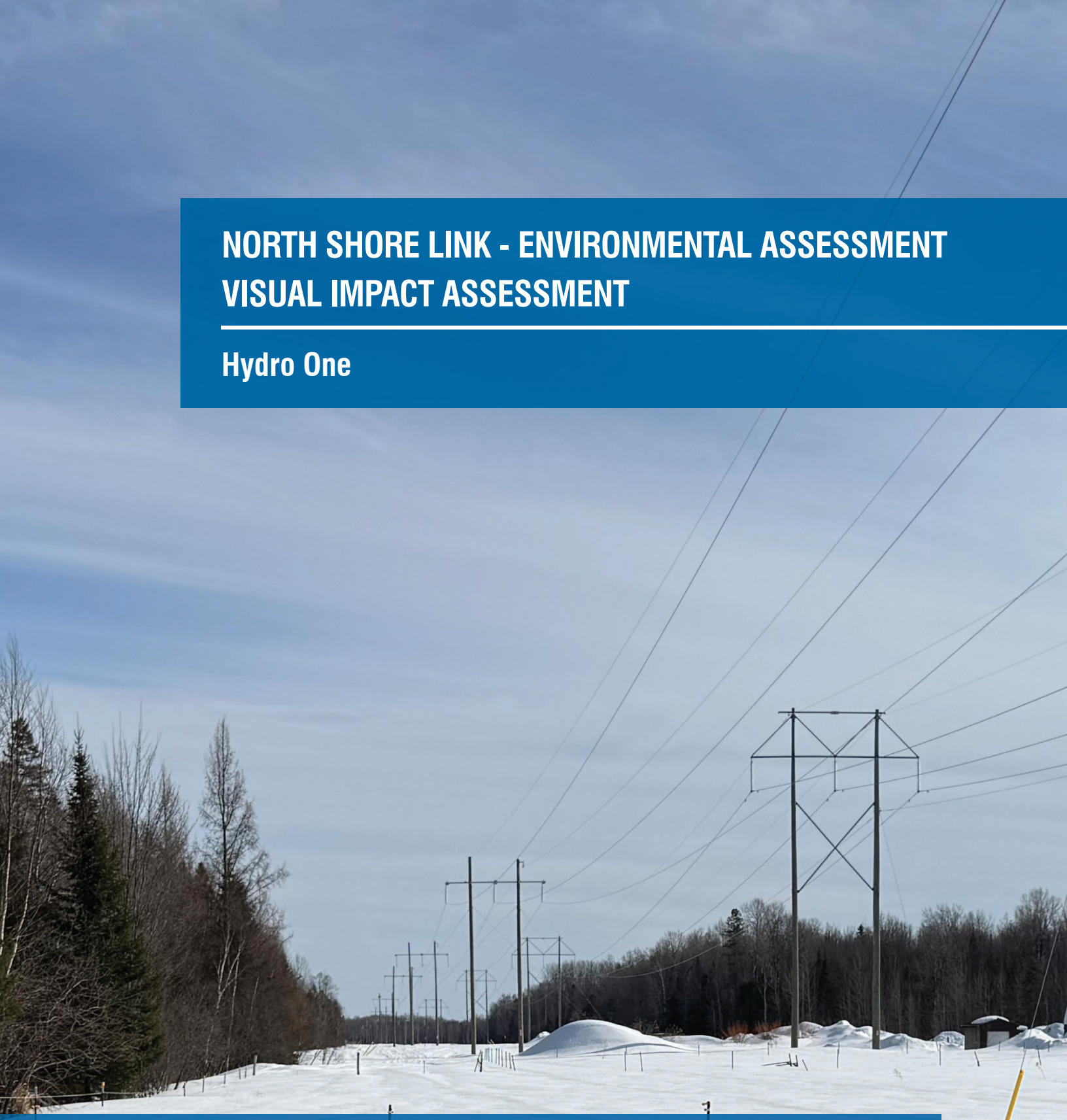
APPENDIX 4-E

Visual Impact Assessment

NORTH SHORE LINK - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Hydro One



Prepared for:	**AtkinsRéalis**
Prepared by:	**Schollen & Company Inc.**
Date:	**April 2026**
Project No.:	**2024024**

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Hydro One
North Shore Link – Environmental Assessment
Visual Impact Assessment
Report

April 2026

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Report documents the process and the findings of the VIA that was completed for the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) – Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the proposed North Shore Link (the 'Project').

