Welcome

North Shore Link

Community open house #2

July 2025

Purpose:

- Review the project need and expected regional benefits
- Provide an overview of the route evaluation process
- Share information about the preferred route
- Outline key milestones and next steps
- Continue engaging with rights holders, property owners and community members
- Gather your input and answer questions

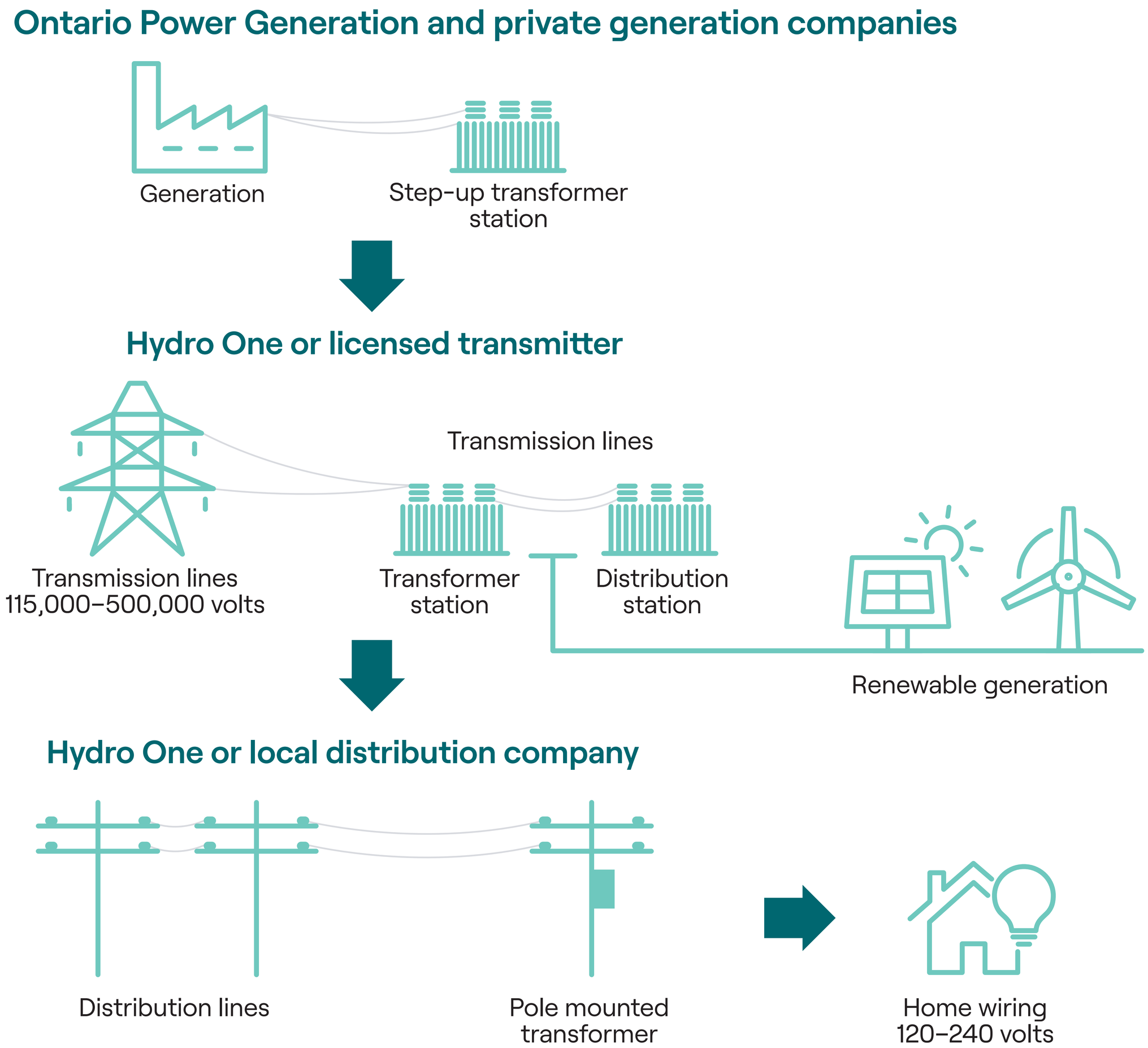
HydroOne.com/NSL

Land acknowledgment

Hydro One acknowledges that the projects in the northeast are situated upon the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory, signed with the Anishinaabe Nation and is now home to many diverse Indigenous people. Hydro One understands that Indigenous Nations have been here since time immemorial and are stewards to what many refer to as (Mkinaak Minising) or Turtle Island. We are all Treaty People and with a commitment to friendship and our pursuit of reconciliation, we are thankful to be welcomed on these lands as partners in our shared future so we can improve on our past and energize our combined path forward.

How the system works

Across the province, Hydro One builds, owns, operates and maintains the electricity transmission and distribution network that brings power to homes and businesses.



