeological Assessment reports will be submitted to MCM before construction work begins on the areas covered by those reports. Further stages of archaeological assessment (if recommended) will be undertaken as early as possible during detailed design and prior to any ground disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity of the areas (sites) requiring these additional stages of archaeological assessment.

Hydro One engaged with First Nations on the completion of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and will continue to engage with First Nations throughout the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment and subsequent studies. Hydro One has also made commitments to First Nations that Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments will use enhanced pedestrian survey

methodology and some areas that were previously assessed will be revisited. Archaeological Assessment reports will be provided to First Nations prior to submission to the MCM.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered during construction, all activities with the potential to affect these archaeological resources will cease immediately and a licenced archaeologist will be engaged to carry out an archaeological assessment subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Notification of such findings will be communicated to MCM and the First Nation communities. The details of the chance find procedures will be included in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) prepared by the construction contractor and will be clearly communicated to construction crews as part of the environmental orientation. The EMP will be provided to First Nations for review prior to construction.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act* (FBCSA), 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 requires that any person discovering human remains must cease all activities immediately and notify the police or coroner. If the coroner does not suspect foul play in the disposition of the remains, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 30/11 the coroner shall notify the Registrar, FBCSA, at the Ontario Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement, which administers provisions of the FBCSA related to burial sites. In situations where human remains are associated with archaeological resources, the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism should also be notified (at archaeology@ontario.ca) to ensure that the archaeological site is not subject to unlicensed alterations, which would be a contravention of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

In addition, all First Nation communities that have an interest in the Project and/or location will also be notified.

7.4 Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage

Following the completion of the CHEC, Hydro One retained AECOM to complete a Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) (**APPENDIX D**) for the preferred route, including all properties within the 120 m buffer on either side of the proposed centreline of the preferred route. The Study Area was determined to include 56 known and potential BHRs and CHLs (AECOM, 2025b). While the CHEC report identified 55 known and potential BHRs and CHLs, a subsequent review of the Preferred Route's 120 m buffer identified an additional CHL as being partially within the buffer. As a result, this CHL was included in the PIA to assess potential impacts, despite not being identified as within Route Option B in the CHEC.

The objective of the PIA was to determine whether BHRs and CHLs would be impacted by the Project along the preferred route, provide mitigation measures for potential impacts, and

recommend next steps. The PIA determined that one heritage resource may be directly impacted by the proposed work, four heritage resources may be indirectly impacted by construction vibration, three potential CHLs may be indirectly impacted by isolation, and 28 potential BHRs/CHLs, and 10 known BHRs/CHLs may require post-construction restoration to mitigate potential impacts. No impacts were anticipated to three potential CHLs.

To minimize potential adverse effects to known and potential BHRs and CHLs, work will be planned in a manner that avoids adverse effects to the identified known and potential BHRs and CHLs to the extent practical. The PIA recommends consultation with a qualified vibration specialist to advise on an appropriate vibration monitoring program to avoid or reduce impacts to the structures on the four potential CHLs that may be indirectly impacted by construction vibration. The PIA further recommends that the three potential CHLs that may be indirectly impacted by isolation be avoided and that post-construction restoration be completed for the 28 potential and 10 known BHRs and CHLs within the existing hydro corridor. As the PIA determined that the potential direct impact to one known CHL was not an adverse impact to the property's cultural heritage value or interest, no further cultural heritage studies will be completed. The PIA states that should any changes be suggested to the proposed ROW, including the alignment or additional staging or laydown areas beyond the existing proposed ROW, that the Project works be reviewed by a qualified Cultural Heritage Specialist to confirm the anticipated impacts.

7.5 Land Use and Communities

7.5.1 Human Settlements

7.5.1.1 Population and Demographics

The addition of a temporary workforce to the local population during construction as a result of the Project is predicted to be negligible given the size of the local population as described in **Section 4.4.1.1** and considering that temporary construction workers are not anticipated to relocate permanently to the local area. Therefore, no effects on population and demographics have been identified.

7.5.1.2 Labour Market and Economy

Economic development associated with construction spending is one of the positive effects of transmission and transformer station projects. Construction activities provide an opportunity for local employment and result in spin-off effects to the local service industry. Direct employment benefits will be realized through the construction phase of the Project. The bulk of the direct employment would take place during the construction phase of the Project.

Indirect employment and/or economic benefits may also be stimulated through direct expenditures on goods and services required for construction sourced from Ontario businesses. In addition, induced employment and economic benefits may be realized in the service industries, as the construction workforce may purchase local goods and services (e.g., food and beverages). Together, these demands would result in small but positive labour market and economic benefits to the region for workers and supplying businesses.

7.5.1.3 Housing and Real Estate

Housing

The temporary workforce which will be utilized during construction is not expected to relocate to the region during the construction period due to the short duration of planned construction activities. Additionally, the number of any additional operational staff, if required, are anticipated to be minimal. Therefore, the Project is not expected to have a discernible effect on existing housing in the study area and no effects to housing have been identified.

Real Estate

The majority of the Project will be built within an existing transmission line ROW with new land use agreements covering the existing easement. Hydro One will engage with the relevant property owners or entities and utilize Project-specific Land Acquisition Compensation Principles. These Land Acquisition Compensation Principles will define the process between Hydro One and property owners to conclude property settlements, including financial compensation to account for time invested in the lands right process and compensation to allow access for environmental surveys, studies, and land appraisals. Hydro One's goal in this process is to obtain voluntary property settlements and our Compensation Principles have been tailored to the Project based on local characteristics of the region and the lands anticipated to be impacted by the Project. Damages for private land will also be pursuant to the Landowner Compensation Program and its associated policies. During construction and operation, construction personnel will work to mitigate potential impacts from activities and equipment on neighbouring properties, structures, or operations. In the unlikely event that physical damages are incurred by a landowner, Hydro One's preference is to repair the damages; should the damages be irreparable, Hydro One will financially compensate landowners.

7.5.1.4 Land Use Planning

The Project falls within the parameters of both provincial and municipal policy documents. The provincial documents include the PPS (2024), Greenbelt, and ORMCP. The Project is located within the OP designated areas of both upper-tier and lower-tier municipalities including the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, the Township of Cavan-Monaghan, the Township of Selwyn, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Township of Scugog, the

Municipality of Clarington, and the City of Kawartha Lakes. The outline of land use policies and OP acceptable uses and how the Project fits into provincial policy and local OPs is outlined in **Section 4.4.2**. Generally, provincial policy and policies within the OPs include support towards energy transmission and investment in eastern Ontario to meet both current and future needs. Provincial policies also note the extensive existing infrastructure in the area and the importance of maintaining it while highlighting the need for new infrastructure to support provincial growth.

The Project aligns with the ORMCP and Greenbelt plan, which reference the co-location and adaptive re-use of existing linear corridors, and emphasizes the avoidance of new disturbances in Core Natural Area and Linkage areas wherever possible. The Project's use of an existing transmission corridor for the majority of its length is consistent with these policies, minimizing new impacts and supporting the intent of both the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan (further details and specific policy references are provided in **Section 4.4.2**).

The local OPs allow for the development of energy supply, including electricity transmission facilities, in the land use types overlapped by the Project. It is recognized that the Project will cross multiple types of current land use designations as discussed in Section 4, including agricultural areas, natural heritage areas (i.e., Greenbelt area and lands designated under the ORMCP), aggregate resource potential areas, and environmental protection areas (i.e., conservation authority regulated areas, floodplain/hazard lands).

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Crossing of sensitive land uses or work done within buffer areas (i.e., natural heritage areas and key hydraulic features/areas) will consider policies outlined within the area OPs, PPS 2024, and associated provincial planning policy documents (i.e., Greenbelt Plan and ORMCP) with respect to ensuring that appropriate considerations occur to limit potential impacts within the transmission line ROW.
- Infrastructure as a permitted use: Both the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan permit infrastructure, including transmission lines, provided that the need is demonstrated, alternatives are considered, and impacts are minimized. The Project's alignment with existing corridors and avoidance of new disturbance in Core Natural Area and Linkage Areas is consistent with these requirements.
- Co-location and adaptive re-use: The Project prioritizes the co-location and adaptive re-use of existing linear corridors, as encouraged by both the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan, to minimize potential new environmental disturbances.
- Ongoing review of development proposals: Throughout the province, development (both residential and commercial/industrial) occurs around and adjacent to existing

transmission line ROWs and stations. Uses deemed to be compatible with overhead transmission lines are often approved within transmission line ROWs. Hydro One has existing departments and processes to review proposals for developments that are planned adjacent to or within transmission line ROWs and facilitate compatible uses of these corridors. Typically, there are no restrictions placed on development or new construction outside of the transmission line ROW itself.

- Future development: Where and when future development projects or initiatives are proposed to occur along or within the transmission line ROW, Hydro One will apply its existing processes to review and facilitate these future developments, including potential compatible uses within the transmission line ROW.

7.5.2 Infrastructure and Services

7.5.2.1 Traffic and Transportation

The Project is located within a rural landscape, with a number of provincial highways (i.e., Highway 3, Highway 7, Highway 7A, Highway 10, Highway 35) serving as key access routes through the Project and eastern Ontario. Construction activities have potential to cause disruption to provincial highway traffic and to local traffic on municipal and county roads during construction phases of the Project. Specifically, activities including the stringing of conductors across roads and highways, as well as the construction of new access roads, may require temporary road closures, rolling closures, lane occupancy, and/or detours. The presence of heavy equipment may also increase traffic and loads which may result in localized wear and tear on lower order roadways. Effects to road and highway traffic and roadways are expected to be minimal and temporary in nature. Potential disruption to airports/aerodromes and railway lines are not anticipated.

To mitigate potential effects from construction activities, Hydro One will:

- Completion of a pre- and post-construction road survey to document impacts to local roads caused by heavy equipment and increased construction traffic during construction activities. Survey results will be shared with municipal staff in advance of construction work commencing, as necessary;
- Damage caused as a direct result of construction activities associated with the Project will be repaired upon completion of construction activities;
- The Project will adhere to seasonal load restrictions;
- To minimize disruptions and/or impacts to local residents, Hydro One will attempt to maintain access to properties and businesses at all times during construction, and in instances where access cannot be maintained, agreements will be made for alternate

access prior to construction activities starting and appropriate road signage will be provided, where feasible;

- Where required, a Traffic Control Plan will be developed and shared with local municipalities, commercial operators (i.e., CP Rail), and emergency services providers as necessary;
- Construction haul routes and schedules will be shared with local municipalities, commercial operators (i.e., CP Rail), and emergency services providers in advance of construction activities, as necessary;
- Construction traffic will access the construction area from the existing road network at specified construction access/egress locations;
- Common parking areas will be established for construction crews;
- To the extent practical, in an effort to avoid road closures and other disruptions during stringing, conductor stringing will utilize rider poles, boom-tipped riders, or other protective measures in an effort to avoid road closures and other disruptions during stringing, to the extent practical;
- If temporary road or highway closures (e.g., rolling closures) are required during stringing or other construction activities, the construction contractor will coordinate closely with the appropriate road authority to ensure that proper notice is provided and that required signage and traffic controls are utilized, and that the duration of any temporary closures will be minimized to the extent practical;
- Where construction work is planned to directly affect local traffic (e.g., temporary road or lane closures), local advertisements (e.g., radio, newspaper) will be issued and road signage will be erected to provide notification and pre-construction information to area residents on timelines and potential detours, if required; and
- Traffic control officers or flag persons will be assigned to assist with construction entry/exit, as necessary.

7.5.2.2 Utilities, Infrastructure Crossings, and Other Municipal Services

Utilities and Infrastructure Crossings

The Project may potentially impact utilities such as communication, electricity/hydro, and water/wastewater in the PSA and LSA during the construction phase due to the possibility for planned, brief outages/interruptions or temporary increases in service demands. However, it is expected that project-related activities/demands will generally remain within the capacity of these utilities. Planned, brief outages may be required to facilitate line connections during construction activities and have the potential to affect facilities that are connected directly to

the transmission grid. The distribution supply to homes and businesses in the area will not be affected.

Construction of the Project will also require crossings of existing linear infrastructure, including provincial Highways 7, Highway 7A, Highway 35, constructed drains; as well as construction of infrastructure running parallel to existing highways, roadways, and along/over several municipal roads. Impacts to existing linear infrastructure are not anticipated and disruption to traffic on roads and highways during construction is anticipated to be short in duration.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Hydro One will continue to consult with provincial agencies and municipalities on the Project design, construction, and operation to address concerns related to utilities;
- Hydro One will work with any affected transmission-connected facilities to provide advance notification and discuss potential means to mitigate the effect of these temporary outages to their operations;
- Rider poles, boom-tipped riders or similar protection will be utilized during conductor stringing;
- Use of temporary or rolling closures of Highways may be required to facilitate stringing activities;
- Where the new transmission line crosses provincial highways, setback distances provided by MTO will be respected and adhered to;
- Hydro One will work within MTOs highway ROW or permit control area will require an Encroachment Permit and/or Land Use Permit as well as a consultation with MTO during detailed design;
- Hydro One's Contractor will obtain all necessary Encroachment Permits and Land Use Permits from MTO prior to the start of construction;
- Municipal drainage superintendents will be consulted during detailed design and construction planning to discuss effects to municipal drains;
 - Creation of new crossings will be avoided to the extent practical by using existing access and crossings and by accessing work areas from either side of drains, where feasible; and
 - Disturbed areas will be restored to a pre-disturbed state or better following the completion of construction.

Municipal Services

The Project may potentially impact municipal services or utilities (i.e., utilities such as communication, electricity/hydro, water/wastewater, and/or waste disposal and emergency

services) in the PSA and LSA (and potentially, the greater region for waste disposal and emergency services) during the construction phase due to the possibility for planned, brief outages/interruptions or temporary increases in service demands. However, it is expected that Project activities/demands will generally remain within the current capacity.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Hydro One will continue to consult with provincial agencies and municipalities on the Project design, construction, and operation to address concerns related to municipal services. Waste generated during construction will be minimized, handled, sorted, transported, and disposed of at licensed recycling facilities, as applicable, in accordance with applicable legislation.

7.5.3 Public Health and Safety

7.5.3.1 General Health and Safety

Construction sites pose potential safety hazards to local land users and residents due to the operation of heavy construction equipment, if not controlled. Workplace safety and public safety are leading priorities at Hydro One.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Hydro One will mitigate safety issues by implementing safety measures in accordance with its Public Safety Policy and Ministry of Labour requirements during construction. This includes ensuring that construction activities are executed in accordance with applicable policies and regulations;
- Hydro One will also implement other measures including the installation of fencing and/or barriers to construction areas, such as laydown areas (with appropriate signage) to prevent unauthorized access, when laydown areas are near publicly accessible areas, as necessary; and
- Hydro One and its contractors will undertake a wide range of safety measures including coordinating with municipalities; local emergency and protective services; the MTO; residents; landowners; businesses; and First Nations regarding the Project Construction schedule; construction-related traffic; and other applicable Project activities prior to construction.

7.5.3.2 Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

EMF are invisible fields that surround electrical equipment, such as power cords, wires and everyday household items like microwaves, televisions and vacuums. EMFs are strongest when close to their source. As you move away from the source, the strength of the fields fades rapidly.

Hydro One has a dedicated team that regularly monitors global studies regarding EMF and ensures that our infrastructure is built and maintained following best practices and industry standards. We look to Health Canada, the World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), for guidance on EMF and our approach. Based on global studies which have and continue to be regularly monitored, these organizations indicate members of the public in the vicinity of transmission lines do not need to take precautionary measures to protect themselves from fields produced by electricity at extremely low frequencies because of exposures, which includes transmission infrastructure. Health Canada's conclusion about EMF is that there is no conclusive evidence of harm caused by exposure found in Canadian homes and schools, including those located just outside the boundaries of power line corridors. Additionally, EMF values from the Project are expected to remain significantly below the ICNIRP exposure guidelines.

Hydro One has developed an Information Sheet that addresses concerns related to EMF and it is available in **APPENDIX A - 2**

7.5.4 Nuisance Effects

During construction activities, local residents and businesses may experience temporary nuisance effects. Nuisance effects are subjective, and the magnitude of the effect may vary dependent on the individual and their location in relation to construction activities. Noticeable nuisance effects (described in **Section 7.5.4.1** through **Section 7.5.4.3**) relating to air quality, noise and vibrations, and mud and construction debris may occur intermittently during the construction phase of the Project.

7.5.4.1 Air Quality

Construction activities have the potential to create temporary, localized effects on air quality in the immediate vicinity of the Project (effects on air quality and associated mitigation are further discussed in **Section 7.7.2.2**). Emissions from construction are primarily composed of fugitive dust and combustion products from the movement and operation of construction equipment and vehicles. These emissions, in turn, may create a nuisance or disturbance effect for local residents and land users during the construction phase. Mitigation measures to reduce potential nuisance effects resulting from air emissions include those described in **Section 7.7.2.2**.

7.5.4.2 Noise and Vibrations

As further discussed in **Section 7.7.2.3**, the construction and maintenance activities during operations have the potential to increase ambient noise and vibration levels at points of reception (POR) in the vicinity of the Project. These effects, in turn, may create temporary nuisance or disturbance effects for local residents, land users, and wildlife.

The noise and vibration levels associated with construction would most likely be a result of activities such as general site grading, foundations work, construction traffic, and implosive splicing. Each of the aforementioned activities require the use of various pieces of heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, front-end loaders, small trucks, backhoes, bobcats, dump trucks, compactors, concrete trucks, and/or cranes. The movement of delivery and worker vehicles would also add to the noise levels during the construction period.

The noise and vibration levels associated with maintenance during operations would most likely be a result of the use of similar heavy equipment as construction, including bulldozers, front-end loaders, small trucks, backhoes, bobcats, dump trucks, and compactors.

The construction and maintenance during operations noise and vibration effects are anticipated to be short-term, temporary, and intermittent. The range in increased noise and vibration levels associated with the construction and maintenance activities during operations will depend primarily on the number and type of noise and vibration sources and their proximity to the PORs (i.e., the Project noise and vibration levels in the environment decrease as the distance between the POR and activities increases). Potential effects on noise and vibration levels due to Project construction and maintenance activities during operations will vary based on the activities and how they are carried out in the vicinity of potential PORs. Indirect noise disturbance effects on wildlife during construction can include temporary declines in habitat occupancy, as well as temporary changes to mobility and feeding habitat patterns.

Mitigation measures to reduce potential nuisance effects resulting from noise and vibration include those described in **Section 7.7.2.3**.

7.5.4.3 Mud and Construction Debris

Construction activities may result in the accumulation of mud and construction debris within the transmission line ROW and on and adjacent to local roads in construction areas. These effects have the potential to migrate to areas outside of the construction zone.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- General clean site policies will be implemented requiring pick-up and disposal of refuse and construction waste on a regular basis;
- Construction will be completed with general clean site policies being enforced which require pick-up and disposal of refuse and construction waste at an approved waste management facility on a regular basis;
- Mud related to construction activities will be removed from local roads and access roads as necessary throughout construction;

- Mud mats will be installed (as needed) as a mechanism to reduce the transport of debris off-site;
- Vehicles and equipment will be regularly inspected, washed, and maintained at work areas as necessary; and
- Formal cleanup and site restoration (e.g., restoration planting and seeding) will further minimize this potential effect as construction progresses and is completed.

7.5.5 Community Benefits Initiative

While Hydro One always strives to avoid and mitigate potential effects to the socio-economic environment, and restore areas that are affected by the Project, Hydro One acknowledges there may be net effects. Because these net effects cannot be further reduced or avoided through mitigation, they are typically compensated for by undertaking positive activities. In an effort to offset net effects, Hydro One is committed to working with municipalities in the area to identify opportunities that could enhance and contribute to the local community recognizing that community benefits can be varied and diverse in nature.

Community investment is a critical component of Hydro One's approach to large infrastructure projects such as the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project. This project involves six municipalities (Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, Municipality of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan Monaghan, Town of Selwyn, and City of Peterborough), all of which present unique opportunities for Hydro One to contribute positively to the community through benefit programs and investments. By providing targeted support throughout the duration of the Project and into its completion, Hydro One can foster stronger relationships, enhance its brand reputation, and ensure community trust and goodwill and aims to offset the net effects that cannot be mitigated through the planning process. Hydro One will continue to engage and work with Project stakeholders to identify and implement such opportunities.

7.6 Mineral Resources

As discussed in **Section 4.5**, mineral resources exist within the study areas and include active aggregate resources, unrehabilitated aggregate resources, and organic matter deposits (discretionary peat occurrence), which are located throughout the PSA and LSA. In particular, resources overlapped by the ROW including Site ID# 3198; Site ID# 3302; and Site ID# 3489 (**Table 4-3**). Project construction activities may have potential to impact the area available and access to these resources, primarily to mineral resources such as the discretionary occurrence of peat (Peatland 31d-844) crossed by the transmission line ROW and Jackson Creek south of Edgewood Park and Mount Pleasant Road.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- During construction, relevant authorities (i.e., MNR) and/or stakeholders (e.g., aggregate licence holders, leases) will be consulted related to potential effects to aggregate operations or organic matter deposits, where applicable. Hydro One will coordinate and consult with relevant parties to incorporate their recommendations to mitigate effects on these resources and operations, where appropriate;
- Affected landowners, lessees and licence holders and claims holders will be notified before the start of construction to prevent or reduce effects of anticipated activities. These activities will be coordinated with tenure holders through ongoing engagement; and
- Affected parties will be notified with respect to crossing agreements and third-party agreements which will adhere to applicable contingency and management plans.

7.7 Natural Environment Resources

7.7.1 Physical Environment

7.7.1.1 Physiography and Geology

The Project is not anticipated to change the existing physiography or geology. Therefore, no potential effects to physiography or geology were identified.

7.7.1.2 Spills

During construction and operation activities, there is the possibility of spills from the release of oils and fuels from construction and operation, vehicles, and equipment. There are a number of mitigation measures to reduce the risk of spills and to minimize the effect in the unlikely event that a spill occurs.

An Emergency Response Plan as well as spill cleanup equipment will be maintained and readily accessible at all times during construction and operation activities. Refuelling of vehicles and equipment will be completed in designated locations, a minimum of 30 m away from sensitive receptors (e.g., source water protection areas, watercourse, wetlands) while utilizing emergency spill trays. In the event refuelling is required outside of designated areas, additional containment or other mitigation and spill prevention measures will be utilized. Fuelling operations will require the operator to visually observe the fuelling process at all times.

Other mitigation measures to reduce the risk of spills and minimize the effect in the unlikely event that a spill occurs include:

- Equipment will be inspected regularly during construction and operation to ensure it is clean and free of leaks;

- Areas impacted by a spill will be secured, and unauthorized personnel will be kept out of the affected area until further assessment and/or clean-up is conducted;
- Spills will be addressed and remediated as soon as possible after occurrence;
- Clean-up and the disposal of contaminated materials will be managed in accordance with provincial regulations and guidelines;
- Fuels, chemicals, lubricants or other deleterious substances will be stored on level ground in properly contained storage areas;
- Only approved aboveground petroleum storage tanks will be used during the construction phase of the Project and will be stored in designated fuelling areas and with additional temporary containment measures;
- Work conducted near Provincially/locally designated Vulnerable Areas (namely Wellhead Protection Areas [WHPAs]; Intake Protection Zones [IPZs]) will be avoided or limited, where practical;
- CLOCA, KC, and ORCA and/or the Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan-Monaghan, and Township of Selwyn will be consulted in order to undertake the proper action for managing the potential threats to source water protection areas; and
- In addition to the above noted regulators and municipalities, Hydro One will continue to work with First Nation communities to discuss mitigation measures for implementation during construction.

Should a reportable spill occur, the MECP Spills Action Centre (SAC) will be notified of all reportable spills and containment and remediation measures undertaken. Hydro One commits to notifying MSIFN in the event of reportable spills that may pose a risk to the environment or require formal remediation and to sharing semi-annual reporting on spills tracking with MSIFN.

7.7.1.3 Waste Generation

Construction waste would be generated by the Project and would need to be disposed of at appropriate waste reception or recycling facilities. Waste produced during the construction period may include non-hazardous wastes (e.g., packaging, spent lubricating cartridges, coffee cups) and hazardous wastes (e.g., oils from hydraulic systems, gasoline, and other lubricants/oils).

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Hazardous waste (solid and liquid) will be transported by MECP licensed waste haulers to MECP registered disposal sites;

- Good management practices are recommended to prevent spills and contamination during construction (see above);
- Any temporary waste on-site should include the use of secured containers in designated sites away from sensitive areas and removed from the site on an ongoing basis;
- Excess construction materials (i.e., waste, granular fill, clay) will be removed from construction sites and areas on an ongoing basis;
- With respect to concrete wash water, all water from concrete chute washing activities will be contained in leak proof containers or in an approved settling pond off site;
- Waste produced will be minimized, segregated, and recycled where practical, and all testing, handling, storage, transport, and disposal of waste will be completed in accordance with all applicable legislation; and
- Waste materials will be contained and not allowed into sensitive receptors such as waterbodies, riparian areas, wetlands, or agricultural fields.

7.7.1.4 Excess Materials Management

Project activities have the potential to produce excess materials during construction and operation phases. Excess materials can include topsoil and subsoil from excavation or stripping activities. All efforts will be made to reuse soils onsite where practical and feasible; however, excess materials that cannot be managed onsite will be handled in accordance with O. Reg. 406/19. In the event soils are stockpiled, they will be managed to address and limit Bank Swallow nesting (i.e., slopes maintained at 70° or less, and/or covered or bare soils seeded during the breeding season).

Soil testing to meet the requirements of O. Reg. 406/19 will be completed, if necessary, during geotechnical investigations prior to or during construction. If excess material is deemed suitable, Hydro One will work with landowners to explore opportunities for beneficial reuse within the property parcel. Reuse sites will be selected based on the characterization of excess soils, the need for a beneficial reuse, and the volume of excess soils required. Any excess soil required to leave the site will be tracked for the Project to the final deposit site, if required, and taken to an approved facility licensed to accept excess soil based on its characterization or other off-site location that can demonstrate beneficial reuse. A notice will be submitted to the MECP for the Project, if required.

As part of the detailed design, Hydro One will conduct a review of the available contaminated sites databases and information to determine whether any contaminated sites are within or adjacent to the corridor to help support construction planning.

7.7.2 Atmospheric Environment

7.7.2.1 Climate Change

It is important to note that the proposed Project is not a power generation project, and its operation would not emit greenhouse gases (GHG). However, the Project's construction and operation will result in the temporary release of GHG emissions as a result of increased machinery. Hydro One also recognizes that the Project may be impacted by changing climatic conditions (i.e., the Project's resilience to climate change). This is in alignment with Ontario's Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process guide (MECP, 2017). Hydro One has committed to a 30% reduction in operations driven GHG emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050. Operations-driven emissions are those that Hydro One directly controls, including Scope 1 (direct) emissions and Scope 2 - purchased electricity (indirect) emissions.

The Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan commits to reducing GHG emissions 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 (MECP, 2022). The Project aligns with these targets as this contributes to maintaining and upgrading electrical infrastructure and increasing resilience and capacity supply of electricity for eastern Ontario. This contributes to electrification efforts which could help achieve Ontario's 2030 targets. As outlined in the annual Hydro One sustainability reports, Hydro One is committed to adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

GHGs include the following compounds: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). During the construction phase, CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O emissions are expected from the combustion of fossil fuels for mobile equipment (i.e., vehicles, construction equipment, helicopters) and stationary combustion. PFC and HFC emissions are not expected from construction emissions as these are not commonly present in the construction process. SF₆ emissions are not expected, although the Project will involve installation of SF₆ breakers at the TSs. Hydro One will reduce GHG emissions by keeping machinery in good working condition, limiting idling of equipment, making GPS available to optimize routing, and using multi-passenger vehicles to transport personnel when practicable. Hydro One has committed to be net zero by 2050 with a target to reduce its operations driven GHG emissions by 30% by 2030. At the organizational level, Hydro One has committed to a 50% conversion rate of light duty vehicles to EV or hybrid by 2025, as well as modifying driving behaviors, including reducing non-productive idling. Hydro One continues to actively assess SF₆ alternatives while developing improved operational practices and standards to minimize emissions where mitigation measures are within Hydro One's direct care and control.

Climate Change Resilience

As described in the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (PCCIA, 2023), climate change could impact a range of hazards in the PSA, including increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme heat, heavy precipitation and flooding, winter precipitation, extreme wind, and wildfire. This section describes how relevant climate hazards are projected to change, how they may interact with the Project infrastructure, and the adaptation measures to reduce the risk of impacts to the Project.

Future projections were sourced from the latest global climate models developed by the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6). CMIP climate models are made publicly available through ClimateData.ca and provide estimates of future climate conditions averaged over 30-year time periods for several GHG emission and global development scenarios call shared socioeconomic pathways (SSP). Projections have been assessed based on a high emissions scenario (SSP5-8.5) to provide a conservative estimate of risk. Where projections are not readily available from ClimateData.ca projections have been assessed based on the best available scientific literature with data relevant to the project location.

In the Project region, average temperatures and extreme heat (annual maximum temperature) are projected to rise by over 3°C by mid century (2050s) compared to a 1971-200 baseline period (ClimateData.ca, 2025). Increased temperatures could impact the functioning and efficiency of transformers and transmission lines and contribute to accelerated vegetation growth and degradation of structural foundations over time. These factors can increase the risk of power outages and increase maintenance requirements.

Precipitation is also projected to increase through the mid-century (ClimateData.ca, 2025). Specific to the project region, total annual precipitation is projected to increase by 82 mm and 86 mm for the Oshawa and Peterborough regions and maximum 1-day precipitation is expected to increase by 5 mm and 6 mm respectively by the 2050s. Extreme precipitation events can impact station drainage systems and impact the integrity of infrastructure below-grade such as foundations. There is a projected decrease in seasonal snow accumulation in Canada (Bush & Lemmen, 2019), but a potential increase in freezing rain and ice accretion on radial surfaces (Jeong et al., 2019).

In the region surrounding the PSA, the 50-year return period maximum wind speed are projected to decrease (Jeong & Sushama, 2019), however there is a high degree of uncertainty in wind projections. Impacts could include damage to transmission lines, leading to power outages. Extreme wind could be particularly impactful when coupled with a freezing rain event, due to ice loads.

Finally, in Canada, an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme hot temperatures and greater regional dryness will increase conditions that could increase wildfire risk (Bush & Lemmen, 2019). Extreme heat from wildfires could damage and reduce efficiency of transformers and transmission lines and could damage transmission line infrastructure.

Hydro One operates vital infrastructure that must be resilient to the impacts of climate change. Hydro One, as a licensed transmitter, complies with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards to ensure the reliability and security of the transmission system.

While having inherent resiliency built into current design standards, Hydro One continues to improve the resilience of its operations by focusing on the planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining of its infrastructure considering the future climate projections, as well as the sensitivity and vulnerabilities discussed above.

7.7.2.2 Air Quality

Construction activities have the potential to create temporary, localized effects on air quality in the immediate vicinity of the Project. Emissions from construction activities are primarily comprised of fugitive dust and combustion products from the movement and operation of construction equipment and vehicles. These emissions, in turn, may create a nuisance or disturbance effect for local residents and land users during the construction phase.

In general, fugitive dust can be divided into the following particle size categories:

- Particulate matter with a diameter of less than 44 microns (μm) or total suspended particulate
- Particles with a diameter of 10 μm or less or PM10
- Particles with a diameter of less than 2.5 μm or PM2.5

Particles with a diameter of 10 μm or less are typically generated during common construction activities such as material handling, stockpiling, fuel combustion and vehicles travelling on paved or unpaved surfaces.

Particles with a diameter of 2.5 μm or less are typically generated through fuel combustion processes.

During construction, equipment and machinery will be maintained in good working condition to minimize excessive exhaust. Idling of construction vehicles and equipment will be kept to a minimum and GPS will be available in vehicles to optimize routing to reduce fossil fuel emissions. Additional mitigation measures to reduce nuisance effects of dust and air emissions during construction include the following:

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- Vehicles will not exceed posted speed limits;
- Minimize and stabilize vehicular traffic and exposed soils in high traffic areas with suitable cover material;
- Avoid excavation and other construction activities that have the potential to release airborne particulates during windy periods, to the extent practical;
- If excavation or other construction activities with a potential to release airborne particulates must occur during windy conditions, dust controls will be utilized;
- Effective dust suppression techniques, (e.g., on-site watering, non-chloride dust suppressants) will be implemented as necessary;
- Cover or otherwise contain loose construction materials with the potential to release airborne particulates during transport, installation or removal to the extent practical; and
- Disturbed areas will be restored as soon as practical to minimize duration of soil exposure.

Emissions from maintenance activities during operation will be variable, are expected to be temporary, and would occur periodically over the life of the Project. Nuisance effects posed by these temporary activities are expected to be negligible and minimized through the same mitigation measures described above.

Nuisance effects are not expected during normal operations, as transformer stations do not generate air emissions. They are not generating stations but rather facilities that transform the voltage of electricity that has already been generated and supplied to the provincial electricity grid.

7.7.2.3 Noise and Vibration

Construction and operation activities have the potential to increase existing ambient noise and vibration levels at PORs in the vicinity of the Project. Potential environmental effects relevant to human noise and vibration receptors are qualitatively assessed in this section. Assessment of the effects of Project noise and vibration on wildlife, socio-economics, and human health are assessed within their respective sections.

Local noise control by-laws were used to in the assessment of noise and vibration from the Project, including those for the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, the Township of Cavan-Monaghan, the Township of Selwyn, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Township of Scugog, the Municipality of Clarington, and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Additional site-specific or equipment-specific guidance (e.g., gas, hydro, sewer and watermain, communications) may also be identified through discussion with Project stakeholders (i.e., utility infrastructure owners/ operators). Construction activities are commonly regulated at a

municipal level through by-laws, which typically limit construction activities during certain days of the week and periods of the day. In Ontario, no quantitative noise level limits at a POR exist for temporary construction activities for this type of Project.

The guidance described above provide applicable noise or vibration limits; however, the listed by-laws are nuisance based and do not provide noise or vibration limits. In general, the by-laws describe prohibitions or limitations (e.g., operating conditions, operating times) on the use of specific noise or vibration sources and outline the process for applying for a by-law exemption.

Noise emissions from construction stage activities could increase noise levels at PORs. The Project is linear, and activities would be planned sequentially. Construction will likely involve implosive conductor splicing and this method has been used in the industry since the 1980s and is the most reliable and commonly used technique to splice together sections of transmission conductor. Implosive conductor splicing can be utilized on ground surface or aerially after conductor sections have been strung onto new transmission tower.

The duration of construction and maintenance activities during operation at any one location along the transmission line corridor would be limited and intermittent, thereby reducing the amount of time of noise and vibration at any given area. From an operational perspective, the transmission line's potential to affect noise levels is typically associated with temporary weather events (e.g., foul-weather).

Potential effects and mitigation measures for vibration during the construction of the Project will likely be greater than the operation phase of the Project, due to the use of heavy equipment during construction.

Mitigation measures to reduce potential nuisance effects resulting from noise and vibration during construction and operations maintenance activities include:

- All work is expected to be completed using common construction methods and in general accordance with the ministry's Publication NPC-115 "Construction Equipment", Publication NPC-118 "Motorized Conveyances" and Publication NPC-119 "Blasting";
- Sensitive receptors will be identified in the Project-specific EMP, for consideration when planning work such as implosive splicing locations;
- Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize vibrations during construction will be used;
- Equipment and machinery used on site will be maintained in good working condition;
- Prior to any use of implosive splicing, a Blasting Communication and Management Plan will be developed outlining proper storage, security, detonation, and notification requirements;

- Area residents, businesses, municipalities, emergency and protective services, and other crews within 1.6 km will be notified about the use of implosive splicing one week prior to the work commencing;
- Signs shall be posted on all roadways leading to a blasting area in accordance with government rules and regulations;
- A safe distance of the blasting site will be maintained from other employees, vehicles, equipment, structures, and fire hazard sources. Blasts will be performed during pre-determined times and outside of electrical storms or adverse weather conditions;
- Construction activities will conform to local noise control by-laws including those for the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, the Township of Cavan-Monaghan, the Township of Selwyn, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Township of Scugog, the Municipality of Clarington, and the City of Kawartha Lakes. Noise By-Law exemptions will be sought if work is required outside of the hours specified in the aforementioned by-laws (e.g., overnight); and
- Vibration dampers will be incorporated into detailed design to be placed on towers, where required.

Regarding comments from MECP, Hydro One is committed to executing the noise assessment (predictive modeling) methodology presented in NPC-360. This requires an advanced level of detailed design that we have not yet reached for the DKPL project, as Hydro One's EPC contractor responsible for completing detailed design has not yet been formally awarded the work.

7.7.3 Surface Water Resources

During construction and certain operation and maintenance activities, the potential effects of the Project on surface water may include changes in surface water quantity or quality conditions in nearby municipal drains, watercourses, or waterbodies due to site preparation, earthworks, discharge of construction water, and operation of vehicles and equipment.

Soil Rutting and Vegetation Removals

Site preparation, including activities such as removal of vegetation, locates/daylighting of potential existing buried utilities, and construction of temporary access roads would be required in support of transmission tower installation. Though approximately 50 km of the Project will repurpose an existing transmission corridor and reduce vegetation removals, some removal during construction has the potential to result in a temporary increase in overland flows, potential organic and sediment loading to nearby municipal drains, watercourses or waterbodies, as well as potential water temperature increases in instances where vegetation

removal adjacent to watercourses and waterbodies is required. Similarly, vehicle and construction equipment have the potential to create temporary rutting in soils which have the potential to result in localized ponding and/or channelization leading to additional erosion of soils.

To avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects related to vegetation removals and soil rutting on surface water, the following mitigation measures would be implemented:

- Where practical, activities with potential to cause rutting, ponding/channelization or erosion will be planned during stable and dry ground conditions;
- Existing water crossings and constructed access roads will be used to the extent practical;
- The use of Erosion Sediment Control (ESC) measures (e.g., erosion blankets/coir mats, silt socks) will be used, where necessary;
- Where required, temporary crossing structures will be installed for construction access at watercourses, waterbodies and other low-lying areas and will be removed upon completion of construction;
- The use of constructed access (e.g., mats or geotextile/crushed stone) roads will be monitored to ensure there is no surface ponding to minimize rutting and pooling of water. If ponding of water due to the road does occur, this can be mitigated through the use of equalizing culverts or similar measure;
- Vegetation removals will be minimized to the extent practical. Compatible vegetation will be retained within riparian areas adjacent to watercourses and waterbodies;
- Machine clearing and grubbing will be restricted near sensitive environmental areas; hand clearing will be required within 30 m of watercourse and waterbody banks/riparian areas;
- Exposed soils in previously vegetated areas will be re-vegetated as necessary with compatible vegetation, or have other erosion or sedimentation measures applied as necessary;
- Where applicable and possible, vegetative buffers will be maintained;
- Construction access and laydown areas will be restored following completion of construction;
- Work will be staged to minimize the extent of exposed soils (e.g., bare soils without vegetative cover or erosion and sediment controls such as coir blankets) at any given time;
- Cleared vegetation will be relocated to designated areas away from water features;

- Topsoil will be stockpiled in designated areas away from water features and will utilize containment measures such as erosion and sediment control as appropriate;
- Disturbed areas will be stabilized and restored as soon as practical;
- Equipment operation adjacent to watercourses, waterbodies, and wetlands will be minimized, where practical;
- Works adjacent or around water feature banks will be conducted during appropriate conditions and times of the year (e.g., dry or frozen conditions), to the extent practical;
- Vegetation buffers along water feature banks will be maintained to the extent practical, and restored; and
- CLOCA, KC and ORCA will be consulted (specifically for ESC measures within regulated areas) during detail design.

Disruption of Sheet Flow of Surface Waters Over Agricultural Lands

The Project is predominantly located within agricultural lands. It is anticipated that the Project will utilize existing access routes wherever practical, and the number and location of access roads would be established during the detailed design phase. Access routes will be chosen to avoid crossing municipal drains, watercourses or waterbodies, or use existing crossings, where practical. In the event the Project requires the construction of new access roads, their construction has the potential to disrupt sheet flow of surface waters over agricultural lands.

To avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects associated with the installation of access roads on surface water, the following mitigation measures would be implemented:

- Existing, natural drainage patterns and flows will be identified and maintained to the extent practical;
- Equalization culverts or similar methods may be used in construction of access roads. If accretion caused by surface water processes are identified during construction, remedial measures (e.g., retroactive installation of equalization culverts within temporary access roads) will be undertaken promptly;
- Existing water crossings and constructed access roads will be utilized to the extent practical;
- Construction and access planning will consider tile drains to ensure continued function of drainage tiles to the extent practical. Discussions with landowners will be held where further information is needed to avoid adverse effects;
- The use of ESC measures (e.g., erosion blankets/coir mats, silt socks, etc.) will be utilized, where necessary; and

- Temporary laydown areas, and conductor pulling pads will be placed away from sensitive areas (e.g., municipal drains, watercourses, waterbodies, wetlands, woodlots) to the extent feasible.

Dewatering

The removal and discharge of construction water may be required as a result of dewatering activities in holes or trenches related to foundations. Discharge is expected to occur to nearby lands, of which quantities are expected to be relatively minor. It is not expected that an Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) or Permit to Take Water (PTTW) would be required from the online self-registration system, which is implemented by MECP, but this can only be established with certainty during detailed design. The discharge of construction water from dewatering activities may result in slight increases to surface water levels of aquatic features; however, much of the surface water discharged onto land could infiltrate through permeable agricultural lands.

The removal and discharge of surface water may be required as a result of dewatering activities in holes or trenches related to foundations of transmission towers. Discharges could result in an increase to the concentrations of suspended solids and chemical constituents in receiver watercourses, waterbodies, and municipal drains.

To avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects of dewatering activities on surface water, the following mitigation measures would be implemented:

- Construction water will be discharged in compliance with permits and/or approvals from provincial agencies (such as the MECP) and municipalities, as required;
- A Construction Water Management Plan will be developed prior to construction and implemented appropriately (e.g., passing discharge water through a filter bag or drum before discharge to the environment to capture sediment and slow down the water velocity);
- Where practical, opportunities to maximize retention times and reduce surface flow velocities will be executed;
- Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (e.g., such as helical piles) that minimize the amount of construction dewatering required will be utilized; and
- Where practical, discharge of construction waters is to occur at least 30 m away from sensitive receptors (e.g., watercourses, waterbodies, wetlands). If discharge of construction waters must occur within 30 m of a watercourse, waterbody, or wetland, additional erosion and sediment controls will be utilized.

Construction Work within Areas Regulated by Conservation Authorities

There is potential for Project infrastructure (access roads, towers) to be located within CLOCA, KC, and ORCA regulated lands with the potential to result in impacts to natural hazard lands, wetlands and/or areas of interference. The location of Project infrastructure will be determined during detailed design.

To avoid or minimize potential adverse effects of Project infrastructure within CLOCA, KC, and ORCA regulated lands on surface water, the following mitigation measures would be implemented:

- CLOCA, KC, and ORCA will be consulted during detailed design and construction planning;
- Design of the transmission line will avoid or minimize the extent to which transmission towers are located within regulated areas, to the extent practical;
- If necessary, a Permit under Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits will be obtained through the applicable Conservation Authority (CLOCA, KC, and ORCA) prior to construction;
- Construction work (e.g., tower construction) within Regulated Areas will be conducted during stable (frozen/dry) ground conditions, to the extent practical (acknowledging that this will likely not be feasible in all situations); and
- Temporary construction access through regulated areas may involve additional ESC or other environmental mitigation measures.

At the end of construction, the work areas (i.e., tower foundation areas, access roads, pulling pads and temporary laydown areas) will be seeded/re-vegetated and the temporary laydown areas would be restored to their original condition to the extent feasible.

Maintenance Activities

Maintenance activities will be variable, are generally short-term in duration and would occur periodically over the life of the Project. Though short-term in duration, maintenance activities have the potential to result in soil rutting, disrupt sheet flow of surface water over agricultural lands, increase overland flow and mobilization/transportation of organic debris, and sediment loading in nearby municipal drains, watercourses, and waterbodies.

To avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects of maintenance activities on surface water, many of the mitigation measures outlined above for construction related activities (where applicable) would be implemented during maintenance activities, to the extent deemed required by the scope of maintenance activities.

Erosion and Sedimentation

Site preparation would consist of removal of vegetation, topsoil stripping and rough grading (where necessary), and stockpiling of materials. These activities would result in the temporary exposure and disturbance of soil with the potential for wind and water erosion and the transport of sediment to aquatic features. Site preparation would also result in the temporary accumulation of cleared vegetation with the potential for mobilization of organic debris and its transport to aquatic features during runoff events. Earthworks would consist of excavation, fill, and stockpiling activities, and would similarly result in disturbance and exposure of soil to wind and water erosion and the transport of sediment to aquatic features. It is expected that the transmission line ROW associated with the Project will be restored to similar grades at the various areas of disturbance.

Earthworks may also be required for the construction of temporary access roads, temporary laydown areas, and pulling pads within the various disturbed work areas along the transmission line ROW. Earthworks may also be required for the installation of temporary culverts, including excavation, preparation of culvert pipe bedding, culvert pipe placement, and backfilling. Stockpiling of soil and aggregate materials will also be required in support of earthworks.

Earthworks for the construction of temporary laydown areas, pulling pads, if required, may similarly consist of excavation, fill and sub-grade preparation, followed by the installation of crushed stone overtop of geotextile fabric. Soil and aggregate materials would be stockpiled. Earthworks would also potentially be required during foundation preparations, though, depending on the technology, this may not be required. Earthworks to support the above activities would include stockpiling of soil and aggregate materials. The mitigation measures outlined for the potential effects above will also serve to avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects of site preparation and other earthwork activities on surface water quality in aquatic features.

In addition, and in support of site preparation and earthwork activities, the following ESC measures will be implemented as a mechanism to avoid and minimize impacts on surface water quality:

- An ESC plan will be developed prior to construction and ESC measures will be identified and implemented as required. Measures such as erosion blankets/coir mats, silt socks, or similar, are expected to form part of the ESC plan, where appropriate;
- Areas with high erosion potential will be identified and avoided, where practical;

- Construction activities near sensitive features or areas may be suspended during extreme wet weather events, and crews will review and consider weather forecasts in their planning of such work;
- ESC installations will only be removed after disturbed areas are restored, accumulated sediment has been disposed, and construction activities in the vicinity are completed;
- In an effort to reduce potential erosion, mechanical or vegetation erosion control measures will be employed (e.g., buffer strips, erosion control blankets, and sedimentation fences), as required;
- Equipment operation on slopes adjacent to streams will be minimized to the extent practical;
- Disturbed areas near watercourses, waterbodies and wetlands or sensitive environmental areas will be restored as soon as practical; and
- ESC measures will be regularly inspected, including after each significant [>10 mm] rainfall event, and repaired where necessary to maintain functionality.

7.7.4 Source Water Protection

Spills

During construction and maintenance activities, there is the possibility of contamination of surface water through spills or leaks from the release of oils and fuels from vehicles and equipment. There are a number of mitigation measures to reduce the risk of contamination of source water in the unlikely event that a spill or leak occurs. These measures include the following:

- Maintain a Spill Response Plan and have readily accessible cleanup materials and equipment at all times during construction and maintenance activities;
- Remediate spills/leaks as soon as possible upon identification and notify the MECP SAC as required;
- Refuelling will be conducted in designated areas with appropriate protective measures and equipment available; and
- Refuelling areas will be located outside of Source Water Protection (SWP) areas to the extent practical. If refuelling must occur within SWP areas, additional protective measures (e.g., emergency spill trays) will be employed as necessary.

Intake Protection Zones (IPZs), Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs)

Construction and maintenance activities also have the potential for impacts to designated surface water Intake Protection Zones (IPZs), Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs), and

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs). Similar to the above, there are a number of Project-specific mitigation measures which will be implemented as a mechanism to reduce potential impacts. These measures include the following:

- Identify and protect surface water IPZs during construction and maintenance activities, as required;
- Comply with relevant legislation and policies such as: *Clean Water Act*, Provincial Policy Statement, Official Plans, and the Trent and CTC Source Protection Plans, where applicable;
- Provincially/locally designated Vulnerable Areas (namely WHPAs and IPZs) will be avoided, where practical; and
- Consult with First Nations, CLOCA, KA, and ORCA and/or the Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan-Monaghan, Township of Selwyn, and City of Peterborough during detailed design and construction planning on Project-specific mitigation measures.

As outlined in **Section 4.6.5**, both SPAs that fall within the PSA have policies related to fuel handling and storage. Both SPAs also identify the requirement for development of a Risk Management Plan if significant threats to SWP are identified based on Project activities. Based on the scope of work for construction, operation and maintenance of the Project, significant threats to SWP have not been identified. For example, handling and storage of fuel is anticipated to be limited to the amount needed for running equipment and bulk fuel storage tanks are not expected. Project-specific mitigation measures and best management practices have been detailed, above, to further minimize the potential threat within SWP areas.

Water Wells

It is anticipated that the municipal wells and local private water wells within the PSA will not be significantly affected as a result of dewatering activities associated with transmission line tower foundations. If construction dewatering is required for any Project excavation, the zone of influence of such dewatering activities is very localized, and the majority of water wells exploit aquifer(s) that are at a depth than the proposed excavations. Where necessary, a hydrogeological assessment and a wells survey will be conducted to inform construction planning, permitting, and management.

7.7.5 Groundwater Resources

During construction, the potential effects of the Project on groundwater include changes in water quality due to disturbance of potential pre-existing soil contamination, changes to existing groundwater quality or quantity due to excavation and construction dewatering for the potential installation of the underground portion of the Project. It is not expected that there

would be any effects on groundwater during the operation phase, due to a lack of subsurface disturbance once the transmission line is operational.

Temporary changes in groundwater due to Project activities during construction could also affect the amount of groundwater discharged to nearby watercourses and natural environmental features (e.g., vegetation, fish habitat, wetlands).

Effects on groundwater due to dewatering would be ephemeral and have a zone of influence measured in the range of several tens of metres. This effect would be limited to the construction phase only. Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize dewatering during construction, will be used.

7.7.5.1 Potential Effects on Groundwater Quality

Potential effects of the Project on groundwater quality include changes in groundwater quality due to disturbance of potential pre-existing soil contamination. Contaminated soil and groundwater containment and disposal measures would be implemented according to the pertinent regulations, as required, as well as the mitigation measures identified in **Sections 7.3, 7.7.1.2, 7.7.1.4, and 7.7.3.**

7.7.5.2 Potential Effects on Groundwater Quantity

Groundwater Infiltration and Flow

Groundwater base flow (quantity) is seasonally important to nearby waterbodies and natural environment features, including vegetation, fish and aquatic habitat. The potential foundation excavations and dewatering required for the Project would be expected to have limited spatial effects and duration. As such, it is predicted that there would be limited to no temporal effects on groundwater levels and quantity as a result of construction activities.

Construction is occurring predominantly within active agricultural lands. If there is a need to handle any construction waters, it is anticipated that discharge would be to nearby agricultural lands. There would be some runoff from this discharge and some infiltration.

Transmission line structure footings generally do not adversely affect the quantity of water resources, as effects of construction are often shallow relative to deeper aquifers, temporary in duration, and often less intrusive than other construction methodologies (e.g., excavations for building foundations or driven pile footings). As noted above, where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize dewatering during construction, will be used. The proposed underground section of the transmission line would be installed within a relatively narrow diameter tunnel or conduit that would not significantly interfere with groundwater flows.

Mitigation of impacts to groundwater infiltration would follow that outlined in **Sections 7.1.2, 7.1.3, and 7.7.3.**

Construction Dewatering

Though currently not anticipated, if detailed design suggests that construction dewatering is required at a rate greater than 50,000 L/day, an EASR (or PTTW, if volumes are anticipated to be > 400,000 L/day) would be obtained from the self-registration system which is implemented by MECP. Adequate dewatering and discharge plans would be developed prior to construction, and collected water would be contained and tested prior to disposal, if required. Where necessary, a hydrogeological assessment will be conducted to inform construction planning, permitting, and management.

The effects of any dewatering activities during construction are expected to be temporary, and groundwater levels and flows are expected to return to pre-construction conditions during or following the construction period.

7.7.6 Designated or Special Natural Areas

7.7.6.1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Two Environmentally Sensitive Areas intersect with the ROW within the eastern portion of the Project route: the Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area and the Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmental Sensitive Area. Environmentally Sensitive Areas are not defined in the applicable municipal official plans (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024a; Municipality of Clarington, 2018a; City of Kawartha Lakes, 2012b; County of Peterborough, 2022a) or provincial plans (Government of Ontario, 2017a; Government of Ontario, 2017b); however, both of these areas are also designated as Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs). Potential impacts of the Project on wetlands and associated mitigation measures are described in **Section 7.7.7.1.**

7.7.6.2 Significant Woodlands

Approximately 17.23 ha (8%) of the preferred route ROW is composed of wooded habitat (i.e., forest, swamp, plantation, woodland), and some of this area likely constitutes significant woodlands. However, much of this estimated area likely results from mapping imprecision as the existing ROW that will be used for most (~94%) of the Project route is subject to regular vegetation maintenance. Based on 2024 and 2025 field investigations, wooded habitat does occur occasionally as small incursions into the existing ROW.

Vegetation clearing may be required for any potential woodlands within the preferred route ROW to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line. A portion of this area may constitute significant woodland. Significance of woodlands (per provincial criteria) within

the ROW that are subject to clearing will be confirmed with future field investigations. Removals will be limited to the extent feasible and will not represent a total loss of vegetation on the landscape, but rather a transition from vegetation that is incompatible with overhead transmission line corridors (e.g., mature woodlot) to vegetation that is compatible (e.g., shrubs and meadow). Nevertheless, such changes have the potential to produce edge effects (positive, negative, and/or neutral), as well as result in habitat fragmentation (e.g., bisecting an existing woodland community). Changes in habitat composition have the potential to result in changes in habitat quality for some flora and fauna, while fragmentation of woodlands has the potential to result in a decline in species occupancy. During detailed design, the EPC Contractor will quantify any tree removals and communicate this to MSIFN.