The Project is proposed to extend from the Mississagi Transformer Station (TS) in the Unorganized District of Algoma to the Third Line TS in the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The report presents an assessment of the effects of the Project on the visual environment. For the purposes of this report, visual environment refers to the visual qualities or aesthetics of natural and cultural features that comprise the landscape within the Project study area.

The route of the proposed transmission corridor is approximately 105km in length with a right-of-way (ROW) width of 46m. The new double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line will parallel the westward alignment of an existing 500Kv transmission line for approximately 9 km east of the Mississagi TS, at which point a new transmission corridor is proposed, that will continue westward towards Searchmont, Ontario. From Searchmont, the new transmission line will continue westward, roughly following the direction of Highway 556 towards the Trans-Canada Highway. Where Highway 556 intersects with the Trans-Canada Highway, the new transmission corridor continues southbound towards Sault Ste. Marie and will terminate at the Third Line TS.

2.0 IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

2.1 Identification of Alternative Routes

Alternative Routes for the proposed double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mississagi TS and Third Line TS were identified and evaluated as a component of the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

This process compares feasible route options based on Indigenous Community Values, environmental constraints, socio-economic and technical considerations. In collaboration with First Nation partners, Hydro One identified eleven route segments, which were consolidated into three (3) complete alternative routes. The three (3) alternative transmission routes that were identified include a Northern, a Central and a Southern Route.

- **Northern Route (105 km)**: This is a net-new greenfield corridor that initially parallels an existing transmission line west from Mississagi TS for approximately 10km, then traverses northwest past Echo Hardwoods Conservation Reserve and continues south of and parallel to Highway 556. The proposed alignment intersects with Highway 17 and connects to an existing north–south transmission corridor, connecting to the Third Line TS.
- **Central Route (100 km)**: Also a net-new greenfield corridor, this route follows the same initial path as the Northern Route, diverging northward near Mississagi River Provincial Park. The proposed alignment travels along the northern limits of Echo River Hardwood Conservation Reserve and passes north of Garden River First Nation Reserve before turning southwest, crossing Highway 17, and joining the existing transmission corridor into Third Line TS.
- **Southern Route (76 km)**: This is the shortest option, and it largely parallels an existing 230 kV transmission line between the two stations. It alternates between running north and south of the existing line before entering Third Line TS from the east

Figure 2.1 illustrates the Alternative Routes Study Area.