Project overview

- The North Shore Link project was identified as part of the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) electricity plans to address future growth in the region.
- The proposed North Shore Link project involves building a new double-circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line connecting into Mississagi Transformer Station (TS) in Wharncliffe and Third Line TS in Sault Ste. Marie.
- To accommodate the new line, Mississagi TS will require an expansion.
- To support the transmission system in the northeast when this line is energized, an expansion to accommodate new station equipment will be required at Algoma TS, located east of Algoma Mills.
- We are currently completing a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Transmission Facilities (2024) for the project, under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*

Regional benefits

Once built, the North Shore Link is expected to:

- Improve the overall resiliency of the northern Ontario transmission network
- Support economic growth in northeast Ontario
- Increase opportunities for collaboration, capacity building and partnerships with local Indigenous communities
- Build stronger partnerships through local community investments

Class Environmental Assessment (EA)

Ongoing engagement

Steps of a Class EA

- Identify route alternatives
- Seek feedback from the public, Indigenous communities, municipalities, interest groups and government agencies
- Collect environmental information
- Assess and evaluate route alternatives
- Select a preferred route
- Identify potential environmental effects and mitigation measures
- Prepare a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) that will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period
- Submit the final ESR

For more information, see **HydroOne.com/ClassEA**

Evaluation of the route alternatives

We thoroughly evaluated all route alternatives across four categories which considered desktop data, environmental field studies, research and community feedback. Examples of criteria within each category include:

Indigenous community values

- Traditional land use areas
- Identified areas of Indigenous significance
- Values identified from Indigenous knowledge

Socio-economic environment

- Forestry and mineral resources and operations
- Known archaeological resources
- Residential properties

Technical and cost

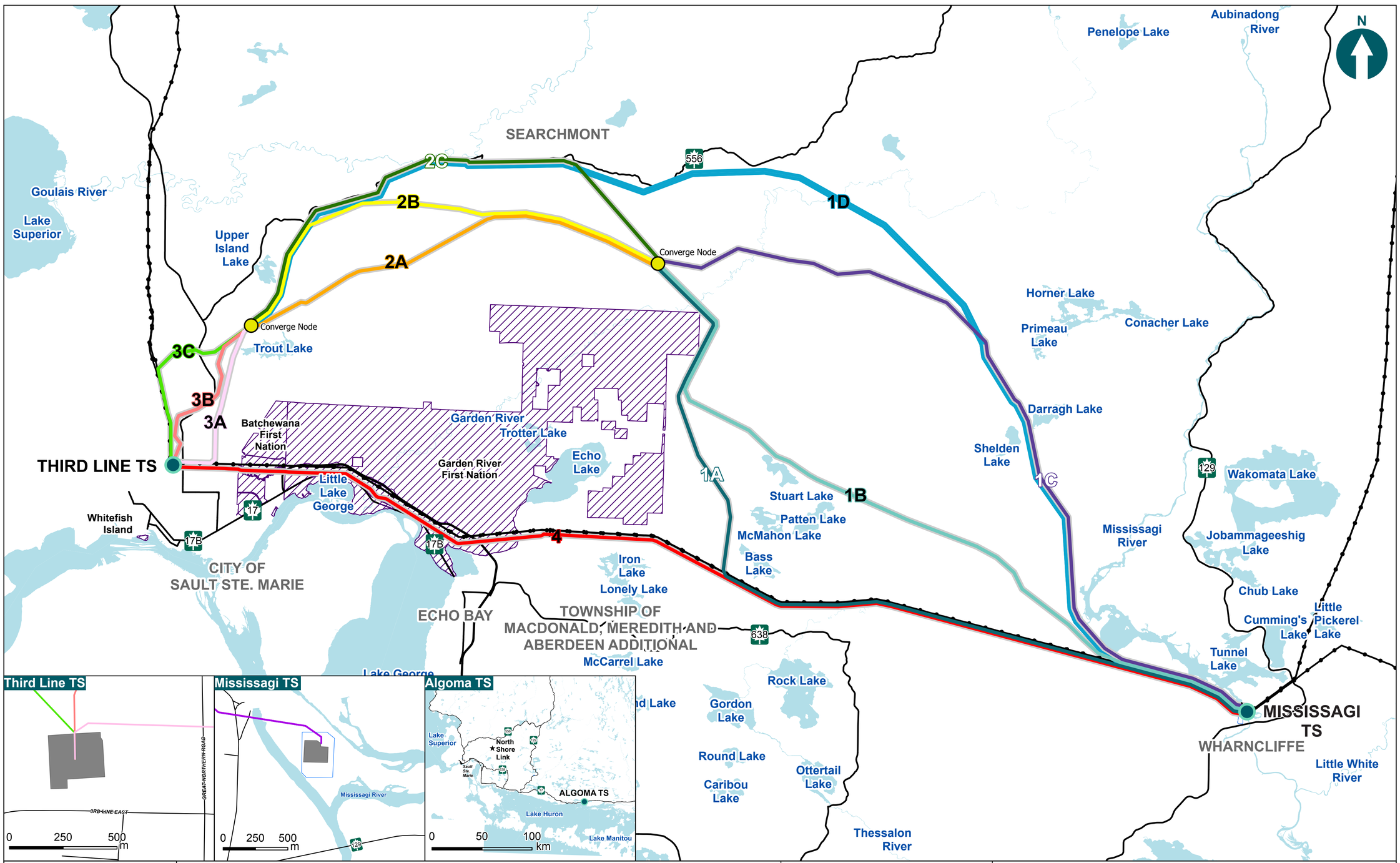
- Constructibility considerations
- Ease of access
- Number of angle structures