Woodlands are also considered culturally significant for First Nations as they support elements required for continued practice of culture and rights. When viewed in a holistic manner by First Nations, woodlands are home to their non-human relatives and hold spiritual and intrinsic value in both human and non-human realms. Culturally significant woodlands include those that (i) provide habitat for any culturally important or harvested animal species, (ii) are part of a movement or migratory corridor for any culturally important or harvested animal species, (iii) contain an abundance of culturally important trees or plants used for medicines and crafting purposes, and (iv) are known to be used by First Nations members for the exercise of Treaty Rights. Changes in woodland availability or composition have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and rights. For example, changes to woodland availability or composition may result in changes in wildlife and plant harvesting success (e.g., quantity of resources harvested per trip to the bush), changes in level of effort required to harvest woodland resources (e.g., time, money, resources required), changes in contribution of traditional food sources to livelihoods, changes in the ability to transmit knowledge and culture (e.g., if important harvesting sites are altered), changes in the ability to engage in ceremonial practices, loss or alteration of important cultural sites, and changes in sense of place (e.g., thoughts, feelings memories evoked by a disturbed territory). Given that several common tree and woodland wildlife species have been identified as important to First Nations engaged on the Project, Hydro One precautionarily assumes that all woodlands in the study areas are culturally significant and appropriate mitigation and offsetting will be developed for any woodlands subject to clearing, in consultation with First Nations. However, impacts to woodlands will largely be avoided given that clearing will be confined to the existing ROW and therefore there will be no new disturbances to woodlands or large-scale transitions from the Project.

Although effects of the Project on woodlands will be minimal and the majority of effects will be temporary disturbance during construction, Hydro One will undertake a Biodiversity Initiative to address concerns raised by First Nations and stakeholders and provide some additional

habitat benefits to the region. This initiative will be conducted subsequent to completion of the Class EA in consultation with First Nations, CLOCA, KC, ORCA, and other interested groups. Refer to **Section 7.7.7.7** for more details on the Biodiversity Initiative.

There are a number of mitigation measures to reduce the proposed Project's impact on significant woodlands. These measures include the following:

- The extent of vegetation clearing will be minimized and woodland fragmentation will be avoided to the extent practical by using existing transmission corridors and access;
- Incompatible vegetation will be salvaged or felled as appropriate;
- Refuelling of vehicles and/or equipment will occur within a designated refuelling area located away from significant woodlands;
- If extenuating circumstances develop where vehicle and/or equipment refuelling cannot occur within a designated refueling area, additional spill protection measures will be utilized to minimize the potential for impacts to significant woodlands;
- Tree removals adjacent to watercourses and within wetlands will be cut such that their root systems remain intact to maintain soil stability, and compatible bank/riparian vegetation will be retained to the extent practical;
- Tree removals and other vegetation clearing will be completed outside of the migratory bird breeding season (i.e., April 5 to August 31, nesting zone C1; ECCC, 2018) and the bat active season (i.e., March 15 to November 30), where practical;
- Where vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period;
- In the event significant woodlands with the potential to support bats require tree removals, bat acoustic surveys may be completed during the month of June in accordance with agency approved protocols to determine SAR bat habitat use (or lack thereof). Where acoustic surveys confirm SAR bat habitat use, the MECP will be consulted prior to construction regarding permitting/approvals next steps under the provincial ESA;
- Woodlands that will not be subject to clearing will be identified as no-go zones and communicated to construction crews prior to construction. The boundaries will also be mapped and incorporated into the EMP with details on the associated mitigation;
- Mitigation measures identified in Section 7.1.6 will be implemented to control the introduction and spread of invasive species;

- Snags (dead standing trees), cavity trees, large interior trees and coarse woody debris that do not pose a risk to the construction or operation of the transmission line will be identified and retained, to the extent practical, provided they are not within the ROW;
- Once detailed design is confirmed, areas where disturbance is planned will be evaluated against specific habitat requirements, and targeted surveys for SAR, SCS, and SWH will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified; and
- Woodlands disturbed during construction will be restored following completion of construction with compatible native species (e.g., native seed mix and shrub stock).

Hydro One further commits to supporting First Nation Communities with land use planning initiatives, including traditional plant rehabilitation efforts.

7.7.6.3 Conservation Areas

Three designated conservation areas overlap the ROW:

- Enfield Conservation Area, managed by CLOCA, which contains a portion of the Enfield Wetland Complex;
- Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area, managed by KC, which includes a mix of wooded habitat and unevaluated wetlands; and
- Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area, managed by ORCA, which overlaps the Cavan Bog Wetland Complex PSW.

Project activities within areas managed by conservation authorities will require authorization from the responsible conservation authority. **Sections 7.7.6.2 and 7.7.7.1** describe potential Project impacts on woodlands and wetlands, including associated mitigation measures that would be employed during construction.

In addition, MSIFN identified that due to the high proportion of private lands within MSIFN's Treaty and Traditional Territory, members are particularly dependent on crown lands and conservation areas (especially the Durham East Cross Conservation Forest Conservation Area) for practicing their land use Rights. Hydro One understands that MSIFN is in the process of developing formal agreements with the appropriate conservation authorities to enable and protect the exercise of inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in the Conservation Area.

7.7.6.4 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest

Based on MNR mapping (MNR, 2023a), approximately 0.62 ha (0.3%) of the preferred route ROW intersects with one regionally significant candidate life science ANSI just north of Clarington TS: the Enfield Wetlands ANSI. **Section 7.7.6.6** describes potential Project impacts on wetlands and associated mitigation measures that would be employed with respect to wetlands during construction.

7.7.6.5 Valleylands

Based on background review, the valleylands associated with some of the larger watercourses in the LSA, including Bowmanville Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek and Pigeon River, are potentially significant; these features overlap with the PSA and ROW. Valleylands will be considered during design with respect to tower locations. To the extent feasible, work or disturbance will be avoided within valleylands or areas adjacent to the edge of the valleylands. Additional effects and mitigation measures for valleylands associated with river crossings in support of the Project are described in **Section 7.7.3**.

7.7.6.6 Provincially Significant Wetlands

Based on MNR mapping (MNR, 2023a), approximately 9.6 ha (4.5%) of the preferred route ROW intersects with the following four PSWs:

- Enfield Wetland Complex;
- Pigeon River No. 20 Complex;
- Pigeon River No. 23 Complex; and
- Cavan Bog Wetland Complex.

In addition to the above, the wetland units observed during ELC investigations may meet criteria for significance under the Natural Heritage Reference Manual (MNR, 2010) and Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (MNR, 2022b) as they have the potential to provide biological, hydrological, and special feature components. Desktop mapping will be field verified during detailed design to confirm wetland boundaries where impacts to wetlands are anticipated.

Wetlands (and marshes in particular) are also considered culturally significant for First Nations as they support a community of plants used for medicinal purposes and are commonly considered as medicine baskets. Changes in wetland availability or composition have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and rights. For example, changes in wetland quantity and condition may result in changes to plant harvesting success (e.g., quantity of resources harvested per trip to wetlands), changes in level of effort required to harvest wetland resources (e.g., time, money, resources required), changes in contribution of traditional food sources to livelihoods, changes in the ability to treat ailments and conditions with traditional medicines, changes in the ability to transmit knowledge and culture (e.g., if important harvesting sites are altered or access is restricted), changes in the ability to engage in ceremonial practices using harvested medicines, loss or alteration of important cultural sites, and changes in sense of place (e.g., thoughts, feelings, memories evoked by a disturbed territory). Cultural significance of wetlands within the ROW that may be subject to disturbance from the project will continue to be discussed with First Nations, and appropriate detailed

mitigation measures will be developed using the general approaches described in this ESR, in consultation with First Nations.

Although the effects of the Project on wetlands will be minimal and the majority of effects will be temporary disturbance during construction, Hydro One will undertake a Biodiversity Initiative to address concerns raised by First Nations and stakeholders and provide some additional habitat benefits to the region. This initiative will be conducted subsequent to completion of the Class EA and OEB Leave-to-Construct processes in consultation with First Nations, CLOCA, KC, ORCA, and other interested groups. Refer to **Section 7.7.7.7** for more details on the Biodiversity Initiative.

Section 7.7.7.1 describes potential Project impacts on wetlands and associated mitigation measures that would be employed with respect to wetlands during construction.

7.7.7 Natural Heritage Features

Most of the ROW consists of anthropogenic land cover types (76.82%) including agricultural fields and aggregate operations; however, a small portion consists of wooded areas (8.13%), marsh (4.85%), thicket (7.77%), cultural savannah (1.78%), hedgerows (0.41%) and aquatic habitat (0.25%), which provide habitat opportunities for various plant, fish and wildlife species.

Construction associated with the Project may induce disturbance to natural heritage features due to the potential removal of incompatible vegetation and associated wildlife habitat to accommodate the proposed works. Disturbance is anticipated to be minimal as most of the proposed route (approximately 50 km or 94%) will be within the existing ROW, which is already subject to routine maintenance, including periodic vegetation management of incompatible species. It is anticipated that most adverse effects to natural heritage features can generally be avoided or mitigated through mitigation measures.

Construction activities will be restricted to designated work areas and protective barriers, such as fencing, will be erected to protect adjacent features from construction related effects, where these features occur in close proximity to work areas. For example, silt fencing and/or other sediment and erosion control measures will be installed as required to prevent the migration of sediment-laden water from the construction site. In addition, vegetation removal limits will be clearly demarcated. Prior to construction, a detailed construction plan will be developed and CLOCA, KC, and ORCA will be consulted for work in regulated areas. Information on construction plans and mitigation measures developed through consultation with the Conservation Authorities for works in regulated areas will be included in the Environmental Management Plan, which will be provided to First Nations for review prior to construction.

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Other mitigation measures that will be undertaken to reduce adverse effects resulting from the construction of the Project include:

- Restricting access and minimizing travel/work areas to maximize retention of compatible vegetation;
- Implementing sediment and erosion controls;
- Selectively cutting and retaining compatible vegetation to promote regeneration;
- Following established vegetation management procedures regarding herbicide use to ensure protection of wildlife and adjacent vegetation, including consultation with landowners and notification to First Nations. Integrated pest management principles will be used to determine appropriate work methods. Forestry professionals who are properly licensed, certified, and supervised in accordance with provincial rules, regulations, and internal standards will be used to apply herbicides;
- Disposing of non-salvageable limbs by chipping or removal to designated areas;
- Clearing vegetation outside the migratory bird breeding season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018) to the extent practical. Where vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period;
- Retaining snags (dead standing trees) and cavity trees that do not pose a risk to the construction or operation of the transmission line to the extent practical;
- Cutting trees that require removal adjacent to watercourses and within wetlands such that their root systems remain intact to maintain soil stability;
- Retaining bank/riparian vegetation to the extent practical;
- Using constructed access (mats, or geotextile and gravel) in sensitive natural areas to avoid or minimize effects to soils (e.g., compaction, rutting);
- Refuelling vehicles and/or equipment within a designated refuelling area located away from sensitive areas;
- Restoring compacted areas, as required; and
- Using native plant species where practical during construction restoration, in consultation with landowners and First Nations.

Temporary construction access (e.g., access mats or geotextile and gravel) will be removed upon completion of construction. Temporary laydown areas will be installed during construction and these areas will be restored following removal.

Most wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the Project work areas are habituated to human activities and are mobile. For the most part, sensitive resident animals can relocate temporarily to nearby habitats through flight or via existing corridors (e.g., fencerows, watercourse riparian areas) to seek shelter as a mechanism to avoid noise and disturbance associated with construction activities and return after construction has finished. Construction disturbance will be sufficiently local and transitory that little displacement of wildlife is anticipated. With the implementation of natural features and species-specific mitigation measures outlined in **Section 7.7.6** and the subsections below, the effect of the Project on wildlife will be minimal.

7.7.7.1 Wetland

Approximately 16.04 ha (7.6%) of the preferred route ROW is composed of wetlands in the form of shallow and meadow marsh (MA, MAM, MAS, MAMM1, MAS2-1, MASM1-1, MASM1-4) and thicket, deciduous, coniferous and mixed swamp (SWT, SWT3, SWTM1, SWTM3, SW, SWC, SWC1, SWD, SWT, and SWM). This estimate of wetland intersect with the preferred route ROW includes PSWs (based on provincial mapping layers) but the boundaries have been refined based on ecological land classification (ELC) field verification survey results.

Although vegetation clearing on the existing ROW will not represent a long-term loss of vegetated areas on the landscape, it may result in changes in vegetation composition within an existing wetland community. Changes in habitat composition have the potential to result in changes in habitat quality for some flora and fauna, while changes in wetland availability or composition have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and rights. Given that wetlands have been identified as important to First Nations engaged on the Project (see **Section 7.7.6.6**), Hydro One precautionarily assumes that all wetlands in the study areas are culturally significant. However, impacts to wetlands will largely be avoided through the use of the existing ROW, and strategic siting of towers and construction access/laydown areas away from wetlands to the extent practical. Therefore, effects to wetlands will be generally temporary and transient in nature, and do not reflect a long-term change from the conditions at the outset of the Project, as vegetation was previously maintained for compatibility with overhead transmission lines. Additionally, installation of transmission towers at typical span-length intervals does not introduce long-term changes to hydrology of wetlands. During detailed design, the EPC Contractor will quantify any expected long term changes to the wetland area and communicate this to MSIFN, including specification of the type of wetland (e.g. march, swamp, etc.). Lastly, Hydro One and the EPC contractor will consult with First Nations on the post-construction restoration plans for any wetland areas subject to temporary disturbance from construction activities.

Generally, mitigation measures described in **Section 7.7.3** will also be employed with respect to wetland areas. Where feasible, access to construction areas will use existing access routes. Where direct impacts to wetlands are anticipated, desktop mapping will be field verified during detailed design to confirm wetland boundaries. In the event construction access in the existing ROW cannot avoid wetlands, temporary access roads and work pads will be built using measures such as mats, geotextile and crushed rock, or equivalent means, which will protect the underlying soils during construction and can be easily removed when construction is complete. Where practical, activities will be conducted during frozen conditions to limit temporary surface disturbance to wetlands in the ROW. Equalization culverts, French drains, or similar measures may be employed as necessary for any constructed access required within wetlands to maintain surface flow and drainage patterns during construction. Additional materials (i.e., rip-rap, filter cloth, and silt fencing) will be readily available in case they are needed promptly for erosion and/or sediment control.

An ESC plan will be employed to identify mitigation for wetland communities and will identify locations for protective fencing. In addition, no refuelling of vehicles and/or equipment will be permitted adjacent to wetlands (i.e., a 30 m buffer) to avoid potential spills (e.g., fuel, oil, lubricant) from migrating and entering aquatic habitats. Spill kits will be located at work areas to mitigate the effects of accidental spills or releases, should they occur during construction.

Additionally, applicable permit approvals will be obtained from the responsible conservation authorities and mitigation measures prescribed through the permitting process will be implemented.

Any wetlands disturbed during construction will be restored following completion of construction with compatible native species (e.g., native wetland seed mix, shrub stock, or a combination of both as appropriate) and to pre-construction drainage patterns.

Although the effects of the Project on wetlands will be minimal and the majority of effects will be temporary disturbance during construction, Hydro One will undertake a Biodiversity Initiative to address concerns raised by First Nations and stakeholders and provide some additional habitat benefits to the region. This initiative will be conducted subsequent to completion of the Class EA and OEB Leave-to-Construct processes in consultation with First Nations, CLOCA, KC, ORCA, and other interested groups. Refer to **Section 7.7.7.7** for more details on the Biodiversity Initiative.

7.7.7.2 Fish and Aquatic Habitat

The Project crosses several water features identified as direct fish habitat and surface water drainage that may provide indirect nutrients and food resource inputs to downstream receptors. Effects resulting from erosion and sedimentation and spills or deleterious substance release

could result in changes to fish community, health and habitats (see **Section 7.7.3**). Project specific ESC and Spill Management Plans will be developed to mitigate the most common effects. These plans will be included in the Environmental Management Plan which will be provided to First Nations for review prior to construction.

Although transmission towers will be located to avoid impacts to fish and aquatic habitat, there is potential for fish and aquatic habitat to be affected short-term during the construction phase of the Project. Effects have the potential to occur through the removal of trees within riparian areas which are incompatible with overhead transmission lines (i.e., their height at maturity has potential to interfere with the safe and reliable operation of the line) and potential for a limited number of temporary water crossings required to facilitate construction activities.

The removal of trees within riparian areas has the potential to affect fish habitat as it may reduce the amount of potential shade provided to fish and aquatic habitat, thereby influencing potential changes in water temperature, albeit over a small reach. Removal of trees within riparian areas also has the potential to affect fish and aquatic habitat cover as it would represent a reduction of potential overhanging vegetation. Removal of trees and riparian vegetation may reduce the nutrient and terrestrial food resource inputs. In instances where trees within riparian areas require removal, their root structures will remain intact (i.e., grubbing will not be conducted within riparian areas) as a mechanism to maintain their current soil stabilization characteristics. With respect to temporary water crossings, potential effects on fish and aquatic habitat include potential alterations to riparian areas, increased turbidity and release of deleterious substances. Mitigation measures outlined in **Section 7.7.3** for Surface Water Resources are also applicable to fish and aquatic habitat. Additional mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential effects on fish and fish habitat include the following:

- The creation of new water crossings during construction will be avoided to the extent practical by using existing access and crossings (e.g., bridges, culverts) and by accessing work areas from either side of water features;
- Construction access, laydown and work areas will be planned to avoid waterbodies and potential fish habitat to the extent practical (e.g., maintaining distance from watercourse banks except where crossings exist or are required);
- Disturbance to water features, shorelines, and riparian areas will be stabilized to prevent erosion;
- An ESC plan will be developed to include mitigation measures such as constructing watercourse crossings during low flow conditions, retaining compatible stream bank vegetation, use of ESC during construction and restoration, and storing materials away from sensitive receptors (e.g., watercourses, drains, wetlands);

- Project wastes will be immediately removed from and stored away from riparian areas;
- No refuelling or vehicles and/or equipment will be permitted within a minimum of 30 m of a water feature to prevent potential spills (e.g., fuel, oil, lubricant) from entering aquatic features;
- Disturbed areas will be restored to a pre-disturbed state or better, upon completion of construction, with compatible native species (e.g., seed mix, shrub stock);
- If permanent or temporary works are required below the high-water mark of a water feature, a Request for Review will be prepared and submitted to the DFO in support of a Letter of Advice and/or approvals under the *Fisheries Act*, Hydro One has committed to sharing any required submissions with MSIFN.
- Where implosive conductor splicing is utilized, work will be planned and conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters (DFO, 1998) as deemed necessary;
- The Project will apply all the measures to protect fish and fish habitat (DFO, 2025) and incorporate the use of DFO's Standards and Codes of Practice (DFO, 2024) for routine works where applicable, including the submission of a DFO Project Notification Form;
- Carry out the project in accordance with the Ontario restricted activity timing windows for the protection of fish and fish habitat (DFO, 2023) and ensure that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) provides site-specific or project-specific timing windows to address local conditions and species requirements.
- Fish rescues and removals will be completed in isolated areas, under an approved Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes and rescue efforts will be completed by Qualified Fisheries Professionals;
- Transmission line structures will be set back from banks and located outside of regulatory floodplains, to the extent practical; and
- Work will be conducted in accordance with a permit from the applicable Conservation Authority when working within their regulated area.

7.7.7.3 Woodlands

As previously mentioned, the Project ROW crosses approximately 17.23 ha of wooded habitat.

Section 7.7.6.2 describes Project impacts on woodlands and associated mitigation measures that would be employed with respect to woodlands during construction.

7.7.7.4 Species at Risk

Species at risk for the purposes of this assessment are defined as those listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA and/or SARA. Species listed as endangered or threatened under

the ESA receive individual and habitat protection under the Act. Under the recently amended ESA (June 2025), habitat for animals is now defined as “the dwelling place that is occupied for the purposes of breeding, rearing, staging, wintering or hibernating, and the immediate surrounding area”, and habitat for vascular plants is now defined as “the critical root zone of individuals”⁴. Under SARA, on provincial lands, protection of individuals and residences is afforded to migratory birds (as defined by the MBCA), and protection of individuals, residences, and critical habitats (where defined in federal recovery strategies) is afforded to aquatic species (as defined by the *Fisheries Act*).

Approximately 50 km (94%) of the Project will repurpose an existing transmission corridor, thereby avoiding long-term loss, alteration, and fragmentation of SAR habitat along most of the route. Despite the use of the existing transmission corridor to avoid long-term habitat loss or transition, there may still be temporary and short-term effects from construction and periodic maintenance activities, where SAR individuals and their habitats are located on or directly adjacent to the existing corridor.

The ROW was assessed to provide potential habitat for 25 SAR (11 birds, seven bats, two reptiles, one amphibian, one insect, and three plants). Of these, six were observed in the ROW during field surveys in 2024 and 2025: Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Monarch, Black Ash, and Butternut.

Barn Swallow was observed foraging in open cultural meadows, agricultural lands, and wetlands within the ROW. Probable nesting habitat was also observed in the PSA, outside the ROW at a barn in the northwest corner of Hooton Drive and Howden Quarter Line (Figure 4.17 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**), where individuals were observed entering and exiting the building. Barn Swallow is listed as threatened under SARA and thus receives individual and residence (nest) protection under the Act. It is also protected by the MBCA, which prohibits the disturbance of migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. Construction activities in the ROW are not anticipated to harm individuals/nests during the breeding season given that no building/culvert removals or modifications in the ROW are proposed. Further, mitigation measures for breeding birds (i.e., avoidance of vegetation clearing between April and August to the extent practical) and wildlife habitat (i.e., using native plant species where practical and where restoration seeding or planting is conducted) will mitigate adverse effects to Barn Swallow foraging habitat.

⁴ Hydro One is committed to using the previous SAR habitat definitions for construction planning purposes (e.g., to delineate habitat and determine suitable mitigation measures and offsetting for SAR that may be impacted by the Project) to address First Nations concerns regarding the changes under the amended ESA.

Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark were identified in cultural meadows, hayfields, and pastures in the ROW. Both species are listed as threatened under both the ESA and SARA. Individual and habitat protection is provided by the ESA, and individual and residence (nest) protection is provided by SARA. Both species are also protected by the MBCA, which prohibits the disturbance of migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. Construction activities in the ROW may harm individuals/nests during the breeding season or result in temporary alterations to habitat for these species, which will require authorization under the ESA. The appropriate authorization route will depend on area of habitat impacted, which will be confirmed during detailed design. Additional surveys may also be required during detailed design to confirm use of the impacted areas by these species. Authorization will be obtained ahead of any disturbance to confirmed habitat of these species, and mitigation measures identified as conditions of authorization will be implemented.

Nine Monarch butterflies and one caterpillar were observed foraging in the ROW during field surveys (Figures 4.2 to 4.4, 4.7, 4.8, 4.19, 4.20 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). Monarch is listed as special concern under the ESA and endangered under SARA; however, protections are not provided for this species under these Acts since the ESA only protects threatened and endangered species, and only aquatic and migratory bird species receive protection under SARA on provincial lands. Construction activities in the ROW may harm individuals during the active season or result in temporary alterations to foraging/breeding habitat for this species. However, mitigation measures for breeding birds (i.e., avoidance of vegetation clearing between April and August to the extent practical) and wildlife habitat (i.e., using native plant species where practical and where restoration seeding or planting is conducted) will mitigate adverse effects to Monarch.

Thirty-one Black Ash trees were observed in 10 locations within the LSA during the 2024 and 2025 field programs (Figures 4.2, 4.7 to 4.9, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18 to 4.20 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**), including four within the ROW (Figures 4.8, 4.9, 4.12, 4.13, 4.18, 4.19 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). This species is listed as endangered under the ESA and receives individual and habitat protection under the Act. Per O. Reg. 6/24, the prohibitions in clause 9(1)(a) of the ESA (against killing, harming, harassing, capturing, or taking) apply to any living Black Ash tree with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 8 cm or more that are located in areas of the province identified in Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 6/24⁵, as well as its critical root zone of 30 m, as described under O. Reg. 832/21, unless a report prepared by a qualified professional identifies the tree as “unhealthy” in accordance with the regulation. If impacts to potential Black Ash habitat are identified during detailed design, additional surveys will be conducted for presence of this species and a Black Ash Health Assessment (BAHA) will be

⁵ The Regional Municipality of Durham is included in Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 6/24.

conducted by a qualified professional on any observed trees in the ROW or within 30 m of the ROW to confirm ESA authorization requirements. As deemed necessary by the results of the BAHA, and through consultation with First Nations (given that Black Ash is a culturally significant species), mitigation measures such as tree protection fencing will be implemented. Placing equipment and materials within 30 m of the trees will be avoided. The MECP will be engaged in the event a Black Ash tree that meets protection criteria or its 30 m critical root zone will be impacted by the Project, and mitigation measures associated with ESA authorization will be implemented. For trees located greater than 30 m from the ROW, the critical root zone will not be impacted.

Field investigations in 2024 and 2025 identified 47 Butternuts in three locations in the LSA (Figures 4.1, 4.15, 4.16 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**), including 28 within the existing ROW (Figures 4.1 and 4.15 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). This species is listed as endangered under both the ESA and SARA. Individual and habitat protection is provided by the ESA, specifically for healthy, genetically pure trees as determined through a Butternut Health Assessment (BHA). Through consultation with proximate First Nations, Hydro One commits to applying a 30 m critical root zone buffer for construction planning purposes, rather than the 21 m critical root zone⁶ provided under the amended ESA, noting that this would primarily be relevant for activities causing direct ground disturbance or soil compaction. BHAs were completed in 2025 for all (40) Butternuts observed within the ROW and within 25 m of the ROW at the Clarington TS. The BHAs were completed by a qualified professional to confirm infection with Butternut Canker and determine the tree health category. Of the 40 Butternuts that were assessed, 25 were identified as Category 1 trees, 14 as Category 2 trees and one as a Category 3 tree. Category 1 trees are in advanced stages of disease as a result of Butternut Canker and do not support the protection of recovery of the species in the area. Therefore, Category 1 trees do not receive protections under the ESA. Category 2 trees are retainable trees that are not in advanced stages of disease and could support the protection and recovery of the species in the area. Category 3 trees are retainable trees that could support the protection and recovery of the species in the area and be useful in determining sources of resistance to Butternut Canker. Genetic testing using samples collected during the BHA was conducted for all Category 2 and Category 3 trees within 25 m of the ROW to determine genetic purity. The results of the genetic testing indicate that 12 of the 15 trees are pure Butternuts (11 Category 2 trees and one Category 3 tree) and thus receive protections under the ESA. As deemed

⁶ Under the amended ESA, the critical root zone for Butternut is now considered 21 m; however, Hydro One committed to using the previous habitat definition for Butternut (i.e., 25 m critical root zone) for construction planning purposes (e.g., to delineate habitat and determine suitable mitigation measures and offsetting for SAR that may be impacted by the Project) to address First Nations concerns regarding the changes under the amended ESA.

necessary by the results of the genetic testing, and through consultation with First Nations (given that Butternut is a culturally significant species), mitigation measures such as tree protection fencing will be implemented. Placing equipment and materials within 30 m of the trees will be avoided. Where impacts to Butternut are anticipated, removal of Butternut is eligible for conditional exemption under the ESA through activity registration under Part V of O. Reg. 830/21 so long as the conditions in the regulation are adhered to. For trees located greater than 30 m from the ROW, the critical root zone will not be impacted.

An additional six SAR were confirmed within the PSA during the 2024 and 2025 field investigations: Blanding's Turtle, Bank Swallow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Western Chorus Frog.

One Blanding's Turtle was observed within the PSA outside the ROW basking in a wetland southwest of the Dobbin TS (Figure 4.20 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). This species is listed as threatened under the ESA and endangered under SARA. Individual and habitat protection is provided by the ESA. Suitable aquatic habitat for this species includes swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, lake bays, ponds, and slow flowing creeks, but it prefers shallow eutrophic wetlands with abundant aquatic vegetation and slow to no flow (COSEWIC 2016). Blanding's Turtle requires a large wetland complex (as it is known to travel over 1 km to 2 km between wetlands and use multiple bodies of water throughout the season; COSEWIC 2016). Construction activities in the ROW adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies may harm or impede movements of turtles travelling over land (i.e., individuals looking to nest or moving between aquatic features) or may damage/destroy turtle nests and nesting habitat. In addition, construction activities in the ROW that occur within wetlands and waterbodies may cause mortality or injury to turtles. Through detailed design and construction planning, wetlands and waterbodies where construction disturbance is planned will be evaluated against the specific habitat requirements of Blanding's Turtle, and targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified to confirm use of the impacted areas by this species. Authorization will be obtained ahead of any disturbance to confirmed Blanding's Turtle habitat, and mitigation measures identified as conditions of authorization will be implemented. Further, general mitigation measures for the protection of turtles will be implemented during construction (as outlined in Section 7.7.7.5 below).