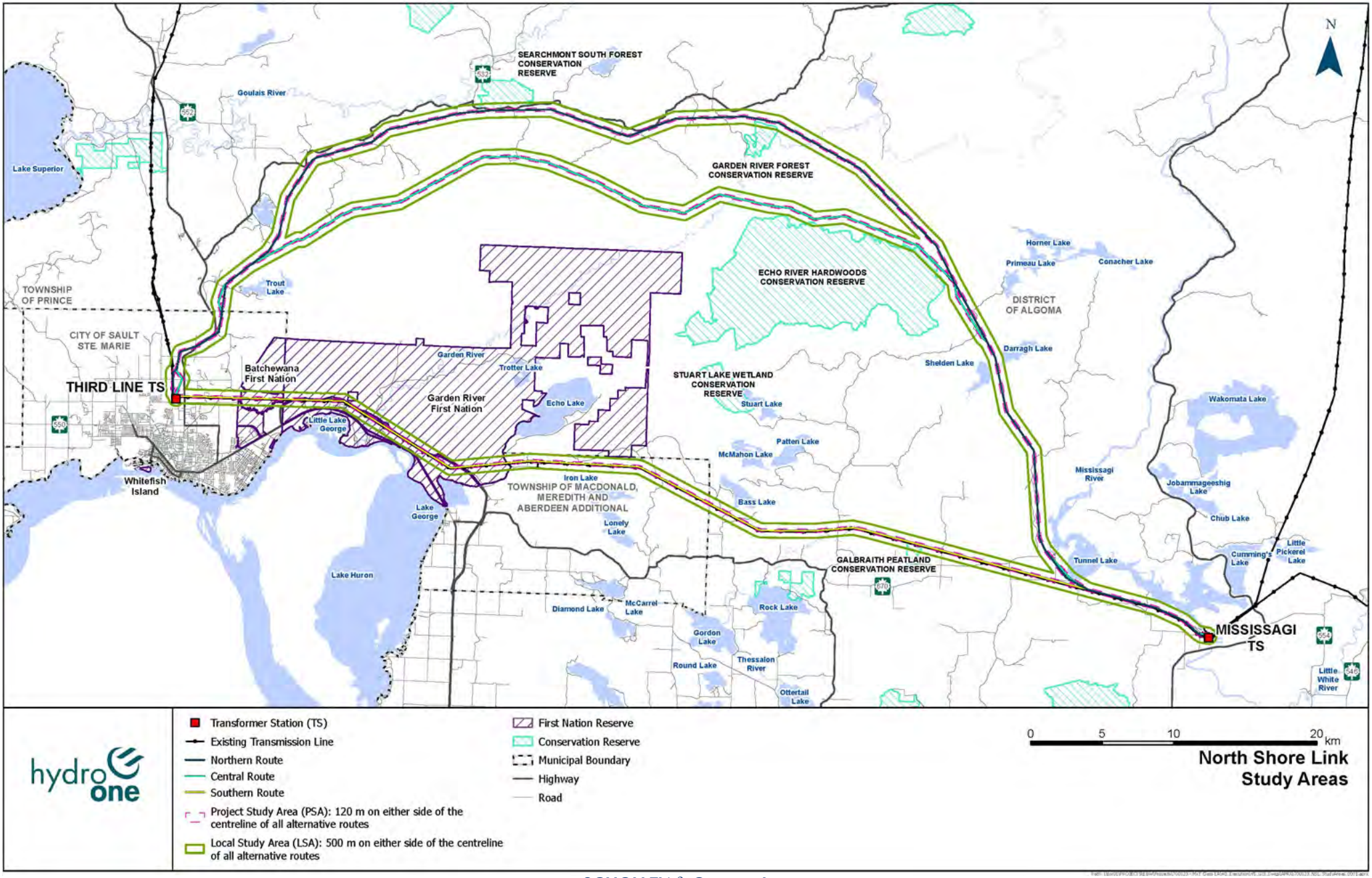


Figure 2.1: Alternative Routes Study Area

2.1 Evaluation of Alternative Routes

Hydro One engaged two Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) that were established at the outset of the Class EA Process. These TACs included the Indigenous TAC and the Agency TAC. Through a series of workshops, the TACs the Project Team assigned weighted criteria to each category, which included:

- Indigenous Community Values Category;
- Natural Environment Category;
- Socio-economic Environment; and,
- Technical Considerations Category.

Based on the weighted criteria, the Project Team completed a multi-criteria analysis supported by a computer modelling tool ("Pangea") powered by geospatial data, and ancillary programmed spreadsheets for non-geospatial data. Following completion of the comparative evaluation matrix, category results and overall results were aggregated for each alternative route. The results facilitated an objective comparison of the three alternative routes based on weighted criteria within each category and on overall performance.

Based on this assessment, the Northern Route was identified as the preferred route. The Northern Route performed the strongest in the Indigenous Community Values category and the Technical Considerations category, while also offering a strong Socio-economic balance. The Northern Route was the least favourable in the Natural Environment category primarily due to its length. However, the overall scoring demonstrated that out of the three alternative routes evaluated for the Project, the Northern Route is the route that offers the best balance of advantages and disadvantages.

Figure 2.2 illustrates the Preferred Route (Northern Route).

