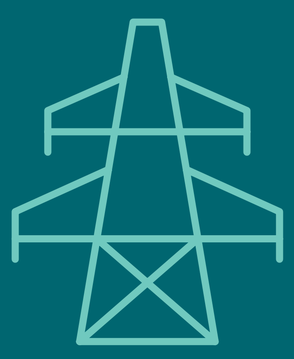
Welcome

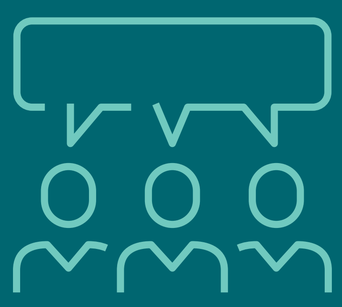
New InnPower Municipal Transformer Station and Hydro One 230 kV Line

Community Open House #2

Why we are here:

- Provide project need and overview
- Share next steps
- Provide information for ongoing community consultation



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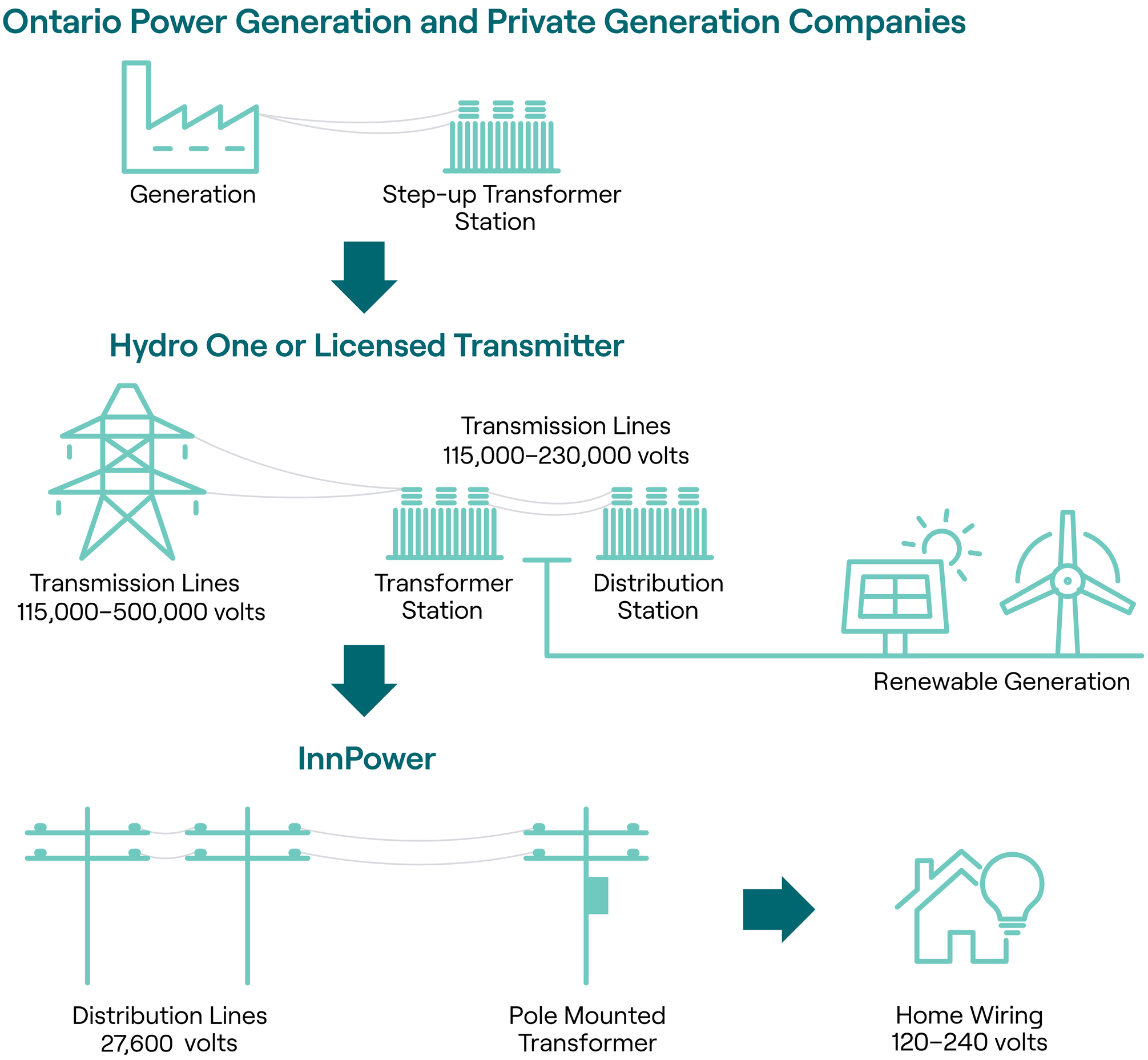
Keeping the lights on in your community

Hydro One operates Ontario's transmission system energizing life and communities, helping Ontarians live a better and brighter future. We transmit power to InnPower, who keep the lights on for homes and businesses in the southern area of the City of Barrie and the Town of Innisfil.