An active Bank Swallow nesting colony was observed in the PSA outside the ROW, in a quarry on the east side of Bowmanville Avenue (Figure 4.5 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). Bank Swallow is listed as threatened under both the ESA and SARA. Individual and habitat protection is provided by the ESA, and individual and residence (nest) protection is provided by SARA. Bank Swallow is also protected by the MBCA, which prohibits the disturbance of migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. This species nests in vertical or near-vertical banks in a

variety of features, including lake bluffs, stream and riverbanks, sand and gravel pits, and roadcuts (Garrison and Turner 2020). Other aggregate quarries/extraction areas within the LSA may provide suitable nesting habitat for Bank Swallow in addition to other anthropogenic features with stockpiles or banks associated with riparian or natural environments. No impacts to known nesting colonies are anticipated; however, to protect Bank Swallow the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- Implement a 500 m buffer around known nesting colonies;
- Avoid moderate to high impact operations causing sensory disturbance (i.e., vegetation removal, helicopter flights, blasting, drilling, and implosive splicing) within 500 m of known Bank Swallow colonies during the breeding period (April 15 to August 31), where feasible;
- Avoid stockpiling of aggregate materials within 500 m of known Bank Swallow nesting colonies to reduce likelihood of attracting Bank Swallows to new aggregate sites;
- Where stockpiling of aggregate materials is required, implement the MNR Best Management Practices for the Protection, Creation and Maintenance of Bank Swallow Habitat in Ontario (MNR, 2017). This includes nesting prevention through slope management of stockpiles (i.e., reducing slopes to 70° or less, and/or covering or seeding bare soils during the breeding season). Slope management must be implemented prior to the start of the breeding season (i.e., before mid-April) and maintained daily until at least July 15 to discourage nesting; and
- If a stockpile is colonized despite prevention efforts, all work within 500 m of the nest colony must stop immediately and protection measures must be implemented, per the MNR Best Management Practices for the Protection, Creation and Maintenance of Bank Swallow Habitat in Ontario (MNR 2017). Further, MECP must be consulted if disturbance is anticipated.

Three other migratory bird SAR were observed in the PSA and LSA. Two Eastern Whip-poor-wills were observed incidentally in the PSA or LSA during amphibian acoustic surveys; the individuals were heard calling in the distance from stations AC09 and AC26 (Figures 4.6 and 4.8 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). Two Golden-winged Warblers were observed in cultural thicket habitat at two locations in the PSA during breeding bird surveys and general wildlife surveys (Figures 4.9 and 4.14 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). Thirteen Wood Thrushes were observed at seven locations in the PSA and LSA during breeding bird surveys and general wildlife surveys (Figures 4.6, 4.8, 4.11, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, and 4.18 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). All three species are listed as special concern under the ESA and threatened under SARA. Individual and residence (nest) protection is provided by SARA. They are also protected by the MBCA, which prohibits the disturbance of migratory birds, their eggs, and nests. Construction

activities in the ROW may harm individuals/nests during the breeding season. Vegetation clearing will be avoided during the breeding bird season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018) to the extent practical. Where vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period.

A full chorus of Western Chorus Frogs was recorded within the PSA during amphibian acoustic surveys (heard calling greater than 300 m beyond station AC18, Figure 4.15 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). The Great Lakes/St. Lawrence – Canadian Shield population of Western Chorus Frog is listed as threatened under SARA; however, on provincial lands it does not receive protection under the Act given that it is not an aquatic or migratory bird species. Construction activities in the ROW may harm individuals during the breeding season or result in temporary alterations to habitat for this species. However, mitigation measures for protection of wetlands (as outlined in **Section 7.7.7.1** and **Section 7.7.7.5** below) will mitigate adverse effects to Western Chorus Frog and its habitat.

Fifteen other SAR (seven bats, six birds, one plant and one reptile) have moderate to high potential to occur in the LSA even though they were not observed during the 2024 or 2025 field surveys and are discussed below. Seven bat species that are listed as endangered under the ESA and SARA have ranges that overlap the LSA: including Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*), Eastern Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis leibii*), Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Silver-haired (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) and Tri-coloured Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). Eastern Small-footed Myotis maternity roosts typically occur in rocky features. Three rock piles were located within the ROW (Figures 5.1, 5.18, 5.19 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). The other species roost in trees (typically large-diameter trees) within foliage, cavities, crevices or under loose bark. Little Brown Myotis also often uses buildings for maternity roosting, while Eastern Small-footed Myotis and Tri-coloured Bat do so occasionally. Eastern Red Bat and Hoary Bat will use woodlands of any age and class while the other species prefer mature forest. There is mature forest throughout the LSA, and many mature forest stands were observed to contain large diameter cavity trees and snags suitable for bat maternity colonies. All seven of these bat species receive individual and habitat protection under the ESA. Although Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis and Tri-coloured Bat are also listed as endangered under SARA, they do not receive protection under the Act on provincial lands as this only applies to aquatic and migratory bird species. Tree and rockpile removals in the ROW may harm individuals during the bat active season (March 15 to November 30). However, impacts to bats and their roosting habitat are anticipated to be limited given that only small woodland incursions occur along the Project route and that regular vegetation maintenance along the existing ROW reduces the likelihood of large trees being present. Impacts to SAR bat roosting habitat may require

authorization under the ESA, depending on timing of removals. Additional surveys may be required during detailed design to confirm use of the impacted areas by these SAR bats. Authorization, if required, will be obtained ahead of any disturbance to confirmed habitat of these species, and mitigation measures identified as conditions of authorization will be implemented.

The six additional bird species that have moderate to high potential to occur in the LSA are Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*), Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*), Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). These species are listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA and/or SARA. Acadian Flycatcher is an area-sensitive species that requires large (>40 ha) closed canopy forests and swamps for breeding. Canada Warbler also breeds in forests and swamps, where a dense shrub understory is present. Chimney Swift almost exclusively utilizes uncapped chimneys for nesting and roosting but will occasionally utilize large diameter trees. Red-headed Woodpecker breeds in large diameter trees in open habitats. Impacts to habitat for these four species are anticipated to be limited given that no building removals are proposed, only small woodland incursions occur along the Project route and/or regular vegetation maintenance along the existing ROW reduces the likelihood of large trees being present. Least Bittern breeds in hemi-marshes greater than 5 ha in size and Yellow-breasted Chat breeds in early successional shrub thicket habitats, including transmission line ROWs. Suitable breeding habitat for these two species is present in the ROW. Individual and habitat protection for Acadian Flycatcher, Chimney Swift, Least Bittern, Red-headed Woodpecker and Yellow-breasted Chat is provided by the ESA, and individual and residence (nest) protection for all six species is provided by SARA. These species are also protected by the MBCA, which prohibits the disturbance of migratory birds, their nests, and eggs. Construction activities in the ROW may harm individuals/nests during the breeding season or result in temporary alterations to habitat for these species, which will require authorization under the ESA for protected species. The appropriate authorization route will depend on area of habitat impacted, which will be confirmed during detailed design. Additional surveys may be required during detailed design to confirm use of the impacted areas by these SAR birds. Authorization will be obtained ahead of any disturbance to confirmed habitat of these species, and mitigation measures identified as conditions of authorization will be implemented.

The two other SAR with moderate to high potential to occur in the LSA are American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and Eastern Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*). American Ginseng is listed as threatened under the ESA and endangered under SARA, while Eastern Hog-nosed Snake is listed as threatened under both the ESA and SARA. Both species receive individual and habitat protection through the ESA. Although they are classified as endangered

or threatened under SARA, they are not afforded protection by the Act on provincial lands, as its provisions apply exclusively to aquatic and migratory bird species. American Ginseng occurs in mature, closed canopy forests dominated by Sugar Maple. Therefore, impacts to ginseng and its habitat are anticipated to be limited given that only small woodland incursions occur along the Project route and that regular vegetation maintenance along the existing ROW prevents the development of closed canopy forest habitat. Eastern Hog-nosed Snake is an area-sensitive species that requires a mosaic of open habitats with more than 5 ha of forest and sandy soils. Suitable habitat for this species may occur within the ROW where mosaics of open upland forest, meadows and savannah occur in proximity to wetlands. Impacts to individuals and habitat will require authorization under the ESA. Additional surveys may be required during detailed design to confirm use of the impacted areas by these species. Authorization will be obtained ahead of any disturbance to confirmed habitat of these species, and mitigation measures identified as conditions of authorization will be implemented.

Construction personnel will be aware of the potential presence of, and will be able to identify, SAR with the potential to occur within the general work areas. Training on the identification of SAR relevant to the Project area, and protocols for incidental observations of SAR, will be provided to construction crews. Should SAR be encountered during construction activities, activities will be stopped until it has been determined that harm will not occur. The required activities will be assessed to determine whether the work/schedule can be modified, or mitigation measures employed, to avoid potential effects on SAR and their habitat. If avoidance of SAR and/or SAR habitat is not possible, the responsible government department (MECP SAR Branch and/or ECCC CWS) will be consulted in advance of construction to discuss detailed mitigation measures and or/assess the need for permitting/approvals under the ESA and/or SARA. First Nations will also continue to be consulted on mitigation measures to address SAR and their habitats. Any IGFs submitted to MECP summarizing proposed activities, potential impacts to species at risk and their habitat, and the proposed mitigations will also be shared with MSIFN.

Additional actions that will be considered during Project construction activities to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to SAR include the following:

- Vegetation clearing during the migratory bird breeding season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018) will be avoided to the extent practical to avoid impacts to individuals. Where vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period;

- Potential SAR turtle habitat will be screened prior to installing ESC measures. If required, sediment fencing for turtle exclusion will be installed per the guidelines from Reptile and Amphibian Exclusion Fencing (MECP, 2021b);
- Snags and cavity trees with potential to support bats will be retained, to the extent practical;
- Rockpile removal and tree/vegetation clearing will be avoided during the bat active season (March 15 to November 30) to the extent practical;
- Vehicles and equipment left idle overnight at work areas will be inspected for SAR snakes prior to use;
- Sweeps of work areas for SAR and other wildlife will be performed ahead of construction. The need, timing and location of sweeps will be dependent on the surrounding site conditions, the activities planned and the SAR of concern for that area. Details of the environmental monitoring process and frequency will be included in the Environmental Management Plan; and
- If a suspected SAR is observed during construction, a qualified biologist will be contacted for assistance immediately and the responsible government department will be informed if deemed necessary. Based on engagement with First Nations communities, interested communities will also be notified of SAR observations.

7.7.7.5 Wildlife and Significant Habitat

Based on the results of the background review, ELC mapping, and results of the 2024 and 2025 field investigations, 38 confirmed and candidate SWH types were identified within the ROW, PSA and/or LSA (see **Table 7-1**) below and Figures 5.1 to 5.20 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**).

Table 7-1: Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Identified in the Study Areas¹

Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Type	Candidate			Confirmed		
	ROW	PSA	LSA	ROW	PSA	LSA
Waterfowl Stopover and Staging Areas (Aquatic)		X				
Waterfowl Stopover and Staging Areas (Terrestrial)	X	X	X			
Raptor Wintering Areas	X	X	X			
Bat Maternity Colonies	X	X	X			
Turtle Wintering Areas	X	X	X			
Reptile Hibernacula	X	X	X			

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Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Type	Candidate			Confirmed		
	ROW	PSA	LSA	ROW	PSA	LSA
Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Tree/Shrubs)	X	X	X			
Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat (Bank/Cliff)	X	X	X			
Deer Yarding Areas			X	X	X	X
Deer Winter Congregation Areas		X	X			
Rare Vegetation Communities: Savannah		X	X			
Waterfowl Nesting Areas	X	X	X			
Woodland Raptor Nesting Habitat	X	X	X			
Turtle Nesting Areas	X	X	X			
Seeps and Springs		X				
Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodlands)	X	X	X	X	X	
Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Wetlands)	X	X	X	X		
Woodland Area-Sensitive Bird Breeding Habitat	X	X	X			
Marsh Bird Breeding Habitat	X	X	X	X	X	
Open Country Bird Breeding Habitat	X	X	X		X	
Shrub/Early Successional Bird Breeding Habitat	X	X	X	X	X	
Terrestrial Crayfish Habitat	X	X	X			
Amphibian Movement Corridors	X	X	X			
Deer Movement Corridors	X	X	X			
Habitat for Special Concern and Rare Species:						
American Bumble Bee	X	X	X			
Barn Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X
Canada Warbler	X	X	X			
Common Nighthawk	X	X	X			
Eastern Milksnake	X	X	X			
Eastern Wood-pewee	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Whip-poor-will					X	X
Golden-winged Warbler	X	X	X		X	
Grasshopper Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	
Midland Painted Turtle	X	X	X	X	X	

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Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Type	Candidate			Confirmed		
	ROW	PSA	LSA	ROW	PSA	LSA
Monarch	X	X	X	X	X	
Snapping Turtle	X	X	X		X	X
Western Chorus Frog	X	X	X		X	X ²
Wood Thrush	X	X	X		X	X

1. The Study Areas in this table are treated as mutually exclusive to better inform where habitat is located for construction planning purposes.
2. Western Chorus Frog was heard calling greater than 300 m east beyond Station AC18; it is uncertain whether this location falls within the PSA or broader LSA.

Approximately 50 km (94%) of the Project will repurpose an existing transmission corridor, thereby avoiding long-term loss, alteration and fragmentation of wildlife habitat along most of the route. In addition to the limited direct effects on wildlife habitat from the Project, there is potential for wildlife morality/injury, decreased movement opportunities, and decreased survival/reproduction during construction (e.g., collisions with construction vehicles or the transmission line, incidental take during clearing and construction). There is also potential for indirect effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat due to sensory disturbance, introduction of invasive plant species, spills of contaminants and fuels, and release of construction-generated sediments to retained habitats beyond the ROW.

During Project construction activities, the following will be taken into consideration as a mechanism to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat (including SWH):

- Existing access roads and water crossings will be used to the extent practical;
- Equipment operation adjacent to aquatic features will be minimized where practical;
- An ESC plan will be developed prior to construction;
- Construction personnel will be educated on the potential for wildlife that may be encountered within the general work areas and the procedures to be followed in the event of an encounter;
- The Contractor will regularly examine the construction areas (including laydown and staging areas) to ensure no SAR or wildlife have entered the construction zone;
- Construction vehicles will not exceed posted speed limits;

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- Construction activities will generally be conducted sequentially down the transmission corridor such that activity in any given segment will be temporary, which will reduce disruption of wildlife and wildlife movement;
- Where vegetation clearing is required, some of the cleared vegetative material may be used to create brush piles along the ROW edges to promote wildlife habitat. Stockpiling of slash, creation of brush piles, and storage of Project equipment/materials will be avoided within or near confirmed animal movement corridors (i.e., those identified per SWH criteria and other major wildlife trails discovered during construction/pre-construction surveying) during the seasons when these areas are most likely to be used for movement;
- If a SAR or suspected SAR is encountered during construction, all activities within 500 m will be stopped until it has been determined that harm will not occur. The required activities will be assessed to determine whether the work/schedule can be modified, or mitigation measures employed, to avoid potential effects on SAR and their habitat;
- If a SAR or suspected SAR is encountered during construction, a qualified biologist will be contacted for assistance immediately and the responsible government agency (MECP SAR Branch and/or ECCC CWS) will be informed if deemed necessary;
- Any wildlife incidentally encountered will be protected from harm and harassment, all activities within 30 m of the individual will cease immediately and the individual will be provided a reasonable amount of time to leave the construction area on its own accord. If an injured animal is encountered an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator>) to collect and rehabilitate the animal;
- Boundaries of important wildlife habitats (including candidate/confirmed SWH, savannahs, wetlands, confirmed dens, raptor stick nests, or nests of MBR Schedule 1 birds (i.e., herons and Pileated Woodpecker⁷) will be identified as no-go zones and communicated to construction crews prior to construction. These important wildlife habitats will also be mapped and incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan with details on the associated mitigation, which will depend on the habitat type (e.g., timing windows). Trees containing stick nests and areas where active animal dens or burrows are encountered will be left undisturbed until unoccupied, as determined by a qualified person;
- Snags and cavity trees with potential to support bats will be retained, to the extent practical;

⁷ Note that no heron or Pileated Woodpecker nests have been found within the ROW or PSA.

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- Tree/vegetation clearing will be avoided during the breeding bird and bat active season (March 15 to November 30) to the extent practical;
- Natural vegetation and wildlife habitats (including wetlands) will be avoided to the extent practical;
- Mitigation such as using alternative access points and accessing structures on either side of the wetland will be implemented to the extent practical to avoid disturbance to wetlands;
- If disturbance to wetlands occurs during Project activity, disturbed wetland areas will be re-seeded with native wetland species;
- Potential SAR turtle habitat will be screened prior to installing ESC measures. If required, sediment fencing for turtle exclusion will be installed per provincial guidelines;
- Exclusion fencing will be examined periodically or following significant weather events to ensure it is in working condition and that any necessary repair / maintenance is completed.
- Mesh-backed / netting type fencing or stabilization material shall not be used for erosion control measures in order to prevent entanglement of wildlife. If reinforced sediment fencing is required, it will be paige-wire backed and any erosion control materials that are laid on the ground will consist of non-mesh backed geotextile fabric (or alternative products such as Curlex Net-free blanket or similar products/methods that are free of plastic or nylon mesh/netting);
- In-water works within turtle wintering areas, if required, will be conducted outside the turtle overwintering period;
- Nesting turtles will not be disturbed. If a nesting turtle is encountered, activities within 30 m will cease until the turtle has left the area. Any turtle nests laid within the construction zone will be protected with a 10 m buffer and an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator>) to relocate the nest to a suitable location outside the construction zone or collect the nest for ex situ incubation under an approved permit; and
- Native plant species will be used where restoration seeding or planting is conducted, in consultation with landowners and First Nations.

The WTFNs affirm that their membership can assert rights on publicly accessible lands (i.e. conservation area lands), and that impacts in any area of the ROW may impact the exercise of rights elsewhere in the ROW. These Rights are not confined to hunting, fishing, or gathering. They arise from, and are sustained by, enduring relationships with homelands and Treaty territories that ground Indigenous identities, values, and responsibilities.

First Nations will also be consulted on mitigation measures to address wildlife and their habitats, as effects to wildlife and their habitats have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and Rights. For example, changes to wildlife and wildlife habitat availability and connectivity may result in changes to wildlife harvesting success, changes in level of effort required to harvest woodland resources, changes in traditional food sources, changes in ability to transmit knowledge and culture, changes in ability to engage in ceremonial practices, etc. The WTFNs affirm that the absence of present-day harvesting within the Project area is not a matter of choice but is a direct result of Crown and private ownership of lands previously used to exercise these Rights since time immemorial.

At this time, Hydro One has not identified a linkage between potential disruptions to deer movement corridors and the practice of First Nations culture and rights using its standard evaluation practices. Hydro One would also like to reiterate that for the DKPL project in particular, the use of the existing transmission corridor for the majority of the Project serves to minimize any long-term Environmental effects (by way of additional clearing that would otherwise be required for a new greenfield corridor through natural areas) and that effects from this Project are largely anticipated to be transient and temporary in nature as they relate primarily to construction activities.

In the context of a fragmented and altered southern Ontario landscape, the WTFNs have identified the heightened importance of avoiding disturbance to animal (deer) movement corridors to ensure there is continued habitat connectivity. Not only is this important for allowing species to continue to access their seasonal habitats, but also to minimize disruptions to animal harvesting practices by members. In response to these concerns from the WTFNs, Hydro One is funding a winter study to be undertaken by MSIFN.

This study will consist of wildlife surveys focused on the Conservation Authority owned properties where MSIFN members exercise their Treaty rights. The intent is to inform the WTFN assessment of baseline condition in the LSA, identify how the project and future projects may impact Treaty rights, and develop mitigation measures. The winter study results will also be used to aid in the development of a restoration plan for the ROW segment that passes through the deer wintering area associated with the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area, west of Highway 7 (see Figure 2.9 of the NER in **APPENDIX B**). The restoration plan for this area will prioritize low growing woody species to maintain critical winter function for deer wintering habitat.

We will continue to work collaboratively in the development of mitigation measures to address wildlife and their habitats, as effects to wildlife and their habitats have the potential to alter the ability of First Nations to practice their culture and rights, such as through potential changes to

harvesting or traditional food sources. Through collaborative discussions on mitigations, Hydro One seeks to eliminate potential disruptions to traditional practices for First Nations.

7.7.7.6 Invasive Species

Section 7.1.6 describes the potential for the Project to inadvertently facilitate the spread of invasive species and associated mitigation measures that would be employed during construction to reduce their spread

7.7.7.7 Biodiversity Initiative

While Hydro One always strives to avoid and mitigate potential effects to the natural environment and restore areas that are affected by the Project, Hydro One acknowledges that there may be adverse net effects to natural habitats that cannot be avoided, or that occur even when appropriate mitigation and restoration measures are employed. Examples include the long-term transition of incompatible vegetation, such as forest communities to compatible vegetation communities (e.g., meadows or shrub thickets) along new transmission corridors, and some degree of temporary disturbance from construction activities. As the Project will primarily be situated within an existing transmission line corridor, and the preferred route selected for the greenfield portion largely avoids natural habitats, long-term habitat loss from the Project will be minimal and the majority of effects to natural habitats will be temporary disturbance during construction. However, in recognition of the concerns expressed by some rightsholders and stakeholders during the DKPL Class EA, Hydro One will implement a Biodiversity Initiative for the Project to help address these concerns raised, and to provide some additional habitat benefits to the region. Following completion of the Class EA and OEB Leave-to-Construction processes, Hydro One will engage with interested parties to discuss the implementation of the Biodiversity Initiative for the Project.

7.7.8 First Nation Land Use and Interests

As indicated in Section 4.4.1.4, there are no First Nation reserve lands located in the PSA.

The Project is contained within the boundaries of the Johnson-Butler Purchase as well as Treaty #20 (Rice Lake Purchase). The LSA also overlaps lands located within the traditional territories of eight First Nation communities. Hydro One is committed to developing and maintaining relationships of mutual respect with Indigenous communities recognizing that Indigenous communities and their lands are unique in Canada, with distinct legal, historical, and cultural significance. Hydro One is committed to continuing to engage with the First Nations communities to provide regular Project updates and actively identify and avoid geographically defined areas which support current or past traditional use for the harvesting of wildlife or fish, the harvesting of traditional plants, or use of sites of spiritual or cultural significance. Hydro One received feedback from First Nations communities regarding

development within wetlands, watercourses, woodlands, savannahs, SAR habitat and SWH. While tower placement within these areas may be unavoidable, Hydro One will endeavor to minimize tower placement in these areas to the extent practical and continue to consult with the Nations on the Project.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Hydro One will continue to support commitments relating to maintaining relationships of mutual respect with First Nation and seek to identify community concerns and build appropriate actions into Project plans to address expressed concerns;
- Hydro One will support continued engagement with First Nations, providing regular updates on Project activities and construction/work schedules. First Nations have expressed interest in being involved with future archaeological and Natural Environment field work. Hydro One and its consulting archaeologist and ecologist will work with interested communities to include representatives from interested communities in archaeological and environmental fieldwork;
- First Nation communities will be provided opportunities to review the findings of archaeological field surveys and archaeological assessment reports;
- If archaeological artifacts are encountered during construction, work in the vicinity will cease and a licensed archaeologist will be engaged immediately to ensure compliance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* (1990a);
- First Nation communities will be provided opportunities to review the Environmental Management Plan;
- Several communities have expressed a desire to protect and mitigate adverse effects to natural environmental features such as SAR, SWH, wildlife and aquatic habitat, savannahs, wetlands, woodlands and other natural or naturalized areas within their traditional territory that could be used for hunting, gathering, harvesting, or other traditional uses. Mitigation measures to address effects to these features are described under **Section 7.7.7** Natural Heritage Features;
- Some communities may conduct Indigenous Knowledge (IK) studies related to the Project. Should these communities wish to share some or all of the findings of these studies with Hydro One and the construction contractor, this information will be taken into consideration during the construction planning of the Project to the extent practical; and
- Some communities have expressed an interest in participating in the Biodiversity Initiative that Hydro One is committing to for the Project, which will seek opportunities to create or enhance habitats to address concerns raised by First Nations and

stakeholders. Hydro One will involve interested communities in the Biodiversity Initiative, including potential incorporation of IK where that information is willingly provided.

7.8 Recreational Resources

There are several recreational trails located within the PSA and LSA, all of which cross the ROW. As noted in **Section 4.7**, these trails include sections of Trans Canada Trail (Jackson Creek Kiwanis Trail section), the Victoria Rail Trail (South Corridor), and the Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route). Additionally, it should be noted that although the PSA and LSA do not overlap the Long Sault Conservation Area (CLOCA), the Scugog Main Trail (Oak Ridges Moraine – Greenbelt Route) provides connections to this area within the vicinity of the intersection at Avery Road and Concession Road 10. Although no effects are anticipated to the Long Sault Conservation Area, CLOCA should be consulted to verify this assumption before proceeding with any construction work.

There are also a number of natural areas identified within the PSA and LSA that overlap the ROW, which may be utilized for outdoor recreational purposes including Bowmanville Creek, Pigeon River, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek, wetland areas such as the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area/Cavan Bog Wetland Complex, and candidate ANSIs (i.e., Cavan Creek Headwaters, and the Enfield Wetlands). Additionally, the Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area which overlaps the PSA and LSA. The described recreational resources may be temporarily affected during construction and operation of the Project due to the presence of construction laydown areas within the transmission line ROW, as well as construction equipment and presence of construction crew members and traffic.

The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects:

- Installation of clearly worded (temporary) signage would be erected in relevant areas, and Hydro One would provide advanced notice to residents and landowners to inform them of construction details (e.g., entry/exit points, schedule, and traffic). Work with land managers to determine appropriate signage and coordinate closures;
- To avoid effects to residents and land users utilizing recreational resources, Hydro One may opt to time work to avoid seasons/times of heavier or more frequent use, where practical;
- The use of dust suppression techniques, and implementation of erosion and sediment control measures to minimize impacts on nearby recreational resources;
- Provision of alternative access routes, ensuring that any trails designated as wheelchair-friendly remain accessible and suitable for wheelchair users;

- Restoration/rehabilitation of disturbed areas to original condition upon completion of construction activities; and
- Implementation of safety precautions to improve and ensure public safety (i.e., fencing, barriers, anti-climbing device, temporary warning signs).

7.9 Visual and Aesthetic Resources

The Project is located within predominantly agricultural lands, providing views that are open and expansive. Existing vertical elements include traffic and light standards; existing transmission lines; and wind turbines. The majority of sensitive receptors are residences with expansive views of the horizon; however, many of the properties have existing tree-lined wind breaks, natural features, and hedgerows that offer localized privacy from adjacent visual elements.

While the new transmission structures will be of a greater height, the Project will repurpose approximately 50 km of an existing Hydro One corridor (including the replacement of existing structures), which will significantly reduce the net visual change for the majority of the Project's total length. During detailed design (selection of transmission structure placement), subject to other constraints and design factors influencing the placement of new transmission structures, consideration will be given to proximity to nearby sensitive receptors, existing visual screening (e.g., vegetation), and existing infrastructure and other landscape characteristics, in order to mitigate the net visual change resulting from the new transmission structures.