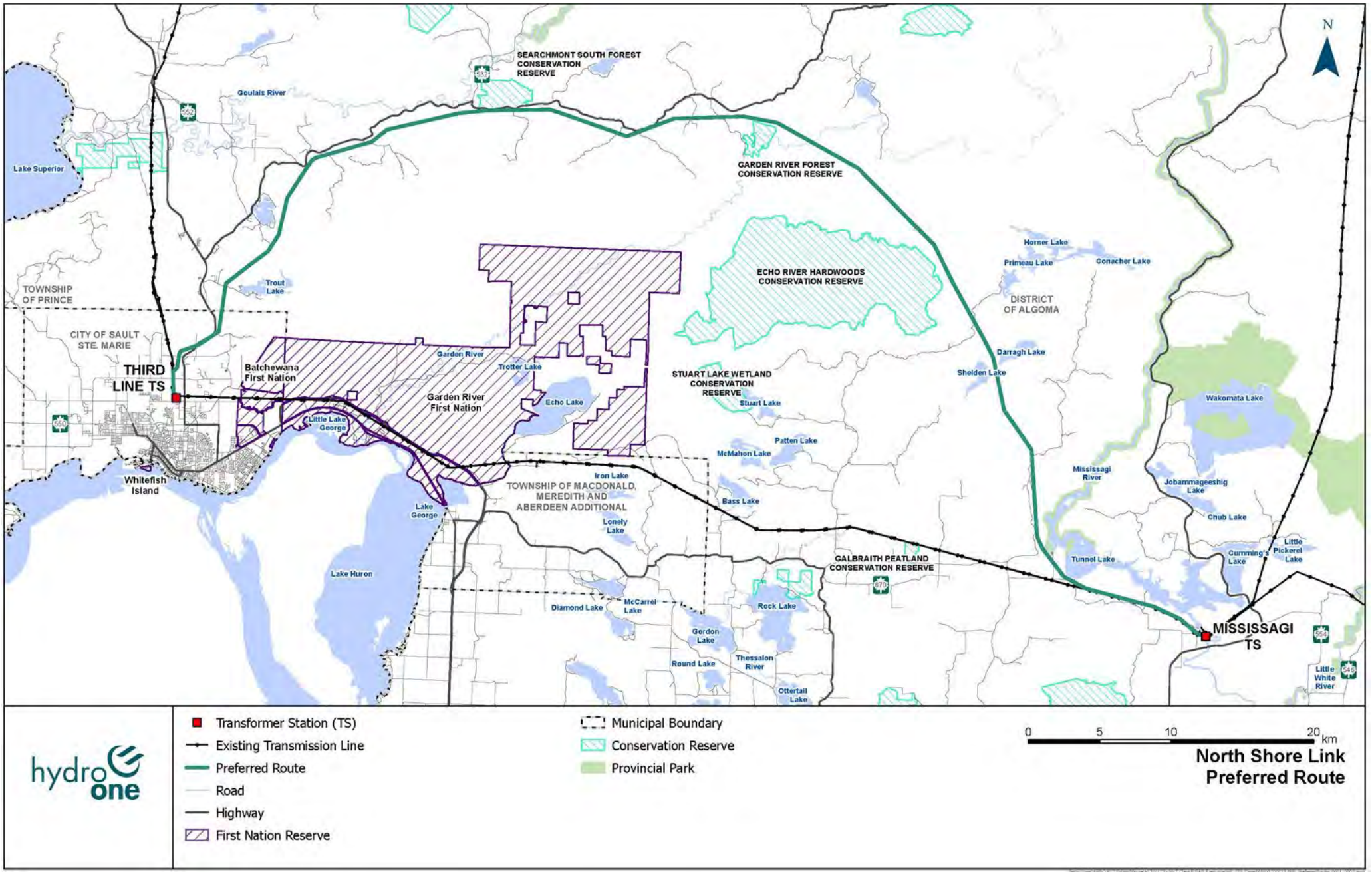


Figure 2.2: Preferred Route (Northern Route)

3.0 ASSESSMENT BOUNDARIES

The following boundaries were defined for the visual assessment:

- Spatial boundaries
- Temporal boundaries

A description of each is provided in the sections below.