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Energy partners

Building infrastructure to meet the energy needs of today and tomorrow involves a number of partners, including:

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) oversees planning to ensure electricity needs are met both now and in the future.

Builds, owns, operates and maintains transmission and distribution electricity facilities across the province of Ontario.

Builds, owns, operates and maintains distribution electricity facilities within the Town of Innisfil and the southern portion of the City of Barrie.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is the legislative authority for Environmental Assessments for minor transmission facilities in Ontario.

Regulates the electricity market in Ontario, including electricity rates.

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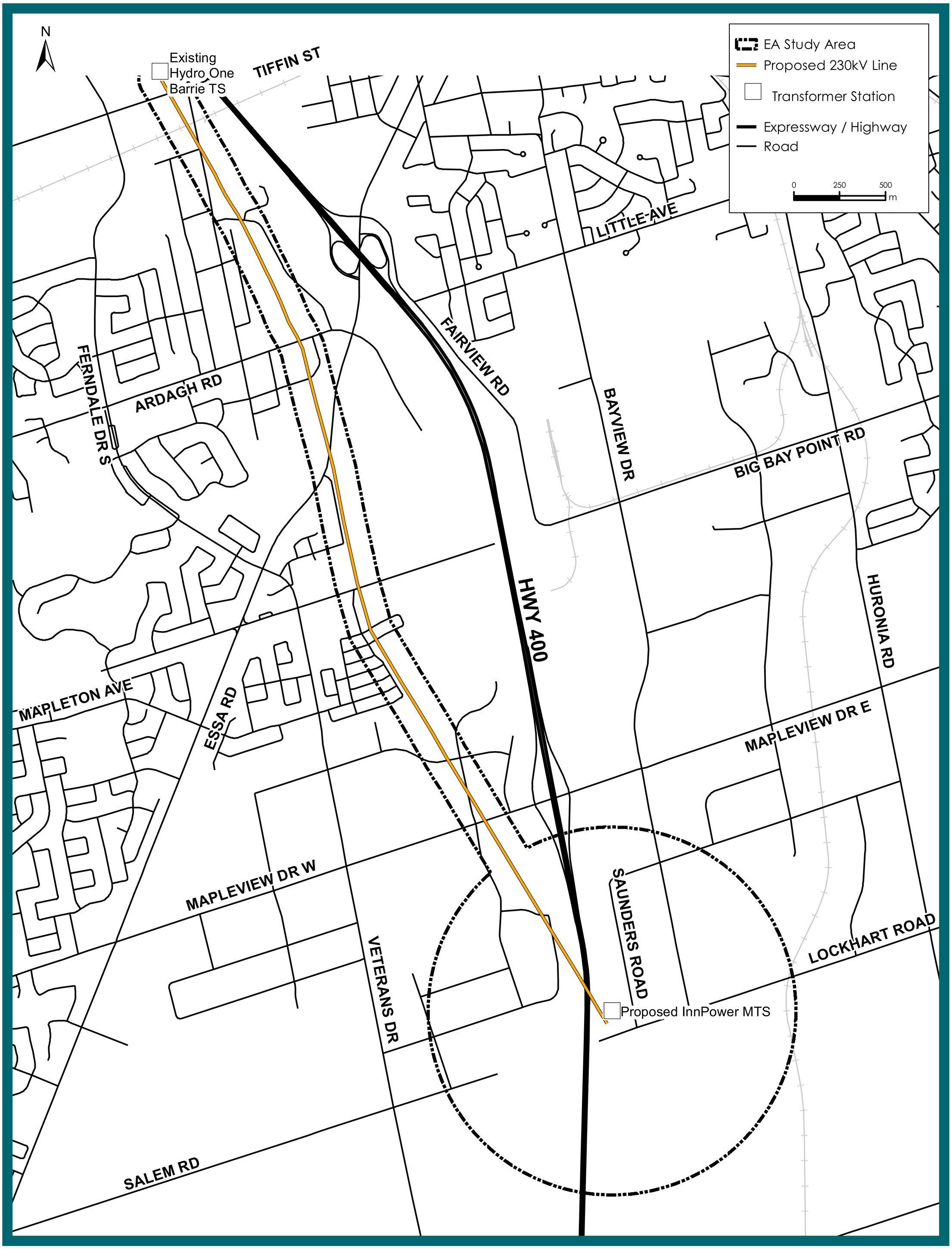
Project overview

InnPower and Hydro One are working together to explore potential infrastructure upgrades to ensure your community has safe and reliable power for years to come.

Electricity demand is growing in your community. An estimated 12,685 new connections (residential, commercial & industrial) are expected by 2028 and 13,315 post 2028.