7.10 Summary of Potential Environmental Effects, Mitigation Measures, and Net Effects

Table 7-2 provides a summary of potential effects, the associated mitigation, and the net effects identified for the Project, during the construction, operation and maintenance phases.

Table 7-3 should be viewed in addition to **Table 7-2** as it includes concerns that have been raised by First Nations during the DKPL EA. The mitigation measures during the planning phase of the Project are high-level to ensure that all effects are captured. It is recognized that as the Project enters detailed design, various effects from the Project may be better understood, and site-specific mitigation measures may be refined. Hydro One and their EPC Contractor will ensure that First Nations will have the opportunity to view the Environmental Management Plan for the Project and other Project-related documents (i.e., restoration plans) as they become available post Class EA.

Table 7-2: Summary of Potential Effects, Mitigation Measures, and Net Effects

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Agricultural Resources: Loss of Agricultural Lands and Crops	Construction & Operation: Temporary removal of crops and soils supporting crop production, as well as permanent removal of land available for agricultural production as a result of Project infrastructure (e.g., tower footings).	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • All lands out of production and crops lost as a result of the Project’s construction activities will be compensated in accordance with Hydro One’s crop loss/crop lands out of production policies. • Contact will be maintained with landowners regarding work schedules and other items of interest (e.g., access roads, minimizing disturbances to existing and planned farm operations). • Where practical, the construction or operation schedule will be reviewed to determine whether activities can be scheduled to avoid the growing season or sensitive times of year (e.g., extreme wet periods), although it is recognized that this may not be possible in all circumstances. • Access roads, staging areas, tower construction and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment. • Existing farm lanes and other existing access routes will be used whenever practical. In the event farm lanes are absent, access will be focused along field edges, to the extent practical. • Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance. • Towers will be located along fence/property lines where practical to minimize encroachment on agricultural operations. • Restoration measures, as informed by discussions with landowners (e.g., alleviate soil compaction, remove excess aggregate, disking of land s, aeration) on areas affected by construction, may be undertaken following the completion of construction and removal of temporary construction access, as necessary.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through temporary removal of crops and soils and permanent removal of land for agricultural production are expected to be minimized.
Agricultural Resources: Soil Compaction	Construction & Operation: Compaction of soil caused by movement of construction equipment or maintenance vehicles over agricultural lands.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Equipment with low bearing capacity will be used, where practical. • Construction activities will be scheduled to times of year when soils are least susceptible to compaction, where practical. • Access will be located along existing farm lanes or field edges, where practical. • Access roads, staging areas and tower and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through soil compaction are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance. • Temporary access roads and work pads will be built in agricultural fields using mats, or geotextile and crushed rock, or equivalent means, which can be easily removed when construction is complete to allow for re-cultivation of the area. • Restoration measures, as informed by discussions with landowners (e.g., alleviate soil compaction, remove excess aggregate, disking of lands, aeration) on areas affected by construction, may be undertaken following the completion of construction and removal of temporary construction access, as necessary.	
Agricultural Resources: Soil Mixing	Construction: Potential for excavation activities to cause mixing of soil horizons, thus lowering the quality of soil.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize surface disturbance and does not require soil excavation or soil stripping of the foundation site will be used. • Stripping or excavation of soils will be minimized to the extent practical. • Where soil stripping is required, topsoil, and subsoils will be removed and stockpiled separately. • Depths of soil being removed will be carefully monitored; soil mixing and removal will be minimized during stripping activities. • Volume of topsoil and subsoil salvaged for replacement or re-use on site will be maximized, where practical. • Soils will be stripped under generally dry conditions (not saturated), such that rutting, soil mixing, or other undesired ground disturbance is minimized to the extent practical. • Vegetation, stone piles, fencing, and deleterious materials will be removed prior to stripping. • For backfilling operations, topsoil and subsoil will be replaced in reverse order of excavation to minimize the potential for admixing and maximizing future growing potential. • Soil cover on exposed areas within agricultural areas will be discussed with the landowner for most appropriate solution. • Equipment and vehicle inspections and cleaning will be conducted as required during construction, to minimize the potential for inadvertent transport of trace soils between contaminated and non-contaminated agricultural fields.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through soil mixing are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Cleaning will be conducted using a risk-based approach, whereby vehicles and equipment that have come in contact with soils will be inspected and cleaned of dirt/debris/seeds. • Cleaning will occur in a manner that ensures that runoff is contained, and waste materials can be collected. • Any imported topsoil onto or directly adjacent to agricultural fields will be tested for soybean cyst nematode (SCN) or otherwise shown to be free of SCN. • All stockpiled materials will be placed at a safe distance from waterbodies, wetlands, and drainage courses. Typically, stockpiles will be located at least 30 m away from the high-water mark of any waterbody or wetland, unless site-specific conditions require a greater setback. The 30 m buffer will help to prevent sediment runoff and protect water quality during periods of heavy precipitation. Additionally, other erosion and sediment control measures (such as the use of silt fencing) will be installed around stockpiles, as needed, to minimize the risk of sediment entering nearby aquatic habitats. These requirements will be communicated to the contractor and monitored throughout the construction period. • All efforts will be made to reuse soils onsite where practical and feasible. If soils are stockpiled, they will also be managed to prevent bank swallow nesting (e.g., maintaining slopes at 70° or less, and covering/seeding bare soils during the breeding season). Additionally, soil testing will be completed as required under O.Reg. 406/19 (On-Site Excess Soil Management) under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>, and any excess material that cannot be reused onsite will be tracked and transported to an approved facility or beneficial reuse site, in compliance with the appropriate regulatory requirements.	
Agricultural Resources: Disturbance to Farm Operations	Construction: Potential to disturb farm operations including planting and harvesting schedules, spraying, tiling activities, etc. Operation: Impediments to the maneuverability of agricultural equipment.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Where practical, the location of towers will be placed to minimize impacts to maneuverability of agricultural equipment (e.g., along lot lines or field boundaries). • Contact will be maintained with affected landowners regarding work schedules and other items of interest (e.g., access roads, minimizing disturbances to farm operations). • Access roads, staging areas, tower construction, and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through disturbance to farm operations are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging, and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance. • To the extent practical, some construction and operation activities will be scheduled to avoid sensitive times of the year with regards to agricultural operations, although it is recognized that this will not be feasible in all circumstances. • Crossovers and/or feathering of constructed access roads will be implemented to allow vehicular equipment crossing, where applicable.	
Agricultural Resources: Vegetation Removal	Operation: Potential for herbicide overspray and partial removal or fragmentation of existing hedgerows and windbreaks between agricultural land parcels.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Vegetation that will not affect construction or line clearances will be retained, where practical. • Hedgerows and windbreak areas impacted by construction will be replaced with compatible vegetation post-construction, in consultation with landowners. • Restoration of natural vegetation within the existing ROW will consist of pollen-producing native species of shrubs and wildflowers that are known to naturally occur in the ecoregion, thus making sure of compatibility with the surrounding landscape. The final determination of species to be planted will be made in consultation with landowners and First Nations, as appropriate. • Following established vegetation management procedures regarding herbicide use to ensure protection of soil, wildlife, and vegetation, including consultation with landowners and notification to First Nations. Integrated pest management principles will be used to determine appropriate work methods. Herbicides will be applied by forestry professionals who are properly licensed, certified, and supervised in accordance with provincial rules, regulations, and internal standards.	Incompatible vegetation removal will not represent a loss of vegetation on the landscape, but rather a transition from vegetation that is incompatible with transmission line corridors, to vegetation that is compatible. Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through vegetation removal (herbicide overspray and removal or fragmentation of existing hedgerows and windbreaks) are expected to be minimized.
Agricultural Resources: Invasive Species	Construction: Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Using native plant species where practical during construction restoration, in consultation with landowners and First Nations. • Identifying populations of invasive plant species ahead of construction, and mapping them in the EMP, such that they can be avoided to the extent practical.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects related to invasive species are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Educating crews on the identification of invasive species and importance of preventing the spread of invasive species. • Abiding by the <i>Invasive Species Act, 2015</i> and regulations; • Properly handling, containing, and disposing of invasive plant material, where required. • Inspecting and cleaning equipment and vehicles as necessary to reduce potential for spreading invasive species propagules, in accordance with the Clean Equipment Protocol for Industry (Halloran, Anderson, & Tassie, 2013). • Tracking special treatment areas (e.g., large established populations of invasive species within the ROW) for consideration when planning future maintenance works.	
Agricultural Resources: Contamination of Organic or Identity Preserved (IP) Crops	Construction & Operation: Potential for activities, including use of herbicides to control noxious weeds or vegetation, to contaminate organic or IP crops or agricultural fields transitioning to organic/IP crop types. Potential for inadvertent movement of trace soils between agricultural fields which contain organic or IP crops.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Contact will be made with landowners to determine if organic or IP operations are present which may require additional considerations during construction planning. • Field crews will be informed if working in organic or IP croplands. • Equipment and vehicle inspections and cleaning will be established during construction to minimize the potential for inadvertent transport of trace soils between contaminated and non-contaminated agricultural fields. • Cleaning will be conducted using a risk-based approach, whereby vehicles and equipment that have come in contact with soils will be inspected and cleaned of dirt/debris/seeds as deemed necessary. • Cleaning will occur in a manner that ensures that runoff is contained, and waste materials can be collected. • Work areas will be assessed during pre-construction activities to identify the presence of weed species, degree of infestation, and the distribution of weeds within the Project footprint and the immediately adjacent areas. • Work areas will be monitored for weeds throughout the Project and until the Project has been completed. • A Project-specific Weed Control Plan will be developed in consultation with landowners prior to construction, as necessary. • The Weed Control Plan will be developed and managed in consultation with an Ontario Professional Agrologist, or equivalent to meet the requirements of the municipal and land use authority. • The transmission line ROW will be monitored for establishment of weeds until construction is completed.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through contamination of Organic or IP Crops are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Corrective measures for managing weeds may include herbicide application, mowing, and hand pulling. • Weed control during construction will be conducted by the construction contractor.	
Agricultural Resources: Damage to Field Tiles	Construction & Operation: Potential for equipment to damage or crush existing agricultural tile drains.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • If tile damage to tile drains occurs as a result of construction activities and/or operation activities, the tile will be repaired by a licensed tile drainage contractor in consultation with affected landowner. • Landowners will be consulted to determine existing field tile locations in support of avoidance/protection measures. • Tile drains will be avoided and/or protected (e.g., tower locations, temporary construction access), to the extent practical. • Access roads, staging areas, tower construction, and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment. • Work will be limited to the planned access roads, staging, and work areas. If a later expansion to these areas is required, it will be discussed with the landowner in advance. • Where temporary access roads and work pads are built in tiled agricultural areas, mats, or geotextile and crushed rock, or equivalent means, will be utilized to protect tile drains. • Equipment with low bearing capacity will be used to minimize potential damage to tile drains, where practical. • Where practical, some construction and operation activities will be scheduled to avoid sensitive times of the year (e.g., extreme wet periods), although it is recognized that this may not be feasible in all circumstances.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, including repairing tile drains damaged from Project activities, net effects through damage to field tiles are not anticipated.
Agricultural Resources: Livestock Stress, Loss or Injury	Construction & Operation: Potential for activities to be required within livestock managed areas (grazing fields, pastures, etc.) resulting in potential for livestock stress, injury or loss. In addition, potential use of implosive splicing may scare or startle agricultural livestock.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Landowners will be informed in advance of upcoming work activities which may disturb or pose a risk to livestock, and consulted with respect to potential mitigation measures, such as moving or containing livestock, as necessary. • Field crews will be informed about livestock in the vicinity of work areas to confirm they are aware of the need to secure gates, are cognizant of noise sensitivity controls, and to ensure clean-up of construction materials and debris at the end of each day to minimize potential livestock ingestion. • If excavations cannot be closed immediately, exclusion fencing will be erected to protect livestock from entering.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, including compensation measures, net effects through livestock stress, loss or injury are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Vehicle and equipment travel on agricultural lands will follow the transmission line ROW, or existing roads, trails, and paths to the extent practical. • Vehicles and equipment will be inspected and cleaned as necessary to prevent the potential introduction or spreading of diseases. • Existing gates and fences will be used as required. All fences and gates will be left in "as-found" condition following construction. • Livestock access control gates and fencing will be installed during construction at roads and between fenced fields as necessary to prevent escape of livestock or movement of livestock into work areas. • Equipment and machinery used on site will be maintained in good working condition with functioning mufflers. • Prior to any use of implosive splicing, a Blasting Communication and Management Plan will be developed outlining proper storage, security, detonation, and notification requirements. • Area residents, municipal authorities, the police department, and other crews within 1.6 km will be notified about the use of implosive splicing, at least one week prior to the work commencing. • Compensation will be made for loss or injury to livestock directly resulting from activities associated with the Project. • Signs shall be posted on all roadways leading to a blasting area in accordance with government rules and regulations. • Safe distances of the blasting site will be maintained from other employees, vehicles, equipment, structures, and fire hazard sources. Blasts will be performed during pre-determined times.	
Forestry Resources	Although there are several woodlots located within the Study Areas, they fall outside of Forestry Management Units, Agreement Forest Areas, Forest Cover Units, Forest Resource Inventory Areas, or Wood Use Areas identified through the MNR Forest Resource Inventory (MNR, 2021c; MNR, 2025c). As such, there is no potential for the Project to affect commercial/industry forestry resources.		
Archaeological Resources	Construction: Disturbance or destruction of archaeological resources.	Prior to construction, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed within the identified areas of archaeological potential along the transmission line ROW and access roads in accordance with Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) requirements. Hydro One has made commitments to First Nations that Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments will use enhanced pedestrian survey methodology and some areas that were previously assessed will be revisited. If the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment identifies the need for further assessment, a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, or Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment (and any additional archaeological work required) will occur as required and as outlined in the Standards and Guidelines for	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, including applicable archaeology assessments, net effects on archaeological resources are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011). Copies of all Archaeological Assessment reports will be submitted to MCM before construction work begins on the areas covered by those reports. In the event potential archaeological resources are encountered during construction, all activities with the potential to affect these archaeological resources will cease immediately and a licensed archaeologist will be engaged. In addition, all First Nation communities that have an interest in the Project and/or location will also be notified.	
Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes	Construction: Based on the baseline findings of the Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions (CHEC) and Preliminary Impact Assessment Report (PIA), there is the potential for project-related works to adversely affect known or potential built heritage resources (BHRs) or cultural heritage landscapes (CHLs) within the Study Area of the preferred route.	The PIA determined the following mitigation measures: • One CHL is anticipated to be directly impacted. While the proposed work will result in changes to the landscape/natural features, this has not been identified as an adverse impact to the property’s cultural heritage value or interest. As such, not direct adverse impacts to cultural heritage value or interest are anticipated and no further cultural heritage studies are recommended for the CHL; • Potential indirect impacts are anticipated to four CHLs in the form of construction vibration. If a final tower location confirms that buildings on these properties are within 60 m of a tower, a qualified vibration specialist should be consulted to advise on appropriate vibration monitoring program to avoid or reduce impacts to these properties; • Potential indirect impacts to three BHRs and CHLs are anticipated in the form of isolation. The Project should be planned to avoid both the heritage properties and their laneways, ensuring they remain connected to roadways; • Construction activities (e.g. access) to thirty-eight BHRs and CHLs will constitute potential impacts. Post-construction restoration, including the removal of all construction-related features, will return the land to pre-construction agricultural or natural conditions. • No impacts are anticipated to three BHRs and CHLs and no further cultural heritage assessments or mitigation measures are recommended; and • Any changes to the proposed ROW, including the alignment or if additional staging or laydown areas are added beyond the existing Project Study Area, then the proposed work must be reviewed by a qualified Cultural Heritage Specialist to confirm the anticipated impacts and confirm any new preliminary impacts. Where possible, laydown areas should be located within previously disturbed or developed areas to minimize the potential for heritage impacts and will be restored to pre-construction conditions following completion of the Project.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures net effects from direct and indirect impacts to known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Land Use and Communities: Human Settlements – Population and Demographics	Construction: The addition of a temporary workforce to the local population during construction as a result of the Project is predicted to be negligible. Therefore, no potential effects on population and demographics have been identified.	n/a	n/a
Land Use and Communities: Human Settlements – Labour Market and Economy	Construction: Potential for activities to result in local employment opportunities; spin-off effects to the local service industry; or indirect employment/economic benefits as a result of direct expenditures on goods and services required for the construction of the Project.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Consultation with local municipalities, economic development boards, businesses/contractors, and/or First Nations who may be interested in local employment or procurement opportunities to support the local labour market and economy.	Positive net effects to human settlements in relation to the local labour market and economy are predicted.
Land Use and Communities: Human Settlements – Housing and Real Estate	Construction: The Project is not expected to have a discernible effect on housing in the study area. Therefore, no potential effects to housing and real estate have been identified.	n/a	n/a
Land Use and Communities: Land Use Planning	Construction: The Project crosses multiple types of land use designations, including sensitive land uses, where there may be potential to impact. Operation: While transmission lines can be largely compatible with development, its location will introduce certain restrictions to future uses within the lands occupied by the transmission line ROW.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Crossing of sensitive land uses or work done within buffer areas (i.e., natural heritage areas and key hydraulic features/areas) will consider policies outlined within the area OPs, PPS 2024, and associated provincial planning policy documents (i.e., Greenbelt Plan and ORMCP) with respect to ensuring that appropriate considerations occur to limit potential impacts within the transmission line ROW. • Infrastructure as a permitted use: Both the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan permit infrastructure, including transmission lines, provided that the need is demonstrated, alternatives are considered, and impacts are minimized. The Project’s alignment with existing corridors and avoidance of new disturbance in Core Natural Area and Linkage Areas is consistent with these requirements. • Co-location and adaptive re-use: The Project prioritizes the co-location and adaptive re-use of existing linear corridors, as encouraged by both the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan, to minimize potential new environmental disturbances. • Ongoing review of development proposals: Throughout the province, development (both residential and commercial/industrial) occurs around existing transmission line ROWs and stations. Uses deemed to be	While there will be restrictions to future development within 2 m of the transmission line ROW, the Project will consider policies outlined within applicable planning policy regulations and documentation and will not impede development of adjacent lands. Additionally, there will be opportunities for compatible uses to be developed within the ROW. Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects from direct and indirect land use impacts are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		compatible with overhead transmission lines are often approved within transmission line ROWs. Hydro One has existing departments and processes to review proposals for developments that are planned adjacent to or within transmission line ROWs and facilitate compatible uses of these corridors. Typically, there are no restrictions placed on development or new construction outside of the transmission line ROW itself. • Future development: Where and when future development projects or initiatives are proposed to occur along or within the transmission line ROW, Hydro One will apply its existing processes to review and facilitate these future developments, including potential compatible uses within the transmission line ROW.	
Land Use and Communities: Infrastructure and Services – Traffic and Transportation	Construction: Potential for increased traffic, including heavy equipment, on local and regional roads. In addition, stringing of conductors across highways and roadways may require temporary road closures and detours.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Completion of a pre- and post-construction road survey will be completed to document impacts to local roads caused by heavy equipment and increased construction traffic during construction activities. Survey results will be shared with municipal staff in advance of construction work commencing, as necessary. • Damage caused as a direct result of construction activities associated with the Project will be repaired upon completion of construction activities. • The Project will adhere to seasonal load restrictions. • To minimize disruptions and/or impacts to local residents, Hydro One will attempt to maintain access to properties and businesses at all times during construction, and in instances where access cannot be maintained, agreements will be made for alternate access prior to construction activities starting and appropriate road signage will be provided, where feasible. • Where required, a Traffic Control Plan will be developed and shared with local municipalities, commercial operators (i.e., CP Rail), and emergency services providers, as necessary. • Construction haul routes and schedules will be shared with local municipalities, commercial operators (i.e., CP Rail), and emergency services provider in advance of construction, as necessary. • Construction traffic will access the construction area from the existing road network at specified construction access/egress locations. • Common parking areas will be established for construction crews. • To the extent practical, in an effort to avoid road closures and other disruptions during stringing, conductor stringing will utilize rider poles,	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects relating to nuisance effects, particularly relating to traffic and transportation are expected to be minimized and are generally expected to be short-term and temporary.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		boom-tipped riders or other protective measures in an effort to avoid road closures and other disruptions during stringing, to the extent practical. • If temporary road or highway closures (e.g., rolling closures) are required during stringing, access road construction, or other construction activities, the construction contractor will coordinate closely with the appropriate road authority to ensure that proper notice is provided and that required signage and traffic controls are utilized, and that the duration of any temporary closures will be minimized to the extent practical. • Where construction work is planned to directly affect local traffic (e.g., temporary road or lane closures), local advertisements (e.g. radio, newspaper, etc.) will be issued and road signage will be erected to provide notification and pre-construction information to area residents on timelines, and potential detours, if required. • Traffic control officers or flag persons will be assigned to assist with construction entry/exit, as necessary.	
Land Use and Communities: Infrastructure and Services – Utilities, Infrastructure Crossings, and Other Municipal Services	Construction: Potential for increased demand on utility and municipal services (i.e., energy, water, waste infrastructure) in the study area, as well of crossing of existing linear infrastructure.	Utilities and Infrastructure Crossings The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Hydro One will continue to consult with provincial agencies and municipalities on the Project design, construction, and operation to address concerns related to utilities. • Hydro One will work with any affected transmission-connected facilities to provide advance notification and discuss potential means to mitigate the effect of these temporary outages to their operations. • Rider poles, boom-tipped riders, or similar protection will be utilized during conductor stringing. • Use of temporary or rolling closures of Highways may be required to facilitate stringing activities. • Where the new transmission line crosses provincial highways, setback distances provided by MTO will be respected and adhered to. • Hydro One will work within MTOs highway ROW or permit control area will require an Encroachment Permit and/or Land Use Permit as well as a consultation with MTO during detailed design. • Hydro One’s Contractor will obtain all necessary Encroachment Permits and Land Use Permits from MTO prior to the start of construction. • Municipal drainage superintendents will be consulted during detailed design and construction planning to discuss effects to municipal drains.	No Project related in-migration is anticipated and there is not expected to be any noticeable effect from the Project on utilities, existing linear infrastructure, or municipal services (i.e., utilities such as communication, electricity/hydro, water/wastewater, and/or waste disposal and emergency services to continue with the current level of service provision despite the possibility of planned, brief outages/interruptions or temporary increases in service demands. Therefore, net effects to infrastructure and services in relation to utilities, existing linear infrastructure, and municipal services are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		- Creation of new crossings will be avoided to the extent practical by using existing access and crossings and by accessing work areas from either side of drains, where feasible. - Disturbed areas will be restored to a pre-disturbed state or better following the completion of construction. Municipal Services The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Hydro One will continue to consult with provincial agencies and municipalities on the Project design, construction, and operation to address concerns related to municipal services. - Waste generated during construction will be minimized, handled, sorted, transported, and disposed of at licensed recycling facilities, as applicable, in accordance with applicable legislation.	
Land Use and Communities: Public Health and Safety – General Health and Safety	Construction: Potential for safety hazards to local land users and residents due to the operation of heavy equipment.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Hydro One will mitigate safety issues by implementing safety measures in accordance with its Public Safety Policy and Ministry of Labour requirements during construction. This includes ensuring that construction activities are executed in accordance with applicable policies and regulations. - Hydro One will also implement other measures including the installation of fencing and/or barriers to construction areas, such as laydown areas (with appropriate signage) to prevent unauthorized access, when laydown areas are near publicly accessible areas, as necessary. - Hydro One and its contractors will undertake a wide range of safety measures including coordinating with municipalities; local emergency and protective services; the MTO; residents; landowners; businesses; and First Nations regarding the Project construction schedule; construction-related traffic; and other applicable Project activities prior to construction.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to public health and safety in relation to general health and safety are not anticipated.
Land Use and Communities: Public Health and Safety – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)	Operation: Potential exposure to increased EMF once the transmission line is energized. The Project will be designed and operated in accordance with appropriate regulatory requirements Health Canada does not consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at extremely low frequencies. There is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposures at levels found in Canadian homes	n/a	n/a