3.1 Spatial Boundaries

Viewing distance affects the visible level of detail in the landscape whereby visual elements of the landscape are more discernible and prominent the closer they are to the observer (USDI BLM 1986a). As viewing distance from the Project increases, detail and sensitivity to visual alteration decreases.

Viewing distance zones were measured outward from the right-of-way to define the influence of viewing distance and support the determination of the study areas. These distances were defined as foreground and middle ground based on distances consistent with research on the visibility thresholds for typical linear infrastructure.

The boundary of the right-of-way was used as a baseline from which to measure the spatial boundaries for the visual impact assessment. The alignment of the right-of-way is illustrated on **Figure 3.1.** The Spatial Boundaries are unique to each receptor location and vary based on local topography, vegetation, and angle of approach. The three (3) Spatial Boundary distances are defined as follows:

- ***Project Footprint (PF)*** *– Is identified as the areas of direct disturbance (i.e., the physical area required for Project construction and operation). The PF is therefore defined as the 46m cleared right-of-way (ROW) width for the double circuit 230Kv transmission line. In addition to the proposed transmission lines, this area will also host any temporary or permanent areas needed to support the Project, including laydown/storage yards, construction staging areas, construction/maintenance access roads, and maintenance and storage facilities. For the purposes of the visual environment assessment, direct effects of the Project on the visual aesthetics criteria were characterized and assessed from foreground (less than 1 km) viewing distance.*

- ***Local Study Area (LSA)*** *- Is identified as the area where most effects of the Project are likely to be measurable; therefore, along the PF, the LSA will be the focus of data collection to characterize existing environmental conditions. The LSA for visual environment extends 1 km from the PF or right-of-way (ROW) boundary. For the purposes of the visual environment assessment, local direct and indirect effects of the Project on the visual aesthetics criteria were recorded and assessed from both foreground and middle-ground ranging from greater than 1 km up to 5 km from the Project ROW. These distances are measured from the ROW boundary, not the centreline of the ROW, to ensure the LSA and Regional Study Area includes the full buffer distance beyond the area of direct disturbance.*

- ***Regional Study Area (RSA)*** *– Encompasses the areas outside of the LSA that are used to measure broader-scale existing environment conditions and provide regional context for the predicted geographic extent of direct and indirect effects of the Project (e.g., potential effects of the Project from background viewing distances where changes to the landscape may be visible but are less discernible than at foreground and middle-ground distances). Cumulative effects of the Project in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments are typically assessed at this larger spatial scale. The rationale for this spatial boundary is to assess cumulative effects on the visual aesthetics criteria by providing a broader, regional*

landscape context. For the purposes of the visual environment assessment, effects were recorded and assessed from background distances between 1km and 5 km from the ROW.