Natural environment

- Species at risk
- Wetlands
- Designated natural areas

Selecting a preferred route

Step 1. Assessment of identified route segments



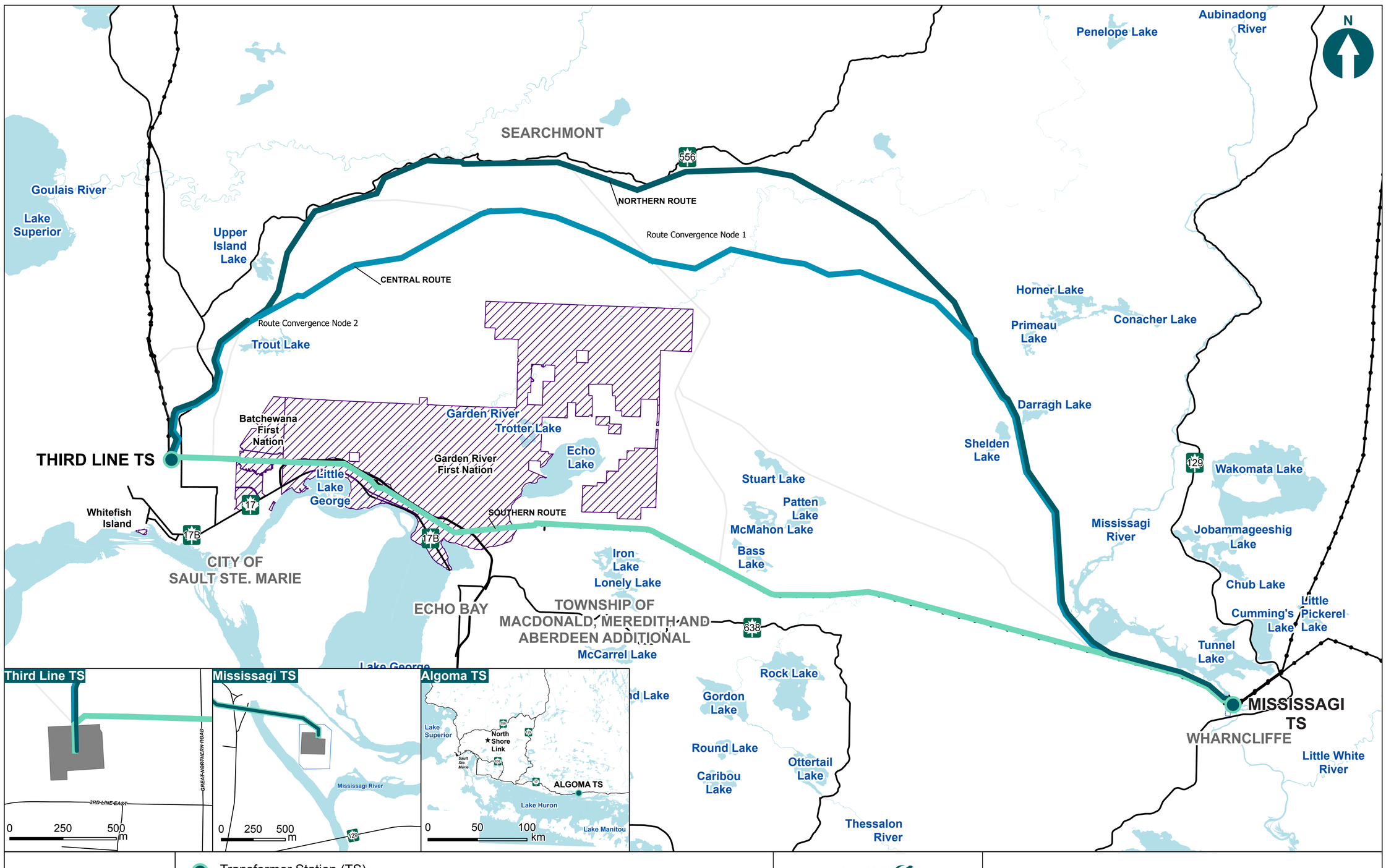
11 route segments were initially identified, which, when combined, connect Mississagi TS to Third Line TS. Each segment was assessed based on the evaluation categories.

The top performing segments were combined to develop three complete route alternatives:

- Northern route: segments 1D and 3B
- Central route: segments 1C, 2A and 3B
- Southern route: segment 4