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
	and schools, including those located just outside the boundaries of power line corridors. Additionally, EMF values from the Project are expected to remain significantly below the ICNIRP exposure guidelines.		
Land Use and Communities: Nuisance Effects – Air Quality	Construction: Construction activities have the potential to create temporary, localized effects on air quality in the immediate vicinity of the Project.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Vehicles will not exceed posted speed limits. • Minimize and stabilize vehicular traffic and exposed soils in high traffic areas with suitable cover material. • Avoid excavation and other construction activities that have the potential to release airborne particulates during excessively windy periods, to the extent practical. • If excavation or other construction activities with a potential to release airborne particulates must occur during windy conditions, dust controls will be utilized. • Effective dust suppression techniques, such as on-site watering, will be implemented as necessary. Non-chloride dust suppressants will be used. • Cover or otherwise contain loose construction materials with the potential to release airborne particulates during transport, installation or removal to the extent practical. • Disturbed areas will be restored as soon as practical to minimize duration of soil exposure.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects for air quality are expected to be minimized.
Land Use and Communities: Nuisance Effects – Noise and Vibrations	Construction & Operations: Construction and operation activities have the potential to affect ambient noise and vibration levels, while the operation of the transmission line has the potential to affect noise levels during temporary weather events (i.e., foul-weather) – creating temporary nuisance or disturbance effects for local residents, land users and wildlife.	Mitigation measures to reduce potential nuisance effects resulting from noise and vibration include: • All work is expected to be completed using common construction methods and in general accordance with the ministry’s Publication NPC-115 “Construction Equipment”, Publication NPC-118 “Motorized Conveyances” and Publication NPC-119 “Blasting”. • Sensitive receptors will be identified in the Project-specific EMP, for consideration when planning work such as implosive splicing locations. • Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize vibrations during construction will be used. • Equipment and machinery used on site will be maintained in good working condition. • Prior to any use of implosive splicing, a Blasting Communication and Management Plan will be developed outlining proper storage, security, detonation, and notification requirements.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects relating to nuisance effects, particularly relating to nuisance effects (for nuisance noise and vibrations effects) are expected to be minimized and are generally expected to be short-term, temporary, and transient.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Area residents, businesses, municipalities, emergency and protective services, and other crews within 1.6 km will be notified about the use of implosive splicing one week prior to the work commencing. • Signs shall be posted on all roadways leading to a blasting area in accordance with government rules and regulations. • A safe distance of the blasting site will be maintained from other employees, vehicles, equipment, structures, and fire hazard sources. Blasts will be performed during pre-determined times and outside of electrical storms or adverse weather conditions. • Construction activities will conform to local noise control by-laws including those for the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, the Township of Cavan-Monaghan, the Township of Selwyn, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Township of Scugog, the Municipality of Clarington, and the City of Kawartha Lakes. Noise By-Law exemptions will be sought if work is required outside of the hours specified in the aforementioned by-laws (e.g., overnight). • Vibration dampers will be incorporated into detailed design to be placed on towers, where required.	
Land Use and Communities: Nuisance Effects – Mud and Construction Debris	Construction & Operation: Potential for tracking of mud and migration of construction debris to areas outside of the construction zone.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • General clean site policies will be implemented requiring pick-up and disposal of refuse and construction waste on a regular basis. • Construction will be completed with general clean site policies being enforced which require pick-up and disposal of refuse and construction waste at an approved waste management facility on a regular basis. • Mud related to construction activities will be removed from local roads and access roads as necessary throughout construction. • Mud mats will be installed (as needed) as a mechanism to reduce the transport of debris off-site. • Vehicles and equipment will be regularly inspected, washed, and maintained at work areas as necessary. • Formal cleanup and site restoration (e.g., restoration planting and seeding) will further minimize this potential effect as construction progresses and is completed.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects relating to nuisance effects, (for nuisance mud and construction debris effects) are not anticipated.
Mineral Resources	Construction: Potential temporary disturbances to mineral resources (i.e., aggregate resources; organic matter deposits).	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • During construction, relevant authorities (i.e., MNR) and/or stakeholders (i.e., aggregate licence holders, leases, etc.) will be consulted related to potential impacts to aggregate operations or organic matter deposits, where applicable. Hydro One will coordinate and consult with relevant	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to mineral resources are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		parties to incorporate their recommendations to mitigate impacts on these resources and operations, where appropriate. - Affected landowners, lessees and licence holders and claims holders will be notified before the start of construction to prevent or reduce effects of anticipated activities. These activities will be coordinated with tenure holders through ongoing engagement. - Affected parties will be notified with respect to crossing agreements and third-party agreements which will adhere to applicable contingency and management plans.	
Natural Environment Resources - Physical Environment: Spills	Construction & Operation: Potential inadvertent release of deleterious substances including oil, gasoline or other liquids.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - An Emergency Response Plan and spill cleanup equipment will be maintained and be readily accessible at all times during construction and maintenance activities. - Refuelling of vehicles and equipment will be completed in a designated location a minimum of 30 m away from sensitive receptors, (e.g., designated source water protection areas, watercourses, surface drainage features, wetlands). - Fuelling of vehicles/equipment will occur utilizing an emergency spill tray to capture accidental release of fluids. - Fuelling operations will require the operator to visually observe the fuelling process at all times. - If refuelling must occur outside of designated areas (e.g., for less mobile or stationary equipment such as generators, pumps, light towers), additional containment or other mitigation and spill prevention measures will be utilized (e.g. secondary containment and/or precautionary deployment of absorbent booms/spill pads). - Equipment will be inspected regularly during construction to ensure it is clean and free of leaks. - Areas impacted by a spill will be secured, and unauthorized personnel will be kept out of the affected area until further assessment and/or clean-up is conducted. - Spills will be addressed and remediated as soon as possible after a spill. - Clean-up and the disposal of contaminated materials will be managed in accordance with provincial regulations and guidelines. - Fuels, chemicals, lubricants, or other deleterious substances will be stored on level ground in properly contained storage areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to the physical environment due to spills are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		- Only approved aboveground petroleum storage tanks will be used during the construction phase of the Project and will be stored in designated fuelling areas and with additional temporary containment measures. - Work conducted near provincially/locally designated vulnerable areas (namely Wellhead Protection Areas [WHPAs] and Intake Protection Zones [IPZs]) will be avoided or limited, where practical. - CLOCA, KC, and ORCA and/or the Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan-Monaghan, and Township of Selwyn and First Nations will be consulted, as required, in order to undertake the proper action for managing the potential threats to source water protection areas. - In addition to the above noted regulators and municipalities, Hydro One will continue to work with First Nation communities to discuss mitigation measures for construction. The MECP Spills Action Centre and MSIFN will be notified of all reportable spills.	
Natural Environment Resources - Physical Environment: Waste Generation	Construction & Operation: Solid and/or liquid waste will be generated.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Hazardous waste (solid and liquid) will be transported by a licensed contractor to MECP registered disposal sites. - Good management practice will be employed to prevent spills and contamination during construction. - Secure containers in designated sites away from sensitive areas will be used to contain temporary waste on-site. - Excess construction materials (i.e., waste, granular fill, clay) will be removed from construction sites and areas on an ongoing basis. - Concrete wash water will not be discharged onto the ground at the Project site. All water from concrete chute washing activities will be contained in leak proof containers or in an approved settling pond off site. - Waste and recyclables will be sorted, segregated and removed to a licensed or approved waste management facility and/or recycling facility. - Testing, handling, storage, transport and disposal of waste will be completed in accordance with applicable legislation. - Waste materials will be contained and not allowed into sensitive receptors such as waterbodies, riparian areas, wetlands, or agricultural fields.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to the physical environment due to waste generation are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Physical Environment: Excess Materials Management	Construction & Operation: Excess materials including topsoil and subsoil, may be produced during site excavations.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: All efforts will be made to reuse soils onsite where practical and feasible.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to the

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		- Excessive materials stored on-site (e.g., in stockpiles) will be managed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 406/19. - In the event soils are stockpiled, they will be managed in ways that are not conducive to Bank Swallow nesting (e.g., slopes maintained at 70° or less, and/or covered or bare soils seeded during the breeding season). - Excess soils proposed to be removed from the site will be characterized during geotechnical investigations, or prior to, or during construction and managed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 406/19. - Excess soils will be managed off-site based on the quality of the material (i.e., sent for reuse or disposal). Reuse sites will be selected based on the characterization of excess soils, the need for a beneficial reuse and the volume of excess soil required. - Acknowledgement from reuse sites will be obtained prior to the movement of excess soils. - Soil movements will be tracked from the Project area to the final deposit site, if required. A notice will be submitted to the MECP for the Project, if required.	physical environment due to excessive materials are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources – Atmospheric Environment: Climate Change	Construction & Operation: GHG emissions will be generated from construction equipment. Carbon sinks will be removed resulting in GHG emissions and loss of carbon sequestration.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Equipment and machinery will be maintained in good working condition to minimize excessive exhaust. - Idling of construction vehicles and equipment will be kept to a minimum. - GPS will be available in vehicles to optimize routing to reduce fossil fuel emissions. - Multi-passenger vehicles will be used to transport personnel, where practicable. - Hydro One has a target to reduce carbon emissions by 40% through conversion of feasible fleet vehicles to electric or hybrid and the modification of driving behaviors (this is an organization wide target). - Vegetation that will not affect construction will be retained where practical. - Incompatible vegetation such as hedgerows and windbreak areas impacted by construction will be replaced with compatible vegetation (i.e., shrubs) post-construction, in consultation with landowners. - Access roads, staging areas, tower construction and stringing activities will be constructed to a minimum length and width required to accommodate the safe movement of construction equipment. This will minimize impacts on vegetation.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on GHG emissions are expected to be minimized. This Project contributes to electrification efforts which could help achieve Ontario’s 2030 GHG targets

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Atmospheric Environment: Air Quality	Construction & Operation: Potential for fugitive dust and impacts to air quality from vehicle emissions.	Refer to the mitigation measures planned for Air Quality under Land Use and Communities above.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects for air quality are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources – Atmospheric Environment: Noise and Vibration	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance as a result of noise, including potential use of implosive splicing and their associated increased vibrations levels. Indirect noise disturbance effects on wildlife during construction can include temporary declines in habitat occupancy, as well as changes to mobility and feeding habitat patterns.	Refer to the mitigation measures planned for Noise and Vibration under Land Use and Communities above. The Project’s Environmental Management Plan will identify nearby sensitive receptors to construction noise and vibration.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects for noise and vibration are expected to be minimized and are generally expected to be short-term, temporary and transient.
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removals	Construction & Operation: Potential for vehicles and equipment to create rutting in soils, creating ponding or channelization leading to additional erosion of soils. Vegetation removals have the potential for increases in both overland flow and water temperature, as well as mobilization and transport of organic debris and sediment to nearby watercourses, waterbodies and municipal drains.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Where practical, activities with potential to cause rutting, ponding/channelization, or erosion will be planned during stable and dry ground conditions. • Existing water crossings and constructed access roads will be utilized to the extent practical. • The use of Erosion Sediment Control (ESC) measures (e.g., erosion blankets/coir mats, silt socks) will be utilized, where necessary. • Where required, temporary crossing structures will be installed for construction access at watercourses, waterbodies and other low-lying areas and will be removed upon completion of construction. • The use of constructed access (e.g., mats or geotextile/crushed stone) roads will be monitored to ensure there is no surface ponding to minimize rutting and pooling of water. If ponding of water due to the road does occur, this can be mitigated through the use of equalizing culverts or similar. • Vegetation removals will be minimized to the extent practical. Compatible vegetation will be retained within riparian areas adjacent to watercourses and waterbodies. • Machine clearing and grubbing will be restricted near sensitive environmental areas; hand clearing will be required within 30 m of watercourse and waterbody banks/riparian areas. • Erosion is a concern, exposed soils in previously vegetated areas will be re-vegetated as necessary with compatible vegetation or have other erosion or sedimentation measures applied as necessary. • Where applicable and possible, vegetative buffers will be maintained.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects for soil rutting and vegetation removals are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Construction access and laydown areas will be restored following completion of construction. • Work will be staged to minimize the extent of exposed soils (i.e., bare soils without vegetative cover or erosion and sediment controls such as coir blankets) at any given time. • Cleared vegetation will be relocated to designated areas away from water features. • Topsoil will be stockpiled in designated areas away from water features and will utilize containment measures such as erosion and sediment control as appropriate. • Disturbed areas will be stabilized and restored as soon as practical. • Equipment operation adjacent to watercourses, waterbodies and wetlands will be minimized, where practical. • Works adjacent or around water feature banks will be conducted during appropriate conditions and times of the year (e.g., dry or frozen conditions), to the extent practical. • Vegetation buffers along water feature banks will be maintained to the extent practical and restored. • CLOCA, KC, and ORCA will be consulted (specifically for ESC measures) during detailed design.	
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Disruption of Sheet Flow of Surface Waters Over Agricultural Lands	Construction: Potential to disrupt sheet flow of surface waters over agricultural lands.	To avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects associated with the installation of access roads on surface water quantity, the following mitigation measures would be implemented: • Existing, natural drainage patterns and flows will be identified and maintained to the extent practical. • Equalization culverts or similar methods may be used in construction of access roads. If surface water accretion issues are identified during construction, remedial measures (e.g., retroactive installation of equalization culverts within temporary access roads) will be undertaken promptly. • Existing water crossings and constructed access roads will be utilized to the extent practical. • Construction and access planning will consider tile drains to ensure continued function of drainage tiles to the extent practical. Discussions with landowners will be held where further information is needed to avoid adverse effects. • The use of ESC measures (e.g., erosion blankets/coir mats, silt socks) will be utilized, where necessary.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to surface water due to disruption of sheet flow of surface waters over agricultural lands are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Dewatering	Construction: Potential increase in surface water flows resulting from dewatering activities.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Construction water will be discharged in compliance with permits and/or approvals from the provincial agencies (such as the MECP) and municipalities, as required. • A construction water management plan will be developed prior to construction and implemented appropriately (e.g., passing discharge water through a filter bag or drum before discharge to the environment to capture sediment and slow down the water velocity). • Where practical, opportunities to maximize retention times and reduce surface flow velocities will be executed. • Where geotechnical conditions and engineering requirements allow, foundation types (such as helical piles) that minimize the amount of construction dewatering required will be utilized. • Where practical, discharge of construction waters is to occur at least 30 metres away from sensitive features (e.g., watercourses, wetlands). If discharge of construction waters must occur within 30 m of a watercourse or wetland, erosion and sediment controls will be utilized.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to surface water due to dewatering are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Construction Work within Areas Regulated by Conservation Authorities	Construction: Potential for infrastructure (towers, water crossings) to be located within Conservation Authority regulated lands.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • CLOCA, KC, and ORCA will be consulted during detailed design and construction planning. • Design of the transmission line will avoid or minimize the extent to which transmission towers are located within regulated areas, to the extent practical. • If necessary, a Permit under Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits will be obtained through the applicable Conservation Authority (CLOCA, KC, and ORCA) prior to construction. • Construction work (e.g., tower construction) within Regulated Areas will be conducted during stable (frozen/dry) ground conditions, to the extent practical (acknowledging that this will likely not be feasible in all situations); and • Temporary construction access through regulated areas may involve additional ESC or other environmental mitigation measures.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to surface water due to construction work within areas regulated by Conservation authorities are not anticipated. Permit under Ontario Regulation 41/24 will be obtained in advance of construction, where necessary.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Maintenance Activities	Construction: Potential to result in soil rutting, disrupt sheet flow of surface water over agricultural lands, increase overland flow and mobilization/transportation of organic debris and sediment loading in nearby municipal drains, watercourses and waterbodies.	Refer to the mitigation measures planned for Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removals, Disruption of Sheet Flow of Surface Waters Over Agricultural Lands, and Erosion and Sedimentation.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to surface water due to maintenance activities during construction are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Erosion and Sedimentation	Construction: Potential for erosion, sedimentation and soil loss during site preparation and construction activities.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • An ESC plan will be developed prior to construction and ESC measures will be identified and implemented as required. Measures such as erosion blankets/coir mats, silt socks, or similar, are expected to form part of the ESC plan, where appropriate. • Areas with high erosion potential will be identified and avoided, where practical. • Construction activities near sensitive features or areas may be suspended during extreme wet weather events, and crews will review and consider weather forecasts in their planning of such work. • ESC installations will only be removed after disturbed areas are restored, accumulated sediment has been disposed, and construction activities in the vicinity are completed. • In an effort to reduce potential erosion, mechanical or vegetation erosion control measures will be employed, such as buffer strips, erosion control blankets and sedimentation fences, as required. • Equipment operation on slopes adjacent to streams will be minimized to the extent practical. • Disturbed areas near watercourses, waterbodies and wetlands or sensitive environmental areas will be restored as soon as practical. • ESC measures will be regularly inspected, including after each significant [>10 mm] rainfall event, and repaired where necessary to maintain functionality.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to surface water due to erosion and sedimentation processes are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Source Water Protection: Spills	Construction and Operation: Potential for contamination of surface water through spills or leaks.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Maintain Spill Response Plan and have readily accessible cleanup materials and equipment at all times during construction and maintenance activities. • Remediate spills/leaks as soon as possible upon identification and notify the MECP SAC as required.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to source water protection due to spills are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		- Refuelling will be conducted in designated areas with appropriate protective measures and equipment available. - Refuelling areas will be located outside of Source Water Protection (SWP) areas to the extent practical. If refuelling must occur within SWP areas, additional protective measures (e.g., emergency spill trays) may be employed as necessary. Refer to additional mitigation planned for Spills under Physical Environment.	
Natural Environment Resources - Source Water Protection: Construction Work within Intake Protection Zones (IPZs), Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs)	Construction and Operation: Potential for impacts to designated surface water Intake Protection Zones (IPZs), Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs).	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Identify and protect surface water IPZs during construction and maintenance activities, as required. - Comply with relevant legislation and policies such as <i>Clean Water Act</i>, Provincial Policy Statement, Official Plans, and the Trent and CTC Source Protection Plans, where applicable. - Provincially/locally designated Vulnerable Areas (namely WHPAs and IPZs) will be avoided, where practical. - Consult with First Nations, CLOCA, KA, and ORCA and/or the Municipality of Clarington, Township of Scugog, City of Kawartha Lakes, Township of Cavan-Monaghan, Township of Selwyn, and City of Peterborough during detailed design and construction planning on Project-specific mitigation measures.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to construction work within Intake Protection Zones (IPZs), Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs) are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Source Water Protection: Water Wells	Construction: Potential for impacts to private drinking water wells.	In addition to the mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Where necessary, a hydrogeological assessment will be conducted to inform construction planning, permitting and management. - The majority of wells exploit aquifer(s) that are at much greater depth than the proposed tower excavations. In the event dewatering activities create a minor radius of influence, shallow well aquifers, groundwater levels and flows are expected to return to pre-construction conditions during the construction period.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on source water protection due to impacts to drinking water wells are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Groundwater Resources: Groundwater Quality	Construction: Disturbance of contaminated soil has the potential to contribute to groundwater contamination.	Refer to the mitigation measures planned for Spills and Excess Materials Management under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting under Surface Water Resources and for Soil Mixing under Agricultural Resources.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on groundwater resources due to impacts of contaminated soil disturbance are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Groundwater Resources: Groundwater Infiltration and Flow	Construction: Disturbance and compaction to soil has the potential to inhibit infiltration.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Soil Compaction under Agricultural Resources, as well as the mitigation measures planned above for groundwater quality.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on groundwater resources due to impacts to infiltration are not anticipated.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Groundwater Resources: Dewatering and Groundwater Removal	Construction: Dewatering activities/removal of groundwater have the potential to result in temporary lowering of aquifers.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Dewatering under Surface Water Resources. Additional mitigation measures planned includes: - If detailed design suggests that construction dewatering is required at a rate greater than 50,000 L/day, a PTTW or EASR would be obtained from the self-registered system that has been implemented by MECP. - If deemed necessary, a hydrogeological assessment will be conducted to inform construction planning, permitting and management.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on groundwater resources due to impacts of temporary dewatering are not anticipated.
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Construction: Potential impacts to the Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area and the Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills and Waste Generation under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, and Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Environmentally Sensitive Areas through vegetation loss, soil erosion, and sedimentation are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Conservation Areas	Construction: Potential impacts to the Enfield Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area and the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills and Waste Generation under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, Construction Work within Areas Regulated by Conservation Authorities under Surface Water Resources, Erosion and Sedimentation under Surface Water Resources, and Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to conservation areas through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest	Construction: Potential impacts to Enfield Wetlands or Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills and Waste Generation under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, and Significant Wetlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to ANSI through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Significant Woodlands	Construction: Removal of woodland vegetation (transition to compatible vegetation) within the ROW. Operation: Vegetation management within the ROW to ensure that incompatible vegetation does not threaten the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - The extent of clearing and vegetation removal required for the Project within woodlands will be minimized by using existing transmission corridors and access to the extent practical. - Incompatible vegetation will be salvaged or felled as appropriate. - Refuelling of vehicles and/or equipment will occur within a designated refuelling area located away from significant woodlands. - If extenuating circumstances develop where vehicle and/or equipment refuelling cannot occur within a designated refueling area, additional spill protection measures will be utilized to minimize the potential for impacts to significant woodlands.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to significant woodlands through vegetation loss, are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Tree removals adjacent to watercourses and within wetlands will be cut such that their root systems remain intact to maintain soil stability, and compatible bank/riparian vegetation will be retained to the extent practical. • Tree removals and other vegetation clearing associated with woodlands will be conducted outside of the migratory bird breeding season (i.e., April 5 to August 31, zone C1 as provided by ECCC 2018) and the bat active season (i.e., March 15 to November 30), where practical. • In the event vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period. • In the event woodlands with the potential to support bats require tree removals, bat acoustic surveys for man-made structures and visual exit surveys for wooded areas, may be completed by the contractor's Environmental Lead during the month of June in accordance with agency approved protocols to determine SAR bat habitat use (or lack thereof). • Prior to construction, the MECP will be consulted regarding permitting/approvals next steps under the 2007 ESA (Government of Ontario, 2007). • Snags (dead standing trees) and cavity trees that do not pose a risk to the construction or operation of the transmission line will be identified and retained, to the extent practical. • Woodlands disturbed during construction will be restored following completion of construction with compatible native species (e.g., native seed mix and shrub stock). • Cultural significance of woodlands within the ROW that are subject to clearing will be confirmed, and appropriate mitigation will be developed, in consultation with First Nations.	
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Valleylands	Construction: Potential impacts to valleylands due to removal of vegetation, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Valleylands will be considered during detailed design with respect to tower locations. • To the extent feasible, work or disturbance will be avoided within valleylands or areas adjacent to the edge of the valleylands. Refer also to mitigation measures planned for Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal, Construction Work within Areas Regulated by Conservation Authorities, and Erosion and Sedimentation under Surface Water Resources.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to valleylands through vegetation removal, soil erosion, and sedimentation are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Significant Wetlands	Construction: Potential impacts to wetlands (including PSW) as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills and Waste Generation under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, Construction Work within Areas Regulated by Conservation Authorities under Surface Water Resources, Erosion and Sedimentation under Surface Water Resources, and Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas. Additional planned mitigation measures include: • Construction areas will use existing access routes. In the event construction access in the existing ROW cannot avoid wetlands, temporary access roads and work pads will be built using measures such as mats, geotextile and crushed rock, or equivalent means, which will protect the underlying soils during construction and can be easily removed when construction is complete. • Where practical, activities will be conducted during frozen conditions to limit temporary surface disturbance to wetlands in the ROW. • Equalization culverts, French drains, or similar measures may be employed as necessary for any constructed access required within wetlands to maintain surface flow and drainage patterns during construction. • Additional materials (i.e., rip-rap, filter cloth, and silt fencing) will be readily available in case they are needed promptly for erosion and/or sediment control. • Any wetlands disturbed during construction will be restored following completion of construction with compatible native species (e.g., native wetland seed mix, shrub stock, or a combination of both as appropriate) and to pre-construction drainage patterns. • Cultural significance of wetlands within the ROW that are subject to impacts will be confirmed, and appropriate mitigation will be developed, in consultation with First Nations.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to significant wetlands through vegetation removal, soil erosion, and sedimentation, are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Vegetation	Construction & Operation: Removal of vegetation within proposed activity work areas.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas and Significant Wetlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas. Additional planned mitigation measures include: • Restricting access and minimizing travel/work areas to maximize retention of compatible vegetation. • Implementing sediment and erosion controls. • Selectively cutting and retaining compatible vegetation to promote regeneration. • Disposing of non-salvageable limbs by chipping or removal to designated areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to vegetation through vegetation loss, are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		- Clearing vegetation outside the migratory bird breeding season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018) to the extent feasible. - In the event vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period. - Retaining snags (dead standing trees) and cavity trees that do not pose a risk to the construction or operation of the transmission line to the extent feasible. - Cutting trees that require removal adjacent to watercourses such that their root systems remain intact to maintain soil stability. - Retaining bank/riparian vegetation to the extent feasible. - Using constructed access (mats, or geotextile and gravel) in sensitive natural areas to avoid or minimize effects to soils (e.g., compaction, rutting); - Refuelling vehicles and/or equipment within a designated refuelling area located away from sensitive areas. - Restoring compacted areas, as required. - Using native plant species where practical during construction restoration.	
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Vegetation	Construction: Accumulation of cleared vegetation.	In addition to the applicable mitigation measures outlined above, the following additional mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: The entirety of the Project is within regulated areas by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA, 2025) prohibiting the movement of Ash firewood and Ash wood products. As such, wood waste will be managed in accordance with federal requirements and best practices.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects through accumulation of cleared vegetation are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Wetlands	Construction: Potential impacts to wetlands as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills and Waste Generation under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, and Significant Wetlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to wetlands through vegetation removal, soil erosion, and sedimentation, are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Fish and Fish Habitat	Construction & Operation: Potential change to fish communities, health and habitat as a result of in-water works, material placement, vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills under Physical Environment and Dewatering, ESC and Source Water Protection under Natural Environment. Additional planned mitigation measures include: The creation of new water crossings during construction will be avoided to the extent practical by using existing access and crossings (e.g., bridges, culverts) and by accessing work areas from either side of watercourses/drains.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to fish and fish habitat through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• Construction access, laydown and work areas will be planned to avoid waterbodies and potential fish habitat to the extent practical (e.g., maintaining distance from watercourse banks except where crossings exist or are required). • Disturbance to waterbodies, shorelines, riparian areas will be stabilized to prevent erosion. • An ESC plan will be developed to include mitigation measures such as constructing watercourse crossings during low flow conditions, retaining compatible stream bank vegetation, use of ESC during construction and restoration, and storing materials away from sensitive receptors (e.g., watercourses, drains, wetlands). • Project wastes will be immediately removed from and stored away from riparian areas. • No refuelling or vehicles and/or equipment will be permitted within <30 m of a watercourse to prevent potential spills (e.g., fuel, oil, lubricant) from entering aquatic features. • Disturbed areas will be restored to a pre-disturbed state or better, upon completion of construction, with compatible native species (e.g., seed mix, shrub stock, or a combination of both). • If permanent or temporary works are required below the high-water mark of a water feature, a Request for Review will be prepared and submitted to the DFO in support of a Letter of Advice and/or approvals under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>. • Where implosive conductor splicing is utilized, work will be planned and conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters (DFO 1998) as deemed necessary. • The Project will apply all the measures to protect fish and fish habitat (DFO 2023) and incorporate the use of DFO’s Standards and Codes of Practice (DFO 2024) for routine works where applicable, including the submission of a DFO Project Notification Form. • Fish rescues and removals will be completed in isolated areas, under an approved Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes and rescue efforts will be completed by Qualified Fisheries Professionals. • Transmission line structures will be set back from banks and located outside of regulatory floodplains, to the extent practical. • Work will be conducted in accordance with a permit from the applicable Conservation Authority when working within their regulated area.	