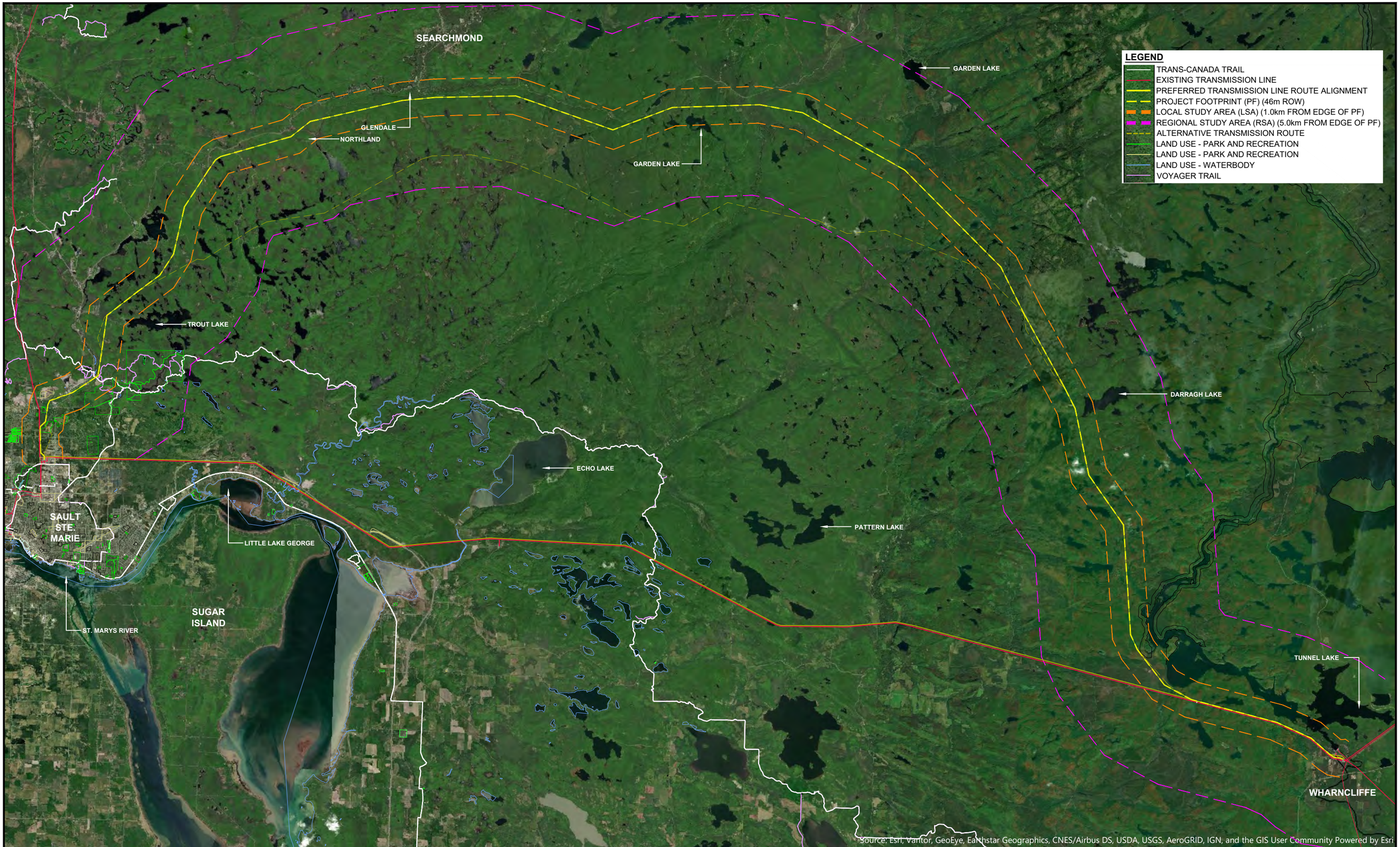
3.2 Temporal Boundaries

Temporal boundaries for the assessment address the potential effects of the Project over relevant timescales. The temporal boundaries for the Project comprise the following two main phases:

- **Construction Phase**: This phase of the Project includes all the activities associated with the initial development and construction of the road and supportive infrastructure from the start of the construction to the start of the operation and maintenance of the Project. The Construction Phase is anticipated to last approximately 2 years (2027 to 2029).
- **Operation Phase**: This phase of the Project includes all the activities associated with operation and maintenance of the transmission line and permanent supportive infrastructure (e.g., maintenance access roads and operation and maintenance facilities) that will start after the construction activities are complete, plus site restoration and decommissioning of temporary infrastructure (e.g., construction access roads, construction staging areas, etc.).

The Project is expected to operate for an indeterminate period; therefore, future suspension, decommissioning and eventual abandonment has not been considered in the assessment. It is anticipated that maintenance activities will occur over the lifetime of the transmission line. Further, potential visual effects and mitigation measures to be identified during the EA for the construction of the Project will likely equally apply to the potential removal of the Project at a future point in time, should it ever be required. In addition, decommissioning of the Project would be expected to have a positive net effect on aesthetic criteria (e.g., returning the ROW to a natural state).