Selecting a preferred route

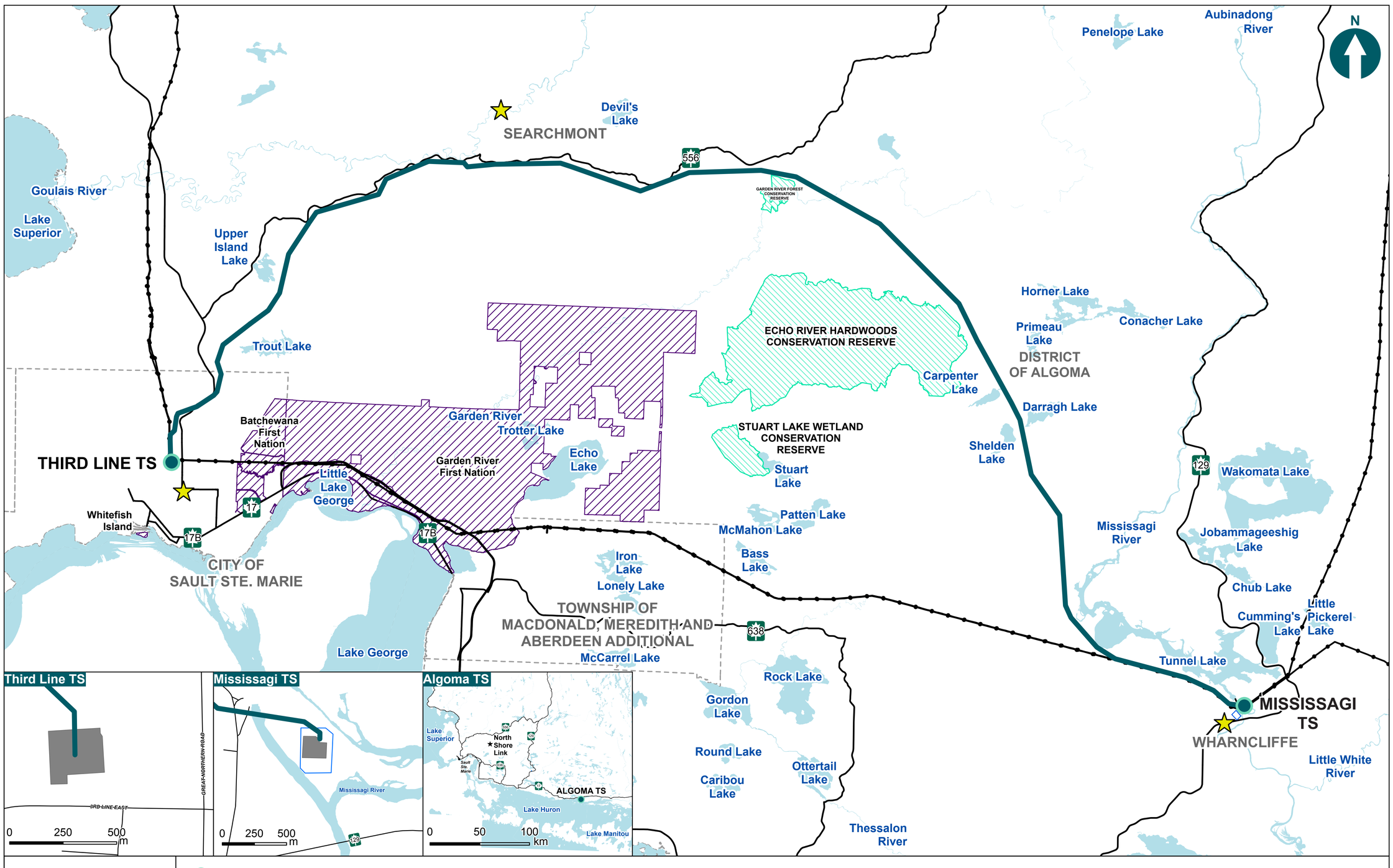
Step 2. Evaluation of full route alternatives



The three full route alternatives were assessed based on the evaluation categories, including feedback collected, to select a preferred route.

The preferred route

The northern route was selected as the preferred route.