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Woodlands	Construction: Removal of woodland (transition to compatible vegetation) within the transmission line ROW. Operation: Vegetation management within the transmission line ROW to ensure that incompatible vegetation does not threaten the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas. Woodlands disturbed during construction will be restored following completion of construction with compatible native species (e.g., native seed mix and shrub stock).	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to woodlands through vegetation loss, are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – General	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or SAR habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, and Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features. Additional mitigation measures include: • Areas where vegetation clearing will be required will be confirmed during detailed design and evaluated for potential to provide habitat for SAR identified through the desktop screening and field investigations, and to determine the need for additional surveys to confirm presence and inform authorization requirements. Should these areas be determined to provide habitat for SAR, appropriate mitigative actions will be identified and implemented through the authorization process and in consultation with the responsible government ministry. • Vegetation clearing during the migratory bird breeding season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018) will be avoided to the extent feasible. • In the event vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period. • Potential SAR turtle habitat will be screened prior to installing ESC measures. If required, sediment fencing for turtle exclusion will be installed per the guidelines from Reptile and Amphibian Exclusion Fencing (MECP, 2021b). • Vehicles and equipment left idle overnight at work areas will be inspected for SAR snakes prior to use. • Sweeps of work areas for SAR and other wildlife will be performed ahead of construction. • Construction personnel will be aware of the potential presence of, and will be able to identify, SAR with the potential to occur within the general work areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to SAR are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		• If a SAR or suspected SAR is encountered during construction, a qualified biologist will be contacted for assistance immediately and the responsible government department (MECP SAR Branch and/or ECCC CWS) will be informed if deemed necessary. • Should SAR be encountered during construction activities, activities will be stopped until it has been determined that harm will not occur. The required activities will be assessed to determine whether the work/schedule can be modified, or mitigation measures employed, to avoid potential effects on SAR and their habitat. • If avoidance of SAR and/or SAR habitat is not possible, the responsible ministry will be consulted in advance of construction to discuss detailed mitigation measures and or/assess the need for permitting/approvals under the ESA and/or SARA. • If a SAR is harmed or killed as a result of work activities, the responsible government department will be notified and the relevant work activities will cease within the immediate area until the species has been removed by personnel authorized to handle SAR. • SAR observed during construction activities will be reported to the responsible government department, as required. • First Nations will also be consulted on mitigation measures to address SAR and their habitats, including when SAR are encountered incidentally during construction activities.	
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Bank Swallow	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or SAR habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • A 500 m buffer will be implemented around known nesting colonies • Moderate to high impact operations causing sensory disturbance (including vegetation removal, helicopter flights, blasting, drilling and implosion splicing) will be avoided within 500 m of known Bank Swallow colonies during the breeding period (April 15 to August 31), where feasible. • Stockpiling of aggregate materials within 500 m of known Bank Swallow nesting colonies will be avoided to reduce likelihood of attracting Bank Swallows to new aggregate sites. • Where stockpiling of aggregate materials is required, MNR Best Management Practices for the Protection, Creation and Maintenance of Bank Swallow Habitat in Ontario (MNR 2017) will be implemented. This includes nesting prevention through slope management of stockpiles (i.e., reducing slopes to 70° or less, and/or covering or seeding bare soils during the breeding season). Slope management must be implemented	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Bank Swallow are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		prior to the start of the breeding season (i.e. before mid-April) and maintained daily until at least July 15 to discourage nesting. • If a stockpile is colonized despite prevention efforts, all work within 500 m of the nest colony will stop immediately and protection measures will be implemented, per MNR Best Management Practices for the Protection, Creation and Maintenance of Bank Swallow Habitat in Ontario (MNR 2017). Further, MECP will be consulted if disturbance is anticipated.	
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or SAR habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified to confirm use of the impacted areas by these species. • Authorization under the ESA will be acquired ahead of any disturbance to confirmed habitat of these species and associated mitigation measures implemented. The appropriate authorization route will depend on area of habitat impacted, which will be confirmed during detailed design. • Construction activities in confirmed habitats will be avoided during the migratory bird breeding season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018).	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Barn Swallow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler and Wood Thrush	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or residences (i.e. nests). Potential decreased reproduction and increased sensory disturbance to SAR.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified to confirm use of the impacted areas by these species. • Vegetation clearing during the migratory bird breeding season (April 5 to August 31 in nesting zone C2: ECCC, 2018) will be avoided to the extent feasible. • In the event vegetation clearing is required during the breeding bird season, nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Barn Swallow, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler and Wood Thrush are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Blanding’s Turtle	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified to confirm use of the impacted areas by this species. • Authorization under the ESA will be acquired ahead of any disturbance to confirmed habitat of this species and associated mitigation measures implemented. The appropriate authorization route will depend on area of habitat impacted, which will be confirmed during detailed design • Potential SAR turtle habitat will be screened prior to installing ESC measures. If required, sediment fencing for turtle exclusion will be installed per provincial guidelines. • Mitigation such as using alternative access points and accessing structures on either side of the wetland will be implemented to the extent practical to avoid disturbance to wetlands. • In-water works within turtle wintering areas, if required, will be conducted outside the turtle overwintering period. • Nesting turtles will not be disturbed. If a nesting turtle is encountered, activities within 30 m will cease until the turtle has left the area. Any turtle nests laid within the construction zone will be protected with a 10 m buffer and an MNR authorized local wildlife rehabilitator will be contacted (https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-wildlife-rehabilitator) to relocate the nest to a suitable location outside the construction zone or collect the nest for ex situ incubation under an approved permit.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Blanding’s Turtle are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Butternut	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or habitat. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • A Butternut health assessment (BHA) will be completed by a qualified professional for any Butternut trees identified within the ROW or within 21 m of the ROW. • As deemed necessary by the results of the BHA, mitigation measures such as tree protection fencing will be implemented. • Placing equipment and materials within 21 m of the trees will be avoided. • Where impacts to Butternut are anticipated, removal of Butternut is eligible for conditional exemption under the ESA through activity registration under Part V of O. Reg. 830/21 so long as the conditions in the regulation are adhered to. • Through consultation with proximate First Nations, Hydro One commits to applying a 30 m critical root zone buffer for construction planning purposes, rather than the 25 m critical root zone provided in the ESA, noting that this would primarily be relevant for activities causing direct ground disturbance or soil compaction.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Butternut are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Black Ash	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or habitat. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • If impacts to potential habitat are identified during detailed design, additional surveys will be conducted for presence of this species and a Black Ash Health Assessment (BAHA) will be completed by a qualified professional for all Black Ash trees identified within the ROW or within 30 m of the ROW to confirm permitting ESA authorization requirements. • As deemed necessary by the results of the BAHA, mitigation measures such as tree protection fencing will be implemented. • Placing equipment and materials within 30 m of the trees will be avoided. • The MECP will be engaged in the event a Black Ash tree that meets protection criteria or its 30 m critical root zone will be impacted by the Project, and mitigation measures associated with ESA authorization will be implemented.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Black Ash are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Monarch	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Vegetation clearing between April and August will be avoided to the extent practical. • Native plant species will be used where restoration seeding or planting is conducted. The native seed mix will include milkweed species to support Monarch breeding.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Monarch are expected to be minimized.
Natural Environment Resources – Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Western Chorus Frog	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Existing access roads and water crossings will be used to the extent practical. • Equipment operation adjacent to aquatic features will be minimized where practical. • An ESC plan will be developed prior to construction. • Wetland boundaries will be identified as no-go zones and communicated to construction crews prior to construction. These boundaries will also be mapped and incorporated into the EMP with details on the associated mitigation. • Wetlands will be avoided to the extent practical. • Mitigation such as using alternative access points and accessing structures on either side of the wetland will be implemented to the extent practical to avoid disturbance to wetlands. • If disturbance to wetlands occurs during Project activity, disturbed wetland areas will be re-seeded with native wetland species.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Western Chorus Frog are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Wildlife Habitat	Construction & Operation: Potential disturbance or loss of wildlife habitat, including habitat fragmentation and degradation. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance.	Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, and Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features. Additional mitigation measures include: • Boundaries of important wildlife habitats (including candidate/confirmed SWH, savannahs, wetlands, confirmed dens, raptor stick nests or nests of MBR Schedule 1 birds (i.e., herons and Pileated Woodpecker) will be identified as no-go zones and identified to construction crews prior to construction. These important wildlife habitats will also be mapped and incorporated into the EMP with details on the associated mitigation, which will depend on the habitat type (e.g., timing windows). • Snags and cavity trees with potential to support bats will be retained, to the extent feasible. In the event that tree removals are required where there is a potential for bat habitat, bat acoustic surveys will be completed prior to removals during the month of June in accordance with agency approved protocols to determine SAR bat habitat use (or lack thereof). Where acoustic surveys confirm SAR bat habitat use, the MECP will be consulted prior to construction regarding permitting/approvals and next steps under the ESA. • Trees containing stick nests and areas where active animal dens or burrows are encountered will be left undisturbed until unoccupied, as determined by a qualified professional. • Tree/vegetation clearing will be avoided during the breeding bird and bat active season (March 15 to November 30) to the extent feasible. • Natural vegetation and wildlife habitats will generally be avoided to the extent feasible. • Where vegetation clearing is required, some of the cleared vegetative material may be used to create brush/habitat piles along the ROW edges to promote wildlife habitat, provided that they are in keeping with the surrounding landscape and existing land uses and landowner approved. • Stockpiling of slash, creation of brush piles and storage of project equipment/materials will be avoided within or near confirmed animal movement corridors (i.e. those identified per SWH criteria and other major wildlife trails discovered during construction/pre-construction surveying) during the seasons when these areas are most likely to be used for movement. • Construction personnel will be educated on the potential for wildlife which may be encountered within the general work areas. • In-water works within turtle wintering areas, if required, will be conducted outside of the turtle overwintering period.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to wildlife habitat are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		Native plant species will be used where restoration seeding or planting is conducted.	
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Invasive Species	Construction: Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.	Refer to the mitigation measures planned for Agricultural Resources: Invasive Species.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects related to invasive species are expected to be minimized.
First Nation Land Use and Interests	Construction & Operation: Potential to affect First Nation community land use and interests.	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: - Hydro One will continue to support commitments relating to maintaining relationships of mutual respect with First Nations and seek to identify community concerns and build appropriate actions into Project plans to address expressed concerns. - Hydro One will support continued engagement with First Nations, providing regular updates on Project activities and construction/work schedules. - First Nations have expressed interest in being involved with future archaeological and Natural Environment field work. Hydro One and its consulting archaeologist and ecologist will work with interested communities to include representatives from interested communities in archaeological and environmental fieldwork. - First Nations will be provided opportunities to review the findings of archaeological field surveys and archaeological assessment reports. - If archaeological artifacts are encountered during construction, work in the vicinity will cease and a licensed archaeologist will be engaged immediately to ensure compliance with the Ontario Heritage Act (Government of Ontario, 1990a). - Several communities have expressed a desire to protect and mitigate adverse effects to natural environment features such as SAR, wildlife and aquatic habitat, and natural or naturalized areas within their traditional territory that could be used for hunting, gathering, harvesting, or other traditional uses. Mitigation measures to address effects to these features are described above under Natural Heritage Features. - Some communities may conduct Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) studies. Should these communities wish to share some or all of the findings of these studies with Hydro One and the construction contractor, this information will be taken into consideration during the construction planning of the Project to the extent practical. - Some communities have expressed an interest in participating in the Biodiversity Initiative that Hydro One is committing to for the Project, which	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to First Nations land use and interests are expected to be minimized.

Environmental Concern	Project Phase & Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures	Net Effects
		will seek opportunities to create or enhance habitats address concerns raised by First Nations and stakeholders. Hydro One will involve interested communities in the Biodiversity Initiative, including potential incorporation of TEK where that information is willingly provided.	
Recreational Resources	Construction & Operation: Potential for temporary disturbance to tourism and enjoyment of recreational resources (e.g., trails, etc.).	The following mitigation measures are planned to address these potential effects: • Installation of clearly worded (temporary) signage would be erected in relevant areas, and Hydro One would provide advanced notice to residents and landowners to inform them of construction details (e.g., entry/exit points, schedule, and traffic). • To avoid impacts to residents and land users utilizing recreational resources, Hydro One may opt to time work to avoid seasons/times of heavier or more frequent use. • The use of dust suppression techniques and implementation of erosion and sediment control measures to minimize impacts on nearby recreational resources. • Provision of alternative access routes, ensuring that any trails designated as wheelchair-friendly remain accessible and suitable for wheelchair users. • Restoration/rehabilitation of disturbed areas to original condition upon completion of construction activities. • Implementation of safety precautions to improve and ensure public safety (i.e., fencing, barriers, anti-climbing device, temporary warning signs).	No net effects to recreational resources are anticipated. Hydro One will commit to working with local municipalities to identify community benefit opportunities to enhance the broader landscape.
Visual and Aesthetic Resources: Visibility of the Project by Sensitive Receptors	Construction & Operation: Potential visual impacts to sensitive receptors with views of the Project.	Location of transmission structures is one of the largest factors influencing the visual effects to specific receptors. Design of the transmission line (e.g., placement of structure locations), subject to other constraints and design factors influencing tower locations, will consider visibility to nearby sensitive receptors. Hydro One will commit to working with local municipalities to identify community benefit opportunities to enhance the broader landscape. Hydro One also welcomes feedback from property owners regarding the location of silos, barns or future construction plans in order to provide accommodation, where practical.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects of visible impacts to sensitive receptors are expected to be minimized.

Table 7-3: Indigenous Culture, Values and Land Use Concerns and Mitigation Measures

Concern	Potential Project Effects	Committed Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects After Mitigation
Consultation	First Nations have expressed concern regarding Hydro Ones ability to make project commitments after the Class EA is completed.	Hydro One will continue to support commitments relating to maintaining relationships of mutual respect with First Nations and seek to identify community concerns and build appropriate actions into Project plans to address these concerns for the entire life of the project. This includes (but is not limited to): - Continued engagement with First Nations, providing regular updates on Project activities and construction/work schedules. - Some communities may conduct Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) studies related to the Project. Should these communities wish to share some or all of the findings of these studies with Hydro One and the construction contractor, this information will be taken into consideration during the construction planning of the Project to the extent practical. - Hydro One and their EPC Contractor will ensure that First Nations have the opportunity to review the Project EMP prior to construction. - Hydro One welcomes any early input from First Nations on post-construction restoration including species of interest or seed mixes to be considered.	Hydro One will continue to support commitments relating to maintaining relationships of mutual respect with First Nations and seek to identify community concerns and build appropriate actions into Project plans to address these concerns for the entire life of the project.
Air Quality	Potential for fugitive dust and impacts to air quality from vehicle emissions.	This is a transient/temporary effect during construction (and very sporadic maintenance activities). - Vehicles will not exceed posted speed limits. - Minimize and stabilize vehicular traffic and exposed soils in high traffic areas with suitable cover material. - Avoid excavation and other construction activities that have the potential to release airborne particulates during excessively windy periods, to the extent practical. - If excavation or other construction activities with a potential to release airborne particulates must occur during windy conditions, dust controls will be utilized. - Effective dust suppression techniques, such as on-site watering, will be implemented as necessary. Non-chloride dust suppressants will be used. - Cover or otherwise contain loose construction materials with the potential to release airborne particulates during transport, installation or removal to the extent practical. - Disturbed areas will be restored as soon as practical to minimize duration of soil exposure.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects for air quality are expected to be minimized.

Concern	Potential Project Effects	Committed Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects After Mitigation
Archaeological Resources	Disturbance to lands with potential to contain archaeological resources.	- Archaeological field work will be completed before construction and First Nation communities will be provided opportunities to participate in the field surveys and review the findings and archaeological assessment reports. - If archaeological artifacts are encountered during construction, work in the vicinity will cease and a licensed archaeologist will be engaged immediately to ensure compliance with the <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i>. - At the request of some communities, Hydro One has committed to completing Stage 2 archaeology using enhanced pedestrian survey methodology. Additionally, Hydro One has committed to completing Stage 2 work on some areas previously assessed.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, including applicable archaeology assessments, net effects on archaeological resources are not anticipated.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Potential impact to environmentally sensitive areas as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	- The Project will be designed in an existing ROW, and we will aim to avoid any temporary construction access or work within Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Access plans will be developed during detailed design as more information regarding tower placement becomes available. Information on Access will be in the EMP, which will be shared with First Nations prior to construction. - Additionally, First Nations will have an opportunity to participate in the Biodiversity Initiative for the project which will seek to fund opportunities to create or enhance habitat to address concerns raised. Hydro One will involve interested communities in the Biodiversity Initiative, including potential incorporation of TEK where that information is willingly provided. - Refer to mitigation measures planned for Spills under Physical Environment, Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removal under Surface Water Resources, and Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to Environmentally Sensitive Areas through vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation and visual landscapes are expected to be minimized.
Habitat Fragmentation	Potential disturbance or loss of wildlife habitat, including habitat fragmentation.	- The Project will be designed in an existing ROW which is already subject to routine maintenance. This avoids the need for a new transmission corridor and the associated long-term vegetation change and fragmentation. - Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features, and Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Features. - Appropriate mitigation for Significant Wildlife Habitat would depend on the type of candidate SWH but would generally aim to avoid sensitive periods (e.g., bird breeding season, bat roosting season) and/or include measures to avoid or minimize disturbance such as through physical barriers (e.g., exclusion fencing, wetland matting). The Significant Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Support Tool (MNRF 2014) would also be consulted for guidance on appropriate mitigation options by SWH type. - Additionally, First Nations will have an opportunity to participate in the Biodiversity Initiative for the project which will seek to fund opportunities to create or enhance habitat to address concerns raised. Hydro One will involve interested communities in the Biodiversity Initiative, including potential incorporation of TEK where that information is willingly provided.	Disturbance is anticipated to be minimal as most of the proposed work will be within the existing ROW, which is already subject to routine maintenance. Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, habitat fragmentation net effects are expected to be minimized.

Concern	Potential Project Effects	Committed Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects After Mitigation
Species at Risk	Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or SAR habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	- Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features, and Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Features. - Appropriate mitigation would depend on the SAR but would generally aim to avoid sensitive periods (e.g., bird breeding season, bat roosting season) where practical, along with additional measures to avoid or minimize disturbance (e.g., exclusion fencing, wetland matting). - Should future surveys identify suitable features to support hibernacula or bat migratory areas, these will be brought to the attention of First Nations and consultation will occur on the most appropriate mitigation strategies. - More information on the activities at the Clarington TS property, in particular those relating to SAR habitats, will be discussed with First Nations. - Once detailed design is confirmed, areas where disturbance is planned will be evaluated against specific SAR habitat requirements, and targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified. Hydro One remains committed to continually engaging with communities throughout the project, which includes reviewing project approvals, protection of species, the Environmental Management Plan, and appropriate mitigation.	Use of the existing ROW avoids the need for new ROW corridor in incompatible SAR habitats, and disturbance to SAR on/adjacent the ROW will primarily be transient and temporary disturbance from construction and periodic maintenance, and these effects can be managed with avoidance and mitigation measures. Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to SAR are expected to be minimized
Lakes, Rivers and Tributaries	Potential change to fish communities, health and habitat as a result of in-water works, material placement, vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, spills and leaks etc.	Hydro One has heard that all wetlands and waterways are considered significant to First Nations and are afforded protections, regardless of the provincial designation. Hydro One and our EPC Contractor are committing to avoiding adverse effects to watercourses wherever practical, including access roads and tower placements. These will be determined during detailed design for the Project. First Nations will continue to be provided Project materials to review during the detailed design, including the EMP. The Project will aim to avoid impacts on the near and in-water areas. If impacts are predicted, detailed and species-specific surveys will be conducted before permitting, in consultation with regulators and Indigenous communities. All water features that were not assessed or lacked information on permanence and thermal regime were assumed to be the most sensitive (i.e., cold water), detailed design will aim to avoid sensitive features (i.e., water features/fish habitats) to the extent practical and limit in-water works (i.e., water crossings) and impacts to the riparian areas. Where not practical, site-specific surveys will be completed to facilitate permitting. Hydro One confirms all appropriate studies will be completed and authorizations received ahead of any impacts.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to lakes, rivers and tributaries are expected to be minimized.

Concern	Potential Project Effects	Committed Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects After Mitigation
Noise and Vibration	Potential disturbance as a result of noise, including potential use of implosive splicing and associated increased vibrations levels. Indirect noise disturbance effects on wildlife during construction can include temporary declines in habitat occupancy, as well as changes to mobility and feeding habitat patterns.	Most wildlife species that have the potential to occur within the Project work areas are habituated to human activities and are mobile. For the most part, sensitive resident animals can relocate temporarily to nearby habitats through flight or via existing corridors (e.g., fencerows, watercourse riparian areas) to seek shelter as a mechanism to avoid noise and disturbance associated with construction activities and return after construction has finished. Construction disturbance will be sufficiently local and transitory so that little disturbance or displacement of wildlife is anticipated. With the implementation of natural features and species-specific mitigation measures outlined in Section 7.7.6 and Section 7.7.5 for Noise, the effect of the Project on wildlife will be minimal.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects for noise and vibration are expected to be minimized and are generally expected to be short-term, temporary and transient.
Traditional Use Plants	Removal of vegetation within proposed activity work areas. Accumulation of cleared vegetation.	- As the DKPL Project is being built in an existing ROW it is not expected that additional clearing outside of the existing transmission corridor will be required. If additional clearing is deemed to be necessary, the extent will be minimized and First Nations will be consulted on the need for removals, timing for the work and other and mitigation measures to be applied. - Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features, and Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Features.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to traditional use plants are expected to be minimized.
Landscapes of Importance	Potential impact to Black Oak Savannah and Tall Grass Prairie as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	- Hydro One understands the significance of Black Oak Savannah and Tall Grass Prairie communities to First Nations and is committed to working collaboratively to identify and protect these ecosystems (including providing additional information and participating in further discussions to ensure any concerns have been appropriately addressed prior to construction). - Once detailed design is confirmed, areas where disturbance is planned will be evaluated against specific habitat requirements. - Outside of the Class EA process and unrelated to this project, Hydro One has committed to provide funding for the development of a protocol regarding Tall Grass Prairie. - Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features, and Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Features.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to landscapes of importance are expected to be minimized.
Impacts to Treaty Rights	The Project overlaps the traditional lands of eight First Nations where there may be a potential to impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights.	- Hydro One understands the significance of the Conservation Authority lands within the Project ROW to First Nations as those which they can practice their Treaty rights on. - As specific Indigenous Treaty rights are identified, we will work with the communities on methods to address these.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to First Nations Lands and Interests are expected to be minimized.

Concern	Potential Project Effects	Committed Mitigation Measures	Residual Effects After Mitigation
Wetlands	Potential impacts to wetlands as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	- Hydro One has heard that all wetlands and waterways are considered culturally significant to First Nations and are afforded protections, regardless of the provincial designation. - Hydro One and our EPC Contractor are committing to avoiding wetlands where practical, including equipment operation, access roads and tower placements. These will be determined during detailed design for the Project. First Nations will continue to be provided project materials to review during the detailed design, including the EMP. - Once detailed design is confirmed, areas where disturbance is planned will be evaluated against specific SWH requirements, and targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified. - Cultural significance of wetlands within the ROW that are subject to impacts will be confirmed, and appropriate mitigation will be developed, in consultation with First Nations. - Constructing new towers does not alter the overall hydrology/drainage regime/flow patterns of a site. During construction, appropriate measures—including the use of constructed access in wetlands, installation of equalizing culverts on access roads, and proper dewatering procedures if necessary—will be implemented to prevent rutting and to maintain surface flow patterns.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to wetlands are expected to be minimized.
Woodlands	Removal of woodlands (transition to compatible vegetation).	- Hydro One has heard that woodlands are considered culturally significant for First Nations as they support elements required for continued practice of culture and rights. - The Project will be designed in an existing ROW which is already subject to routine maintenance and has already transitioned to compatible vegetation. The extent of clearing and vegetation removal required for the transmission line ROW within woodlands will be minimized to the extent feasible. As the DKPL Project is being built in an existing ROW it is not expected that additional clearing will be required. - Once detailed design is confirmed, areas where disturbance is planned will be evaluated against specific SWH requirements, and targeted surveys will be conducted if suitable habitat conditions are identified. - Cultural significance of woodlands within the ROW that are subject to impacts will be confirmed, and appropriate mitigation will be developed, in consultation with First Nations. - Should additional clearing be required, removals will be conducted outside of the breeding bird season wherever practical, or nest searches will be conducted by a qualified person in accordance with applicable provincial and federal requirements, and active nests will be buffered from construction activities for the remainder of the breeding period. Woodlands with the potential to support bats will include visual exit surveys. - Refer to mitigation measures planned for Significant Woodlands under Designated or Special Natural Areas, Species at Risk (SAR) under Natural Heritage Features, Vegetation under Natural Heritage Features, and Wildlife Habitat Natural Heritage Features.	Following effective implementation of mitigation measures, net effects to woodlots are expected to be minimized.

7.12 Cumulative Effects Assessment

The cumulative effects assessment (CEA) for the Project has been completed in accordance with the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities requirements. The CEA involved the consideration of net effects from the Project outlined in **Table 7-4** combined with effects from other proposed undertakings in the LSA where documentation was publicly available and where those effects are expected to overlap spatially and temporally.

7.12.1 Regional and Historic Cumulative Effects to Aboriginal Treaties and Indigenous Rights

Hydro One recognizes and appreciates the legacies of settlement, including agricultural and land conversion and development activities, have and continue to put pressure on First Nations' current and future use of lands and resources. Hydro One's role is to provide the necessary electrical infrastructure based on regional planning assessments and direction provided by the IESO. In the case of the Project and other Hydro One projects in Ontario, the need for this new infrastructure has been identified by IESO in their regional planning framework and demand forecasts, with a formal direction provided to Hydro One to undertake planning, and eventually construction and operation of the necessary transmission infrastructure. As such, Hydro One is acting on the direction provided by IESO, to design and build the Project. Hydro One is committed to working with First Nation communities throughout the project lifecycle.

7.12.2 Project Inclusion List

Table 7-4 summarizes projects overlapping the LSA, the potential for these projects to interact with the Durham Kawartha Power Line and if they are included in the CEA. **Figure 7-1** provides an overview of known projects that overlap with the LSA which have been included in this CEA.

Projects in the CEA include those that are considered to be likely to proceed and are reasonably foreseeable including projects that:

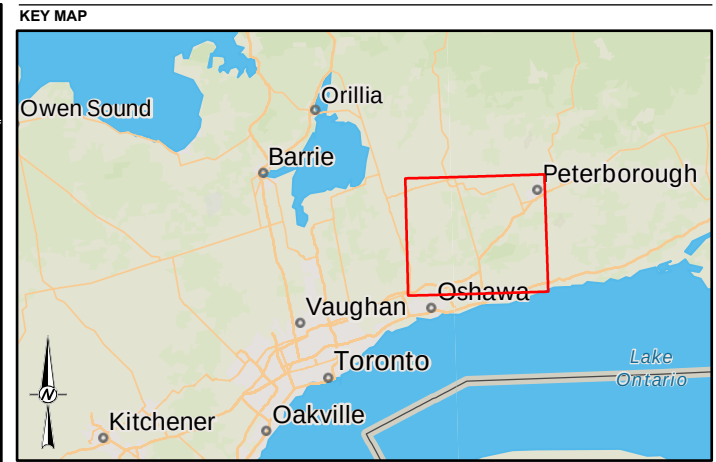
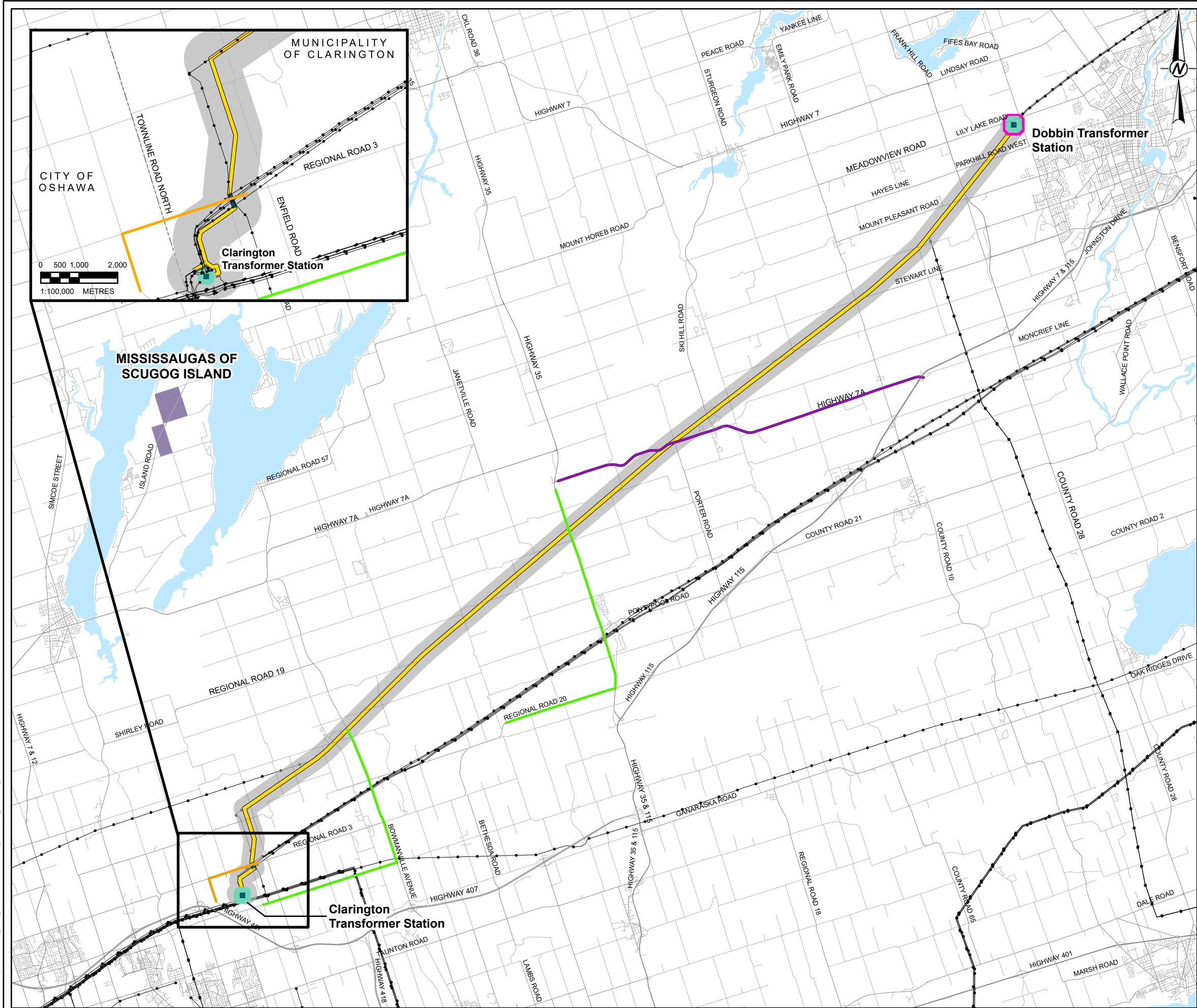
- Are currently undertaking detailed design, site preparation or are under construction.
- Have received regulatory approval.
- Have been publicly announced with applications filed with a defined project execution period and with sufficient project details for consideration.
- Are currently undergoing an impact assessment/environmental assessment.
- Are in a permitting process.
- Are identified in an approved development plan.