The scale and character of changes to the existing visual environment would be cumulative and reach their full extent at the commencement of operation of the transmission line. Therefore, the visual assessment primarily focuses on the Project effects during the operation and maintenance phase since the visual disturbance during this period would represent the largest extent and long-term viewing conditions likely to be experienced by viewers. Project components and activities, however, may overlap in time for viewers. For example, following construction, temporary construction staging areas will be decommissioned, and reclamation and revegetation will occur in later stage of the construction phase, and during the operation and maintenance phase. Therefore, the qualitative component of the assessment has considered the net effects of the Project that are anticipated to occur during the construction, and the operation and maintenance phases.



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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
ASSESSMENT BOUNDARIES

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.:
AB-1

Figure 3.1: Assessment Boundaries

4.0 POTENTIAL PROJECT-ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS

Potential project-environment interactions were identified through a review of the project description and existing environmental conditions. The linkages between project components and activities and potential visual environment effects are identified in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 – Project Interactions with Visual Environment

Project Activities	Potential Effects	
	Change to Visual Landscape – Visibility (visual prominence) of the Project	Change to Visual Landscape – Scenic Quality, Viewer Sensitivity and Magnitude/Distance
Construction		
□ Vegetation Clearing and Grubbing	**X**	**X**
□ Construction of Supportive infrastructure (construction access roads, staging areas, aggregate sources areas)	**X**	**X**
□ Construction of Transmission Structures	**X**	**X**
□ Decommissioning and Restoration of Temporary Supportive Infrastructure	**X**	**X**
Operation and Maintenance		
□ Operation, Maintenance and Repair of the Transmission Line Infrastructure and Maintenance Access Roads	**X**	**X**

Notes: **X** = Potential interaction

4.1 Criteria and Indicators

Criteria are valued components of the environment that are considered to have economic, social, biological, conservation, aesthetic, or ethical value. **Indicators** are an aspect or characteristic of a criterion that, if changed as a result of the Project, may demonstrate a physical, biological, or socio-economic effect.

The criteria and indicators selected for the assessment of potential Project effects on the visual environment, and the rationale for their selection, are provided in **Table 4.2**.

Table 4.2 – Summary of Visual Environment Criteria and Indicators

Criteria/Valued Component	Rationale	Indicators	Measurement of Potential Effects
Visual Landscape (Aesthetic)	Commitment to avoid or minimize adverse effects on known existing scenic areas or areas of visual value or interest.	Change to the visual landscape considering: • Visibility of the Project (visual prominence). • Scenic quality, viewer sensitivity, and viewer distance ratings relative to the existing visual landscape condition.	Qualitative assessment of the change to the visual landscape during construction and during the operations and maintenance phases of the Project.

Visual landscape was selected as the criterion on which to focus the assessment of potential effects of the Project on landscape views and visual aesthetics. Aesthetics is the visual character or condition of the visual resources (i.e., topography, water features, vegetation, cultural features) of a landscape area that dictate the ability of the landscape to provide scenic appeal or value for viewers. In general, the visual environment has value to individuals and communities (including Indigenous communities) within the study area for the Project, and in particular to persons involved in recreational, and land and resource use activities.

The indicators used to characterize changes for the visual environment criterion are described as follows:

- Visibility of the Project: Refers to locations that are related to visual aesthetics and have potential visual prominence or visibility of the Project. These locations are derived from GIS data, engagement and available information identified through visibility analysis (refer to Section 4.3). Visibility of the Project also refers to the visible area from key viewpoint locations of potential receptors (e.g., users of the land and waterways). Key viewpoints refer to photo viewpoint locations along the length of the Project. Twenty-two (22) locations along the length of the corridor were identified as potential receptors. Further desktop and field review, and public accessibility constraints resulted in Seventeen (17) receptor locations selected and photographed as representative viewpoints for the visual effects assessment.