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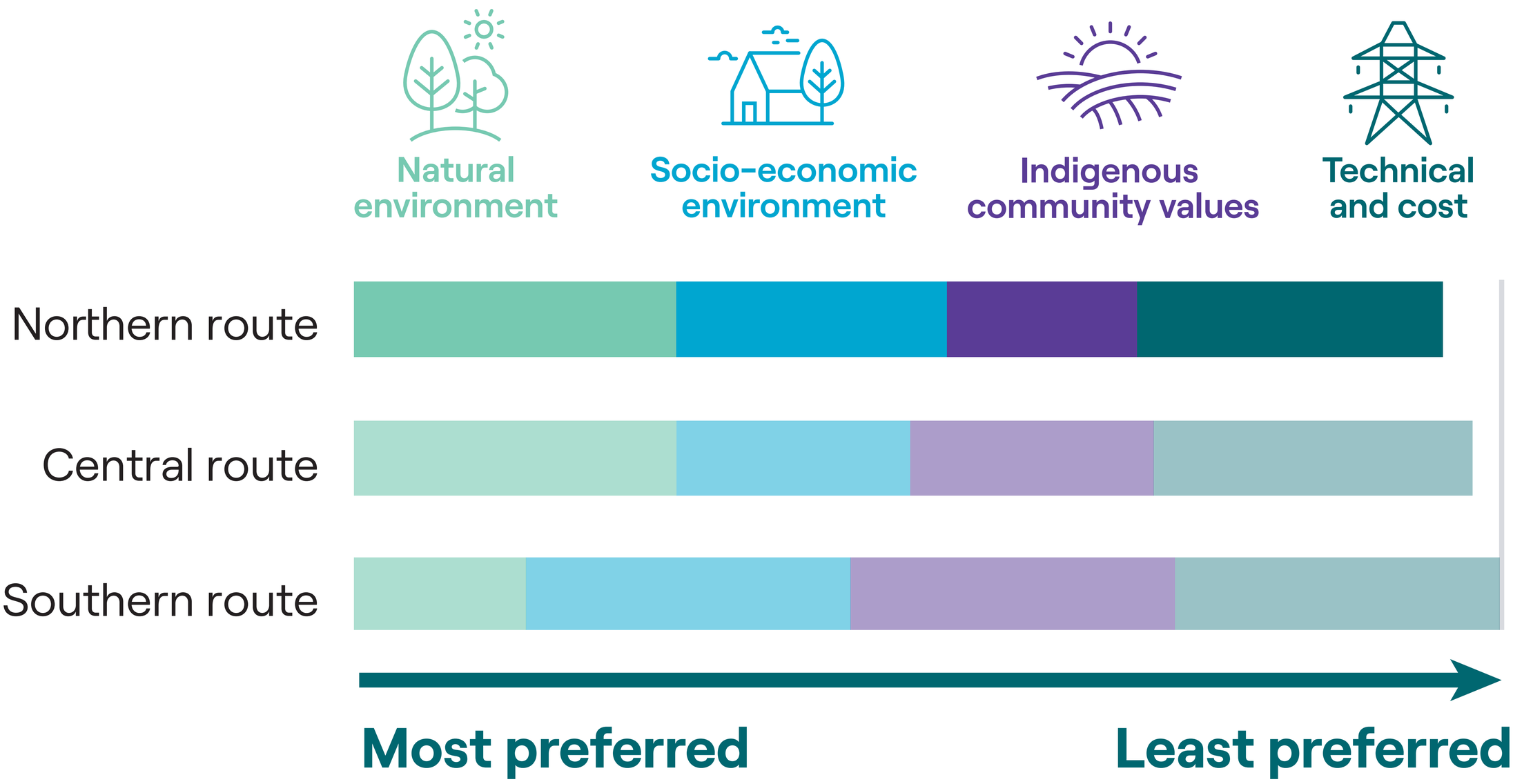
Evaluation results

Based on the evaluation of route alternatives, the northern route performed best overall and is the preferred route.



Evaluation summary

Indigenous community values

In this category, the northern route performed the best and the benefits include:

- Avoids overlap with known areas of Indigenous cultural significance
- Avoids overlap on reserve lands

Evaluation summary

Technical and cost

In this category, the northern route performed the best and the benefits include:

- Requires the fewest angle structures which reduces cost and increases constructibility
- The location of the line provides opportunities for access during construction, operation and maintenance
- Minimizes the need to parallel or cross pipelines

Evaluation summary

Socio-economic environment

In this category, the central route performed the best. The northern route performed similarly to the central route where it:

- Minimizes overlap with known archaeological resources

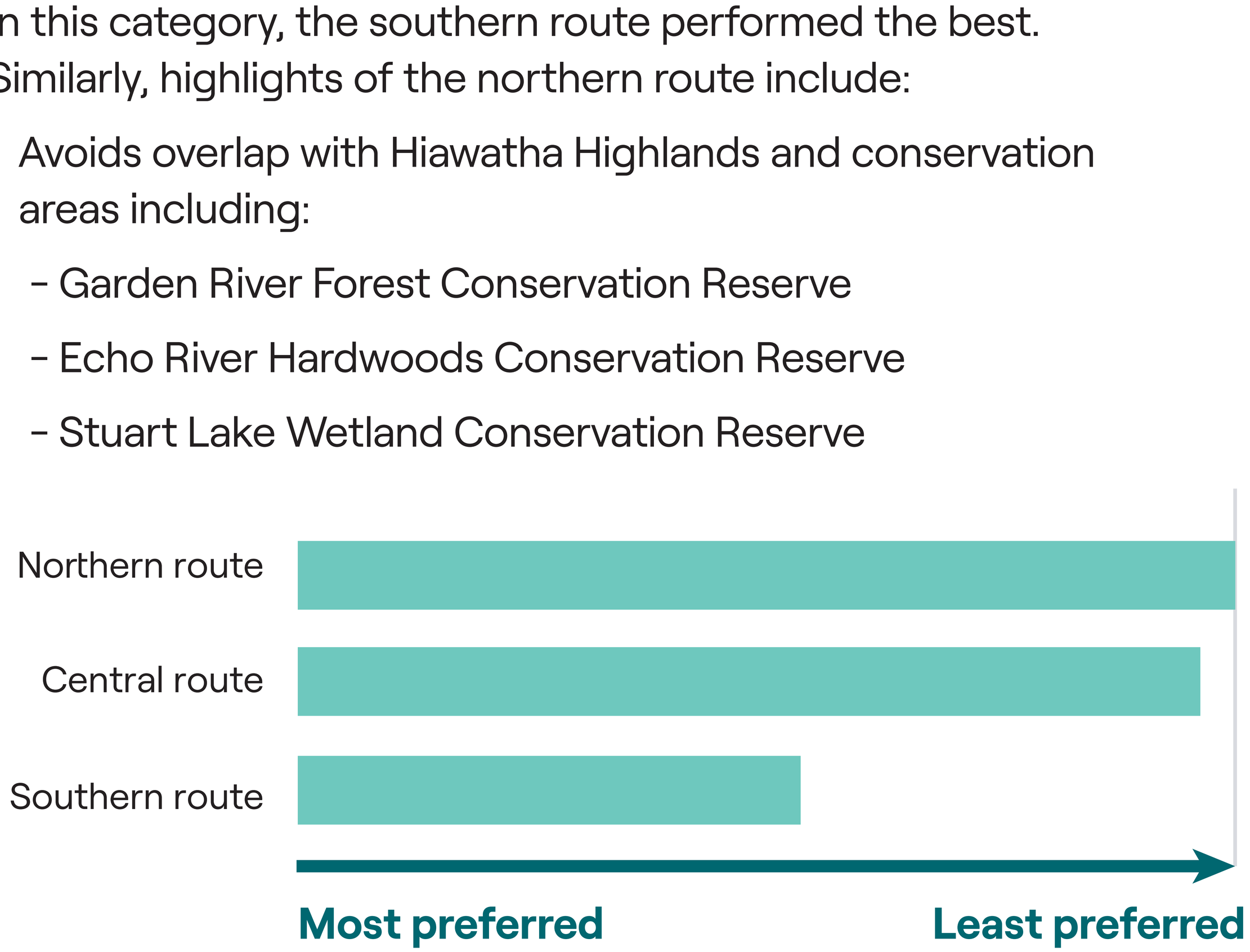
The northern route performed best overall.