Table 7-4: Projects Considered in the Cumulative Effects Assessment

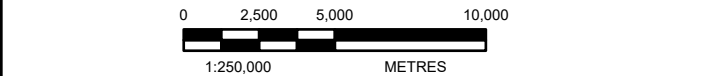
Project Name	Proponent	Description of Project	Potential to Interact with the Durham-Kawartha Power Line Project Net Effects	Included in Cumulative Effects Assessment
Burketon CPR Bridge Replacement (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2025a)	Durham Region	The proposed project includes the replacement of the Burketon CPKC Rail overhead bridge along Bowmanville Ave (Regional Road 57). Traffic through the bridge location will be maintained on Bowmanville Avenue (Regional Road 57) during construction. Construction is planned to begin and finish in 2025.	Construction of the proposed project will be complete prior to the start of the construction of the Durham Kawartha Power Line. As such, the net effects of the Durham Kawartha Power Line will not interact cumulatively with this proposed project.	No
Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 (Government of Ontario, 2025)	Ministry of Transportation	The proposed project includes the resurfacing of Highway 115 near the village of Bethany. Construction is planned to begin and finish 2026/2027.	The proposed project overlaps the LSA and construction period of the Durham Kawartha Power Line and was considered in the cumulative effects assessment.	Yes
Rehabilitation of Monaghan Pkwy to Fowlers corner	Ministry of Transportation	The proposed project includes the resurfacing of Highway 7 near Mount Pleasant Road and Highway 7. Construction is planned to begin and finish in 2025.	Construction of the proposed project will be complete prior to the start of the construction of the Durham Kawartha Power Line. As such, the net effects of the Durham Kawartha Power Line will not interact cumulatively with this proposed project.	No
Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Road to Enfield Road (Regional Municipality of Durham, 2024c)	Durham Region	The proposed project includes the road reconstruction and road rehabilitation on Regional Road 3 from 75 metres east of Townline Road to 430m west of Enfield Road. Construction is planned to begin and finish in 2026. Proposed project activities include, but are not limited to, utility relocations, road shoulder widening, improvements to the intersection at Langmaid Road, road pavement rehabilitation, construction of a partial paved shoulder, ditch drainage improvements, culvert replacements as required, road grade adjustments, tree removal and/or tree trimming where required.	Construction of the proposed project will be complete prior to the start of the construction of the Durham Kawartha Power Line. However, the proposed project may result in effects that are not fully restored following construction and rehabilitation that could overlap spatially with the net effects of the Durham Kawartha Power Line (e.g., reseeding and/or revegetation may not be established prior to the Project start date).	Yes

Project Name	Proponent	Description of Project	Potential to Interact with the Durham-Kawartha Power Line Project Net Effects	Included in Cumulative Effects Assessment
Dobbin Component Replacement Project	Hydro One	The proposed project would involve the replacement of existing autotransformers T1, T2, and T5 with two new autotransformers. This would include new supporting civil and electrical infrastructure for the new autotransformers. Additionally, this project will include the replacement and upgrade of switches, related protection and control equipment, and five existing circuit breakers to meet modern reliability standards. Most of the work will take place within the fenced boundary of the station, except for two locations where the fenced boundary will be extended slightly. These extensions are located within previously disturbed portions of the Dobbin TS property. The station is equipped with spill containment, underdrainage, and an end of pipe oil water separator. Minor modifications will be made to these features to account for the project work identified above. The project will be amending the existing Environmental Compliance Approval for Drainage Works jointly with the DKPL project station work to account for these proposed changes to the station.	The proposed project overlaps the LSA and construction period of the Durham Kawartha Power Line and was considered in the cumulative effects assessment.	Yes
Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Hydro One	Relocation of a 44 kV distribution line being completed in two phases. Phase 1 includes relocation along Durham Regional Road 3 and Highway 57. Phase 2 includes relocation along Boundary Road and Highway 35. Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance. Limited vegetation removal may be required to accommodate the distribution line.	Construction of the proposed project will be complete prior to the start of the construction of the Durham Kawartha Power Line. However, the proposed project may result in effects that are not fully restored following construction and rehabilitation that could overlap spatially with the net effects of the Durham Kawartha Power Line (e.g., reseeding and/or revegetation may not be established prior to the Project start date).	Yes

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- Legend**
- TRANSFORMER STATION
 - DOBBIN COMPONENT REPLACEMENT
 - PREFERRED ROUTE
 - POTENTIAL UNDERGROUND LINE
 - REHABILITATION OF HWY 115 TO BETHANY
 - REHABILITATION OF REGIONAL ROAD 3
 - ENFIELD TS RELOCATION PROJECTS
 - LOCAL STUDY AREA (500M ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ROUTE CENTERLINE)
 - FIRST NATION COMMUNITY



NOTE(S)
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)
1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: COMMUNITY: SOURCES: ESRI, TOMTOM, GARMIN, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: WGS 1984 WEB MERCATOR AUXILIARY SPHERE

CLIENT
HYDRO ONE

PROJECT
DURHAM KAWARTHA POWER LINE PROJECT

TITLE
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-10-17
DESIGNED	---	
PREPARED	MC	
REVIEWED	JH	
APPROVED	KM	

PROJECT NO. CA0020403.4964 CONTROL 0001 REV. 0 FIGURE 7-1

IF THIS MEASUREMENT DOES NOT MATCH WHAT IS SHOWN, THE SHEET SIZE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM: ANSI B 25mm

7.12.2 Analysis of Cumulative Effects

Table 7-5 summarizes the cumulative effects analysis completed for projects on the Project Inclusion List.

Table 7-5: Cumulative Effects Assessment

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Agricultural Resources: Loss of Agricultural Lands and Crops	Temporary removal of crops and soils supporting crop production, as well as permanent removal of land available for agricultural production as a result of Project infrastructure (e.g., tower footings).	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in a loss of agricultural lands and crops.	Agriculture is a compatible use within overhead transmission line ROWs and the extent of agricultural land permanently removed from transmission line projects is limited to the tower footings themselves. Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on loss of agricultural lands and crops and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in loss of agricultural lands and crops.	The project activities planned for this future project could result in a loss of agricultural lands and crops.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance and project activities are not anticipated to affect agricultural resources.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Agricultural Resources: Soil Compaction	Compaction of soil caused by movement of construction equipment or maintenance vehicles over agricultural lands.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in the potential for isolated soil compaction to occur within their respective project limits.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for soil compaction and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in soil compaction.	Construction associated with this future project could result in activities leading to soil compaction.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance and project activities are not anticipated to affect agricultural resources.		
Agricultural Resources: Soil Mixing	Potential for excavation activities to cause mixing of soil horizons, thus lowering the quality of soil.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in the potential for soil mixing to occur within their respective project limits.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for soil mixing and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in soil mixing.	Construction associated with this future project could result in activities leading to soil mixing.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance and project activities are not anticipated to affect agricultural resources.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Agricultural Resources: Disturbance to Farm Operations	Potential to disturb farm operations including planting and harvesting schedules, spraying, tiling activities, etc. Impediments to the maneuverability of agricultural equipment.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in temporary disturbances to farm operations within their respective project limits.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for disturbance to farm operations and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in disturbance to farm operations.	Construction activities associated with this future project could result in temporary disturbances to farm operations.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance and project activities are not anticipated to affect agricultural resources.		
Agricultural Resources: Vegetation Removal	Potential for herbicide overspray and partial removal or fragmentation of existing hedgerows and windbreaks between agricultural land parcels.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in vegetation removal within their respective project limits.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for vegetation removal and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in vegetation removal.	Construction activities associated with this future project could result in vegetation removal.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance and project activities are not anticipated to affect agricultural resources.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Agricultural Resources: Invasive Species	Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in the inadvertent spread of invasive species within their respective project limits.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for the inadvertent spread of invasive species and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in the inadvertent spread of invasive species.	Construction activities associated with this future project could result in the spread of invasive species if they are present within the project's limits.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Most of the project will be conducted on road allowance and project activities are not anticipated to affect agricultural resources.		
Agricultural Resources: Contamination of Organic or Identity Preserved (IP) Crops	Potential for activities, including use of herbicides to control noxious weeds or vegetation, to contaminate organic or IP crops or agricultural fields transitioning to organic/IP crop types. Potential for inadvertent movement of trace soils between agricultural fields which contain organic or IP crops.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Project, and two other future projects could result in the contamination of organic or IP crops within their respective project limits.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for contamination of organic or IP crops and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in the contamination of organic or IP crops.	Construction activities associated with this future project could result in the contamination of organic or IP crops if they are present within the project's limits.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect agricultural resources.	Construction activities associated with this future project could result in the contamination of organic or IP crops if they are present within the project's limits due to the potential of chemical control methods that may overspray to crops adjacent to the road allowance.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Cultural Heritage Resources	Potential for direct and indirect impacts to known and potential heritage resources.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Unknown	No	Unknown	The Project, and two other future projects could potentially adversely affect cultural heritage resources. However, additional studies are required and mitigation measures at the project level are expected to limit adverse effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on cultural heritage resources or IP crops and no additional mitigation
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to result in the adverse effects to cultural heritage resources.	Potential for effect unknown until the cultural heritage studies are completed for this Project.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect cultural heritage resources.	Potential for effect unknown until the cultural heritage studies are completed for this Project.		
Land Use and Communities: Human Settlements – Labour Market and Economy	Potential for activities to result in local employment opportunities; spin-off effects to the local service industry; or indirect employment/economic benefits.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Project and two other future projects could result in positive effects to the local labour market and economy due to demands for workers and supplying businesses.	Net positive cumulative effects are predicted.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to result in positive effects to labour market and local economy during construction due to the overlapping construction periods.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	The project activities are anticipated to result in positive effects to labour market and local economy during construction due to the overlapping construction periods.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Land Use and Communities: Land Use Planning	Potential to impact land use planning.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Unknown	No	No	The Project, and potentially one other future project could result in potential impacts to land use planning.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on land use planning and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are not anticipated to affect land use planning.	Potential for effect unknown until further information from this future project is identified.	The project activities will occur on the Dobbin TS property and thus will not affect this concern.	The project activities are not anticipated to affect land use planning.		
Land Use and Communities: Infrastructure and Services – Traffic and Transportation	Potential for increased traffic (including heavy equipment) on local/regional roads; temporary road closures/detours.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Project and two other future projects could result in potential impacts to traffic.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for increased traffic and temporary road closures/detours and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Potential increase in traffic, including heavy equipment on local and regional roads, and temporary road closures and detours.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	Potential increase in traffic, including heavy equipment on local and regional roads.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Land Use and Communities: Nuisance Effects – Air Quality	Construction activities have the potential to create temporary, localized effects on air quality	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Project and two other future projects could result in potential nuisance effects to air quality (e.g., localized increase in dust) due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project’s contribution to cumulative effects for nuisance effects on air quality and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Potential short-term and localized cumulative impacts to the air quality due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	Potential short-term and localized cumulative impacts to the air quality due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		
Land Use and Communities: Noise & Vibration	Construction activities and maintenance activities during operation activities have the potential to affect ambient noise and vibration levels, while the operation of the transmission line has the potential to affect noise levels during temporary weather events (i.e., foul weather).	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Project and two other future projects could result in potential nuisance effects to noise and vibration due to the overlapping construction schedule. Should several construction activities proceed at the same time and within the vicinity of each other, these effects could be compounded.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project’s contribution to cumulative effects for nuisance effects on noise and vibration and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Potential short-term and localized cumulative impacts to ambient noise and vibration due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	Potential short-term and localized cumulative impacts to ambient noise and vibration due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Atmospheric Environment: Climate Change	GHG emissions will be generated from construction equipment. Carbon sinks will be removed resulting in GHG emissions and loss of carbon sequestration.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All projects have identified increased potential for greenhouse gas emission releases associated with construction equipment not normally in operation in the construction area or through land clearing activities impacting carbon sinks. These activities have potential to contribute to climate change. When combined, these projects together would produce larger emissions than individually on their own.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for the potential contribution to climate change and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Reasonable to assume emissions will be generated from construction equipment.	Some vegetation clearing required.	Reasonable to assume emissions will be generated from construction equipment.	Land clearing required impacting carbon sinks.		
Natural Environment Resources - Atmospheric Environment: Air Quality	Potential for fugitive dust and impacts to air quality from vehicle emissions.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Project and two other future projects could result in increased potential for negative air quality effects through construction releases of dust and airborne particulates due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for changes to air quality and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Reasonable to assume the potential for fugitive dust and impacts to air quality from vehicle emissions.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	Reasonable to assume the potential for fugitive dust and impacts to air quality from vehicle emissions.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources – Atmospheric Environment: Noise and Vibration	Potential disturbance as a result of noise, including potential use of implosive splicing and their associated increased vibrations levels. Indirect noise disturbance effects on wildlife during construction can include temporary declines in habitat occupancy, as well as changes to mobility and feeding habitat patterns.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Project and two other future projects could result in potential nuisance effects to noise and vibration due to the overlapping construction schedule. Should several construction activities proceed at the same time and within the vicinity of each other, these effects could be compounded.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for changes to noise and vibration and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Potential short-term and localized cumulative impacts to ambient noise and vibration due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	Potential short-term and localized cumulative impacts to ambient noise and vibration due to the overlapping construction schedule.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		
Natural Environment Resources - Surface Water Resources: Soil Rutting & Vegetation Removals	Potential for vehicles and equipment to create rutting in soils, creating ponding or channelization leading to additional erosion of soils during construction activities. Vegetation removals have the potential for increases in both overland flow and water temperature, as well as mobilization and transport of organic debris and sediment to nearby watercourses, waterbodies and municipal drains.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Project and three other future projects have potential for effects to surface water resources during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on surface water resources and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in soil rutting and vegetation removal.	Although construction of the Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Road to Enfield Road is set to be completed before commencement of the Durham Kawartha Power Line project, reseeding and/or revegetation may not be established prior to the Project start date.	Construction activities are planned within Otonabee Conservation's Regulated Areas and within 30 m of a potential watercourse. These activities could result in limited soil rutting and vegetation clearing that could affect surface water resources.	Although construction of the project is set to be completed before commencement of the Durham Kawartha Power Line project, reseeding and/or revegetation may not be established prior to the Project start date.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Environmentally Sensitive Areas	Potential impacts to the Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area and the Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	No	Yes	No	The Project and one other future project have potential for effects to Environmentally Sensitive Areas during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on Environmentally Sensitive Areas and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area or Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area or Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area.	The Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area overlaps with the Dobbin TS property. Construction activities are not planned within the Environmentally Sensitive Area or within 30 m, but these activities have the potential to affect the Environmentally Sensitive Area through erosion and sedimentation.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Jackson Creek Wetland Environmentally Sensitive Area or Jackson Creek Headwaters/Cavan Swamp Environmentally Sensitive Area .		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Conservation Areas	Potential impacts to the Enfield Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area and the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	No	No	No	This net effect is not expected to overlap spatially or temporally with the effects from other future projects.	Not Applicable.
		Cumulative Effect	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Enfield Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area or the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Enfield Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area or the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Enfield Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area or the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Enfield Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area or the Cavan Swamp Wildlife Area.		
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest	Potential impacts to Enfield Wetlands ANSI or Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	No	No	The Project and two other future projects have potential for effects to the Enfield Wetlands ANSI and Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on the Enfield Wetlands ANSI and Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Potential for loss within the Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation.	Potential for loss within the Enfield Wetlands ANSI through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Enfield Wetlands ANSI or Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of Enfield Wetlands ANSI or Cavan Creek Headwaters ANSI.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Significant Woodlands	Removal of woodlands (transition to compatible vegetation) within the ROW. Vegetation management within the ROW to ensure that incompatible vegetation does not threaten the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Project and two other future projects have potential for effects to significant woodlands during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on significant woodlands and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in the removal of woodlands.	Potential for loss of woodlands through vegetation removal.	Component replacement activities are proposed within the fenced boundary of the Dobbin TS or in previously disturbed adjacent areas and not anticipated to require the removal of woodlands.	Potential for loss of woodlands through vegetation removal.		
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Valleylands	Potential impacts to valleylands due to removal of vegetation, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	No	Yes	No	The Project and one other future project have potential for effects to valleylands during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on Environmentally Sensitive Areas and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in adverse effects to valleylands.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of valleylands associated with Bowmanville Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek or Pigeon River.	Construction activities are planned within 120 m of Jackson Creek and have the potential to affect associated valleylands through erosion and sedimentation.	This future project does not cross and is not within 120 m of valleylands associated with Bowmanville Creek, Fleetwood Creek, Jackson Creek or Pigeon River.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Designated or Special Natural Areas: Significant Wetlands	Potential impacts to wetlands (including PSW) as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Project, and three other future projects have potential for effects to significant wetlands during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects to significant wetlands and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in adverse effects to significant wetlands.	Potential for loss or degradation of significant wetlands through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation.	Potential for degradation of significant wetlands through soil erosion and sedimentation. The Jackson Creek East PSW is within 120 m of the project. Construction activities are not planned within the PSW or within 30 m, but these activities have the potential to affect the PSW through erosion and sedimentation.	Potential for loss or degradation of significant wetlands through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation.		
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Vegetation	Removal of vegetation within proposed activity work areas.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Project, and three other future projects have potential for effects to vegetation during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects from vegetation removal and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in the removal of vegetation.	Potential for loss of vegetation and increased erosion and sedimentation.	Potential for loss of vegetation and increased erosion and sedimentation.	Potential for loss of vegetation and increased erosion and sedimentation.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Wetlands	Potential impacts to wetlands as a result of vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Project, and three other future projects have potential for effects to wetlands during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects to wetlands and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in adverse effects to wetlands.	Potential for loss or degradation of wetlands through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation.	An unevaluated wetland is within 120 m of the project. Construction activities are not planned within the wetland or within 30 m, but these activities have the potential to affect the wetland through erosion and sedimentation.	Potential for loss or degradation of wetlands through vegetation loss, soil erosion and sedimentation.		
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Fish and Fish Habitat	Potential change to fish communities, health and habitat as a result of in-water works, material placement, vegetation loss, soil erosion, sedimentation, etc.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Project and three other future projects have identified potential for effects to fish and fish habitat during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential temporary effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in changes to fish habitat.	Effects to fish and fish habitat due to culvert extensions, new culverts and potential realignments.	Construction activities are planned within 30 m of a potential watercourse, which could result in potential effects to fish and fish habitat from vegetation removal, spills and sedimentation and erosion.	Potential effect to fish and fish habitat due to vegetation clearing, potential for spills and work near or in water, if required.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Woodlands	Removal of woodland (transition to compatible vegetation) within the transmission line ROW. Vegetation management within the transmission line ROW to ensure that incompatible vegetation does not threaten the safe and reliable operation of the transmission line.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Project and two other future projects have identified potential for effects to woodlands during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential temporary effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on woodlands and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in the removal of woodlands.	Some vegetation removal which may affect woodlands.	Component replacement activities are anticipated to occur within the fenced boundary of the Dobbin TS property and previously disturbed adjacent areas and are not anticipated to require the removal of woodlands.	Some vegetation removal which may affect woodlands.		
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Species at Risk (SAR) – Blanding's Turtle, Black Ash, Butternut, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler, Wood Thrush, Monarch and Western Chorus Frog	Potential disturbance or loss of SAR individuals and/or SAR habitat. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance to SAR. Potential reduction in SAR habitat quality.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Project and two other future projects have potential for effects to SAR and/or SAR habitat during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on SAR and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in the removal of SAR habitat.	Potential disturbance or loss of SAR and/or SAR habitat due to vegetation removal.	Component replacement activities are anticipated to occur within the fenced boundary of the Dobbin TS property and previously disturbed adjacent areas and are not anticipated to result in the removal of SAR habitat.	Potential disturbance or loss of SAR and/or SAR habitat due to vegetation removal.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Wildlife Habitat	Potential disturbance or loss of wildlife habitat, including habitat fragmentation and degradation. Potential decreased reproduction and/or movement opportunities and increased sensory disturbance.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Project and two other future projects have potential for effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for disturbance of wildlife habitat and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in the removal of wildlife habitat.	Potential disturbance or loss of wildlife habitat, including habitat fragmentation, due to vegetation removal.	Component replacement activities are anticipated to occur within the fenced boundary of the Dobbin TS property and previously disturbed adjacent areas and are not anticipated to result in the removal of wildlife habitat.	Potential disturbance or loss of wildlife habitat, including habitat fragmentation, due to vegetation removal.		
Natural Environment Resources - Natural Heritage Features: Invasive Species	Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Project and three other future projects have potential to cause the inadvertent spread of invasive species during construction activities. Project specific mitigation measures can be implemented to manage potential effects.	Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects for the inadvertent spread of invasive species and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Road resurfacing activities are anticipated to focus on the paved roadway and not result in the inadvertent spread of invasive species.	Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.	Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.	Potential for inadvertent spread of invasive species propagules through the movement of soil, debris and/or plant material via construction vehicles and equipment.		

Environmental Concern	Durham Kawartha Power Line Net Effect	Cumulative Effects Interactions	Rehabilitation of Hwy 115 to Bethany	Rehabilitation of Regional Road 3 from Townline Rd to Enfield Rd	Dobbin TS Component Replacement Project	Enfield TS 44 kV Relocation	Cumulative Effects Analysis	Conclusion
First Nation Land Use and Interests	Potential to affect First Nation community land use and interests.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	The potential for cumulative effects is unknown without additional information from First Nation communities on if their land use and interests may be affected by the future projects. If cumulative effects were to occur, it is expected that cumulative effects will continue to be managed at the project level through project specific mitigation measures, including through habitat offsets to address net effects, in consultation with First Nations.	If cumulative effects were to occur, Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on First Nation community land use and interests and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Potential for effect is unknown without additional information from First Nation communities on if their land use and interests may be affected.	Potential for effect is unknown without additional information from First Nation communities on if their land use and interests may be affected.	Potential for effect is unknown without additional information from First Nation communities on if their land use and interests may be affected.	Potential for effect is unknown without additional information from First Nation communities on if their land use and interests may be affected.		
Visual and Aesthetic Resources: Visibility of the Project by Sensitive Receptors	Visual impacts to sensitive receptors.	Net Effect has Potential to Interact Cumulatively (Yes/No)	Yes	No	No	No	The Project and one other future project could result in negative visual effects associated with construction activities. If multiple project proceed simultaneously, impacts could be compounded having a negative effect on the larger visual landscape.	Potential effects to sensitive receptors would be temporary in nature. Project mitigation measures are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects on visual landscapes and no additional mitigation measures are proposed.
		Cumulative Effect	Reasonable to assume there will be potential visual impacts to sensitive receptors with views of the project during construction.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.	Component replacement activities are anticipated to occur on the Dobbin TS property and not result in a change to the views of the area.	Construction activities associated with this future project are not anticipated to interact as the activities will be completed prior to the construction of the Project.		

7.12.3 Summary of Cumulative Effects

Potential cumulative effects for the Project were assessed by considering effects from other projects that interact and overlap with the net effects for the Project within the LSA. The CEA determined that there are areas where the Project's net effect may combine with the effects of other Projects. However, mitigation measures for the Project are predicted to reduce the Project's contribution to cumulative effects and additional mitigation measures are not recommended.

8 Effects Monitoring

The purpose of effects monitoring is to confirm the extent of the proposed Project's environmental effects by comparing the actual effects with the predicted effects, to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and to determine whether additional measures are warranted. Monitoring also confirms that the commitments, conditions of approval, where applicable, and compliance with other environmental legislation 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 **Sections 6.2** and **7**, a Project-specific Environmental Management Plan will be prepared following the completion of the Class EA process and before the start of construction. The Environmental Management Plan will:

- Summarize legislative requirements;
- Summarize environmental commitments set out in the final ESR, and terms and conditions of approval, if any;
- Ensure the documentation of pre-construction site conditions, where necessary;
- Provide specific directions to construction personnel on the implementation of environmental mitigation measures, response plans, and other information (e.g., identification of SAR);
- Ensure supporting protection plans have been implemented during construction;
- Describe the environmental monitoring process and frequency to be undertaken during construction;
- Outline steps to be taken when documenting monitoring and identify procedures for follow-up actions, as required; and,
- Provide specific directions on the post-construction restoration of work areas and access locations.

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 ongoing monitoring requirements, if required.

9 Conclusion

Hydro One is seeking approval under the *Environmental Assessment Act* to construct a new 230 kV double-circuit transmission line. The new 230 kV transmission line will be approximately 53 km in length and will connect the Clarington Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Clarington and Dobbin TS in the County of Peterborough. The Project will also involve a portion of the transmission line to be placed underground northeast of Clarington TS to cross four separate sets of 230 kV powerlines beside a roadway. The purpose of the project is to upgrade and increase the resiliency of existing infrastructure that serves eastern Ontario.

Hydro One conducted a preliminary assessment to identify viable route alternatives for the new 230 kV transmission line. As a result of this exercise and prioritizing the use of existing transmission line ROW where possible for the Project, two viable route alternatives were identified for the portion of the new transmission line.

Since the NoC in June 2024, First Nation communities, municipal, provincial and federal government officials, staff and agencies, potentially affected and interested persons, and interest groups were consulted. Two rounds of COH's for the general public and stakeholders were held (#1 – June 25, 26, 27, 2024 and #2 – March 18, 2025 and March 20, 2025). Additionally, an interactive online mapping platform was hosted on the Project web page since the commencement of the Class EA process, with regular updates to reflect the progress of the Project and Class EA.

Potential environmental effects were identified for the proposed Project and corresponding mitigation measures were developed to address these effects. Based on information collected, project design and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, net adverse environmental effects are expected to be minimized.

This draft ESR was made available for public comment for 30 days, from October 29, 2025 to November 27, 2025. Hydro One has made best efforts to respond and resolve issues raised by concerned parties during the public review period. Comments received during the public review period, and Hydro One's responses, have been documented in this final ESR. During the draft ESR review period, no Section 16 Order requests were received by the MECP or Hydro One relating to the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project. As such, the proposed Project will be implemented in full compliance with the requirements of the Class EA process as outlined in the final ESR, incorporating input obtained throughout the planning process. Hydro One will obtain the necessary environmental approvals and permits required for the proposed project prior to construction.

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APPENDIX A
Consultation

APPENDIX A - 1

Project Contact List

APPENDIX A - 2

Class EA Consultation Materials

APPENDIX A - 3

Indigenous Consultation

APPENDIX A - 4

Stakeholder Consultation

APPENDIX A - 5

Project Record of Consultation

APPENDIX A - 6

Draft ESR Comments and Responses

APPENDIX B

Environmental Inventory

APPENDIX C

Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment

APPENDIX D

Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report

APPENDIX E

Preliminary Impact Assessment