InnPower has identified that a new Municipal Transformer Station (MTS) is required in the southern area of the City of Barrie and Town of Innisfil. To power the new MTS, Hydro One will need to replace approximately 6 km of an existing 115 kV Transmission Line with a new 230 kV Transmission Line. Together, Hydro One and InnPower began the Class Environmental Assessment process for this project in July 2023, in accordance with Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Project area



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Project area identification

To determine the location of the MTS, InnPower considered criteria such as:

- Proximity to existing infrastructure
- Minimizing impacts to the natural environment
- Constructability and cost

To determine a route to connect the station to the transmission system, Hydro One considered criteria such as:

- Ability to utilize an existing corridor
- Minimizing technical challenges
- Minimizing impacts to the natural and socio-economic environment
- The distance between the new MTS and the northern connection point at Hydro One's Barrie TS
- Constructability and cost

What is a Class Environmental Assessment?

This project is subject to the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2022), in accordance with the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. This process ensures that transmission projects that have a predictable range of effects are planned and carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.

As part of the Class EA process, all project planning will be shaped by:

- Engagement with government agencies, residents, interest groups, elected officials and Indigenous communities
- Collection of natural and socio-economic data
- Identification of potential effects and proposed mitigation measures

Hydro One's Class EA is available at: **HydroOne.com/ClassEA**

Project milestones

Ongoing Engagement

June 2023
Notice Of Commencement

July 2023
First Community Open House

Fall 2024
Second Community Open House ← **We are here**

Early Winter 2025
Draft Environmental Study Report available for public review and comment

Winter 2025
Final ESR report and Class EA completed

Consultation and engagement will be ongoing throughout the life of the project

Should this project move forward

Mid-2025
Ontario Energy Board Section 92 application submitted

2026
Construction of InnPower's MTS begins

Late 2026
Third Community Open House (line pre-construction)

Early 2027
Construction begins for 230 kV line

End of 2027
230 kV line is energized

Late 2027/early 2028
MTS is energized

Consultation and engagement will be ongoing throughout the life of the project

Tower details

Should this project move forward, we will hold a third pre-construction open house to provide more project details to the community.

We anticipate that the new towers will be:

- Constructed at or near existing locations where possible
- Slender, narrow steel poles, taller than the poles and towers that exist today throughout most of the line. Lattice towers will be installed at the end points and at large line angles
  - Poles could vary depending on location and technical constraints
- Located within the existing corridor

Typical steel pole

Construction activities to remove the existing line

Should this project move forward, crews will:

- Remove vegetation and establish structure removal work areas along the corridor
- Construct temporary gravel roads where necessary to safely access tower bases for removal
- Remove conductor from spans across the entire line from Barrie TS
- Disassemble towers and wood poles along the entire corridor and remove foundations where required

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Construction activities to rebuild the line

Should this project move forward, crews will:

- Trim and remove additional vegetation along the corridor to prepare for wire installation
- Install tower foundations to support new tower structures
- Assemble and erect towers on top of tower foundations for every single structure
- Conduct stringing operations of the line from end to end
- Remove temporary access roads and restore work areas

Upcoming vegetation work

Should this project move forward, to prepare for construction and energizing the line, vegetation trimming and removal will be completed in three stages:

Stage 1: Preparing for construction

Remove vegetation at and near tower bases, through the entire right of way and construction areas

Stage 2: Stringing the line

Trim and remove vegetation under and near the power lines

Stage 3: Energizing the line

Trim and remove vegetation on the edge of the corridor

Future maintenance work

Once the line is energized, crews will return annually to perform routine maintenance to ensure trees and vegetation remain within a safe distance from the power lines.

Please speak to a member of our team if you are concerned about vegetation on your property.

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What you can expect during construction

Noise

- Construction activities will occur Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in compliance with City Noise Bylaws
- Weekend work will occur only if required

Safety and Access

- To ensure residents can still safely access parts of the corridor that are not under construction, we will install temporary access gates and fencing around the construction areas and the new towers

Dust

- Hydro One will implement best management practices to control and minimize dust. This can include watering areas during dry periods and constructing temporary barriers

Traffic

- Where temporary lane restrictions are required, Hydro One will coordinate the timing of construction with the City of Barrie and other projects that may be scheduled in the area
- Traffic control measures will be in place to ensure public safety during active construction. Staff will be on site to direct traffic as needed

Communication

- We are committed to ensuring you know what to expect every step of the way during construction and will provide updates throughout the project duration

Health and safety

Hydro One has a dedicated team that regularly monitors global studies around electric and magnetic fields (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, for guidance on EMF and our approach. Based on global studies which have and continue to be regularly monitored, these organizations indicate that members of the public do not need to take precautions to protect from fields produced by extremely low frequencies such as transmission lines.

Hydro One has completed modeling that confirmed that once the line is energized the fields produced will remain within a safe level. Typically, EMF levels for a project like this one are less than 1% of the recommended guidelines.

Community engagement

Community Engagement is a critical driver of the planning and development this project. Over the next several months our team will be focused on collecting feedback from residents, interest groups, elected officials and Indigenous Communities.

We are committed to engaging with the community throughout each stage of the project by:

- Providing a number of opportunities to share information about the project
- Understanding the community's perspective, collecting input and considering options to mitigate impacts where possible

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Thank you for coming

Please fill out a comment form before you leave, or send us your comments afterward. Join our project contact list to receive important updates.

1.877.345.679

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