Evaluation summary

Natural environment

In this category, the southern route performed the best. Similarly, highlights of the northern route include:

- Avoids overlap with Hiawatha Highlands and conservation areas including:
  - Garden River Forest Conservation Reserve
  - Echo River Hardwoods Conservation Reserve
  - Stuart Lake Wetland Conservation Reserve



The northern route performed best overall.

Engagement to date

Communication outreach:

In-person consultation

Ongoing calls and emails

Interactive map

Notices, newspaper and social media ads

Meeting with Indigenous communities

Engagement next steps:

We value the rights, interests and perspectives of Indigenous governments and communities and are committed to continuing to meaningfully engage on the project

We will seek local knowledge and expertise to identify additional measures to avoid, mitigate, or restore potential environmental effects of the preferred route

We will directly engage with property owners along the northern route as we seek voluntary property rights

Design of the transmission line

With the preferred route selected, detailed design for the transmission line will consider:

- Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Values
- Residential and business effects
- Structure heights and clearances
- Structure locations
- Environmental considerations
- Distance between structures
- Construction methodology
- Topography and soil conditions
- Right-of-way width

Over the next several months, we will complete more detailed environmental and technical studies to inform the design of the new line and identify mitigation measures for construction.

Station work

Mississagi TS

The existing Mississagi TS will be expanded to accommodate the new line and associated equipment.

Legend

- North Shore Link Expansion Area
- Northeast Powerline Expansion Area
- Existing Station
- NSL Preferred Route
- NEPL Route
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Road

DRAFT

0 62.5 125 250 Meters

North Shore Link

Mississagi TS: Expansion Area

Figure Number:	REV:
2	

Client:	Project Number:	Date:
Hydro One Networks Inc.	700123	6/27/2025

DSC	DRN	CHK	APP
	TE	ND	ND

NOTES:

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and, Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF)
4. Service Layer Credits: Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

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Station work

Mississagi TS

The existing Mississagi TS will be expanded to accommodate the new line and associated equipment.

Legend

- North Shore Link Expansion Area
- Existing Station
- NSL Preferred Route
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Road

DRAFT

0 62.5 125 250 Meters

North Shore Link

Mississagi TS: NSL Expansion Area

Figure Number:	REV:
2.2	

Client:	Project Number:	Date:
Hydro One Networks Inc.	700123	7/7/2025

DSC	DRN	CHK	APP
	LZ	ND	ND

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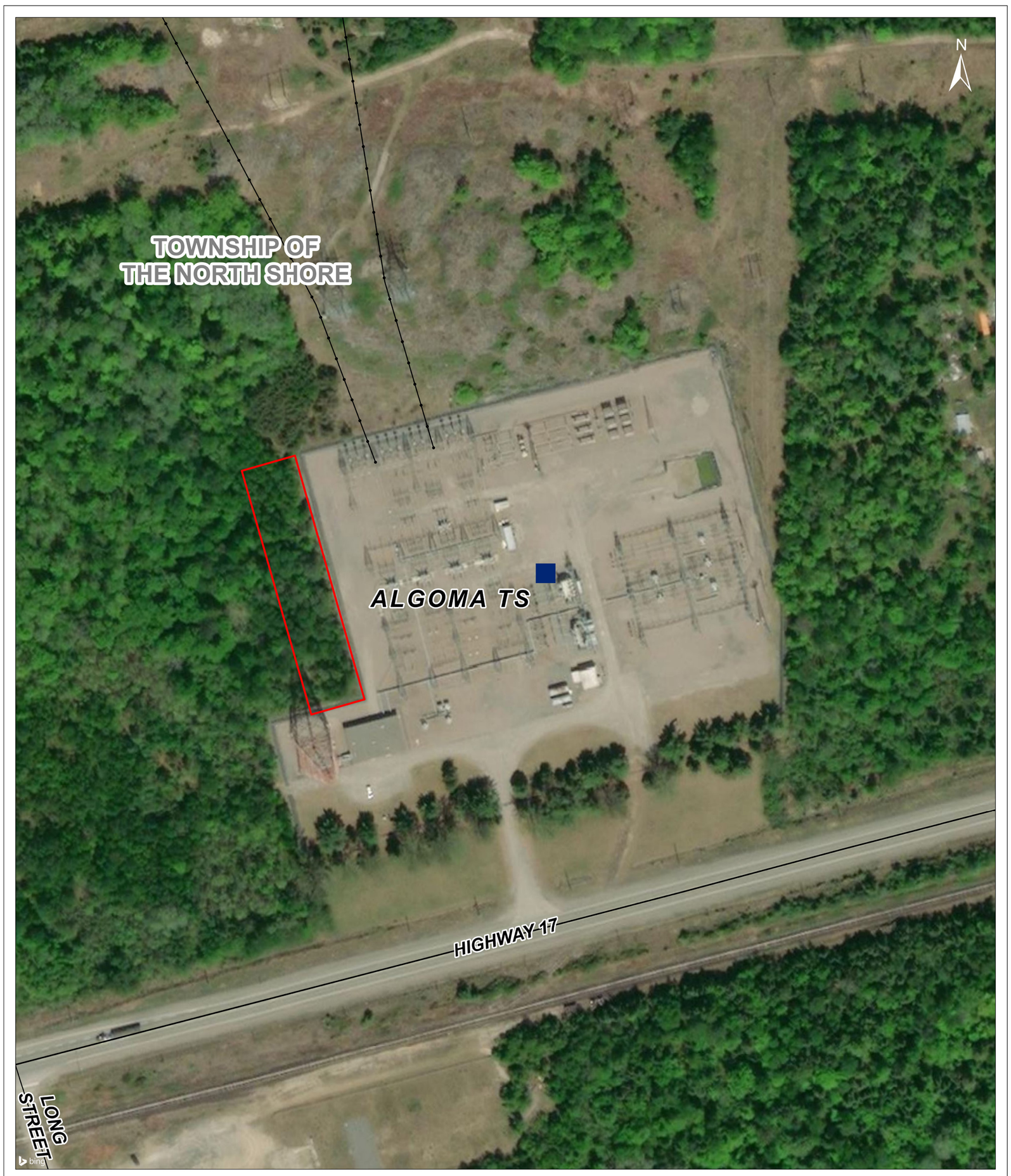
Station work

Algoma TS

An expansion at Algoma TS, located east of Algoma Mills, will be required to accommodate additional station equipment necessary for ensuring proper operation of the transmission network in the region.

The station expansion will be on Hydro One land and will not be noticeable from the highway.



Legend

- Expansion Area
- Existing Station
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Highway
- Road

DRAFT

0 25 50 100 Meters

North Shore Link

Algoma TS: Expansion Area

Figure Number: 3 | REV:

Client: Hydro One Networks Inc. | Project Number: 700123 | Date: 6/20/2025

DSC	DRN	CHK	APP
	TE	MR	

NOTES:
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4. Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, © 2025 Microsoft Corporation © 2025 Maxar ©CNES (2025) Distribution Airbus DS, Esri, USGS

Station work

Third Line TS

Work within Third Line TS to accommodate the new line will be completed.
No expansion to the existing station boundary is required.

Legend

- Preferred Route
- Existing Station
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Road
- Watercourse

DRAFT

0 37.5 75 150 Meters

North Shore Link

Third Line TS

Figure Number:	REV:
1	

Client:	Project Number:	Date:			
Hydro One Networks Inc.	700123	6/20/2025			
DSC			DRN	CHK	APP
			TE	ND	ND

NOTES:

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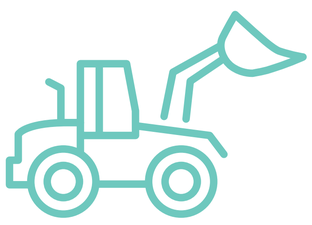
Mitigation and restoration opportunities

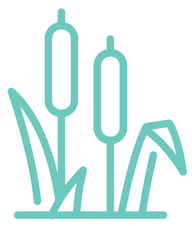
Based on our experience building transmission lines in northern Ontario, the following mitigation measures are being considered for construction of the line.

Use existing access and watercourse crossings, where possible



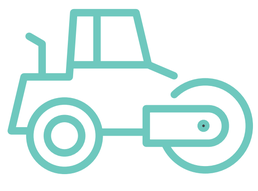
Apply erosion and sediment controls when needed

Develop trespass mitigation



Retain compatible vegetation

Employ dust control measures



Develop a restoration plan for work areas

We want to hear your continued feedback to further enhance the planning of this project.

Partnership in action, building together

- In 2022, Hydro One launched the First Nation Equity Partnership Model that committed to 50-50 equity ownership in all future transmission line projects with a value of more than $100 million.
- Hydro One will continue to work in partnership with nine First Nation governments, who will become 50 percent owners in the North Shore Link project.
- Engagement with the First Nation partners began in January 2023. Over the course of our engagement to date, we have held more than 130 meetings with the First Nation partners.
- We value the rights, interests and perspectives of Indigenous governments and communities engaged on the North Shore Link and will continue to work in collaboration to build the project.

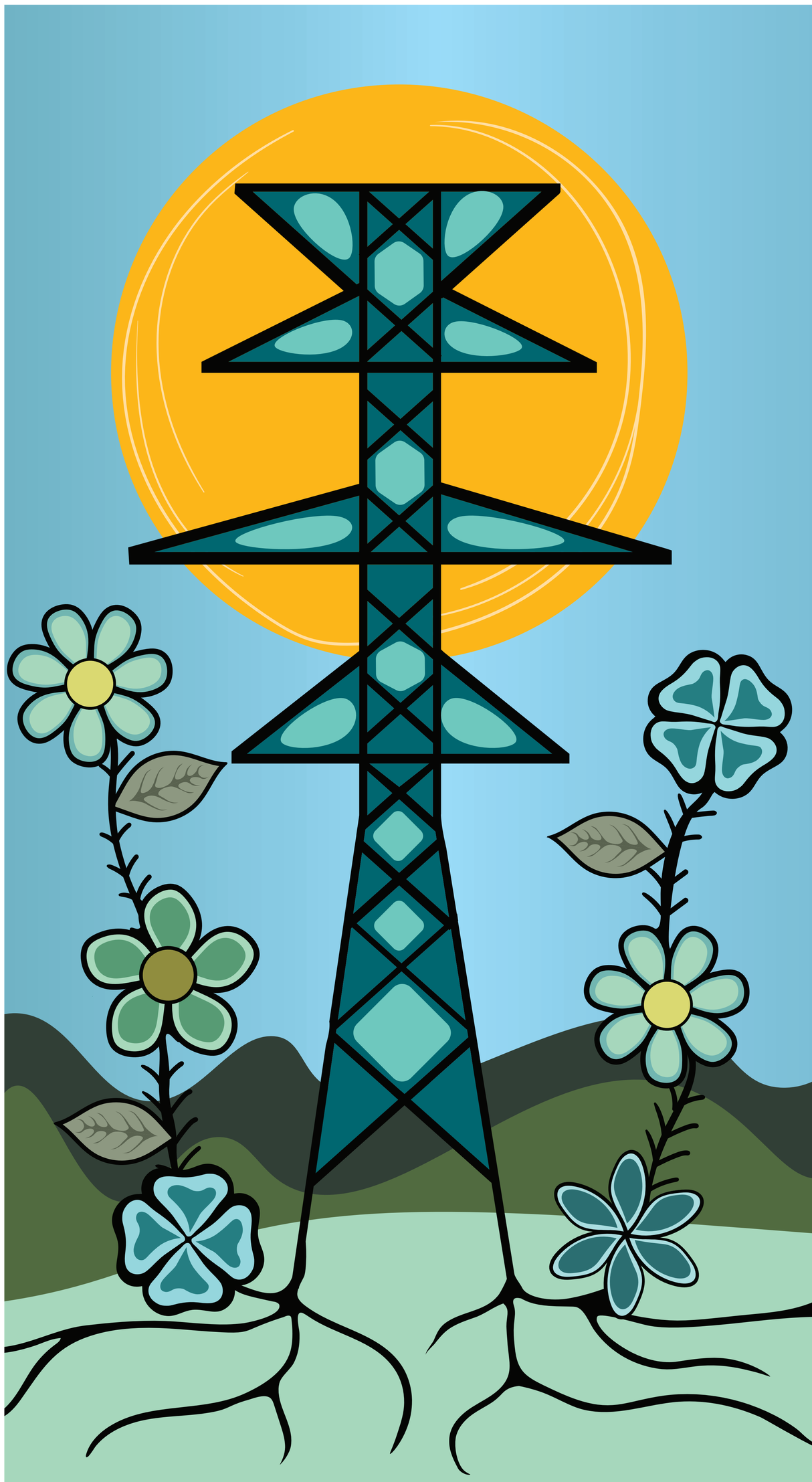


Illustration by Storm Angeconeb

Working with property owners

We want to work collaboratively with directly impacted property owners throughout this process to reach a voluntary property settlement.

Your choice

You may have choices between providing Hydro One easements or full ownership of the lands required to build the project

Hydro One will work with directly impacted property owners or their legal representatives

Independent valuation

Offers are based on site-specific reports from independent third-party appraisers.

Incentives

We offer incentives to work with us towards a voluntary settlement

Construction

Property owners will be reimbursed for project-related losses

Project milestones

Ongoing consultation and engagement

Environmental studies

July 2024
Notice of Commencement of Class EA

September 2024
Community open house 1

Summer 2024
Environmental field studies and research to support the Class EA

July 2025
Announcement of the preferred route and community open house 2

Spring 2026
Release of draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for public review

Fall 2026
Finalize ESR to complete the Class EA

2026
Completion of detailed design and other permits and approvals, including Section 92 approval from the Ontario Energy Board

2027
Construction start

2029
Line in-service

**All dates are subject to change*

Thank you

Your input is important to us. Share your feedback with our team and complete a comment form before you go. To provide comments or to be added to the project contact list, call or email:

1.877.345.6799

Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

For the most up-to-date project information and project updates, visit our project website:

HydroOne.com/NSL