- A rating system that considers changes to:

    - Scenic Quality – The Scenic Quality Rating is determined by examining the changes to the landscape characteristics such as visible landform, vegetation communities, water and shoreline features, and unique natural and cultural heritage elements.
    - Viewer Sensitivity – The Viewer Sensitivity Rating is determined based upon the input derived from stakeholder and Indigenous consultations and engagement and is primarily determined by the proximity of the viewer to the Project.
    - Viewing Distance – The Viewing Distance Rating is determined for each of the 17 selective representative receptor sites utilizing aerial imagery to assess changes to the magnitude of the visual impact of the Project on the existing landscape from various distances.

Comments from the future review of the Environmental Report will be considered in finalizing the visual assessment, including how predicted changes may relate to the practice of rights, interests and use of lands and resources, including 'Sense of Place'.

5.0 VISUAL BASELINE CHARACTERIZATION AND VISIBILITY ANALYSIS

5.1 Information Sources

The visual environment baseline characterization was conducted using the following information provided by AR that included results from both the review of secondary source and primary data collection:

- Existing Transmission Line Alignments;
- Detailed Terrain Mapping;
- Surface Water;
- Land-Use Mapping;
- Socio-economic Environment;
- Indigenous Knowledge and land and resource use information, and comments and feedback shared to date as part of the EA/IA process;
- LiDAR elevation data with a resolution of approximately 2.0m and approximately 300m wide area along the transmission corridor right-of-way (ROW) and aerial imagery for the Project; and,
- Photographic images/inventories during field surveys.

The process was also informed by the information gathered to date from engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities to confirm and understand the following:

- Vistas – meaning broad sweeping views from an elevated portion of land;
- Commonly navigated and recreationally-utilized waterbodies and watercourses; and,
- Cultural land travel routes, such as those used to access hunting areas and/or sites of spiritual value or interest.

Data sets that document the information listed above were employed in the process of identifying viewsheds and potential receptors. A viewshed is a geographical area on the land that is visible from the location of a receptor or a person. For example, this includes all surrounding points that are in line-of-sight from a location but excludes points that are beyond the horizon or which are obstructed by vegetation, terrain and other features.

5.2 Description of Existing Environment

The landscape that the Project traverses is typical of the Canadian Shield and the Great Lakes Basin and is primarily located within the Boreal Shield physiographic region. The Project largely traverses landscapes that are characterized as natural environment, with limited proximity to urban centers, with the exception of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The topography along the transmission corridor varies, with a total topographic elevation change of 310m, with a high point of 518m and a low point of 208m.

The broad vegetation communities within the study area consist of predominantly mixed deciduous and coniferous forests with occasional intersection with wetlands, waterways and open water areas

5.3 Visibility Analysis

Based upon a review of the aerial imagery of the proposed transmission corridor, the majority of the Project traverses the natural environment landscapes that are illustrated on **Figure 5.1.**

Along the total length of the transmission corridor (approximately 105km), 22 potential receptor locations were identified. These included areas where the proposed corridor is located in proximity to rural and urban properties comprising a range of uses including residential, commercial and recreational.

Given the density of existing vegetation, the variation in topography, and the angles of view along the entire length of the proposed corridor, it is unlikely that the transmission lines will be visible from outside of the limit of the LSA, with the exception of the Searchmont Ski Resort.

Based upon the Visibility Analysis, the 22 potential receptors that may afford views to the proposed transmission corridor were identified, including the following:

- The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near the Root River Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near Trout Lake Resort (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON); and
- Near Pants Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON);
- Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON);
- Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON);
- In proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON);
- Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) (Algoma, Unorganized, ON);
- Abutting Carpenter Lake Cabins (Bruce Mines, ON);
- Near Cooper Lake (Bruce Mines, ON);
- Near a Mississagi River Tributary (Bruce Mines, ON);
- Abutting Cedar Rail Ranch Outpost 2 (Wharncliffe, ON);
- Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON);

At a later stage in the assessment process, a site-specific field assessment of the visual characteristics of each of these sites was completed in order to determine the degree of visibility of the proposed transmission line in consideration of vegetation community composition, topography, view angles, viewing distance to the receptor and visual contrast.

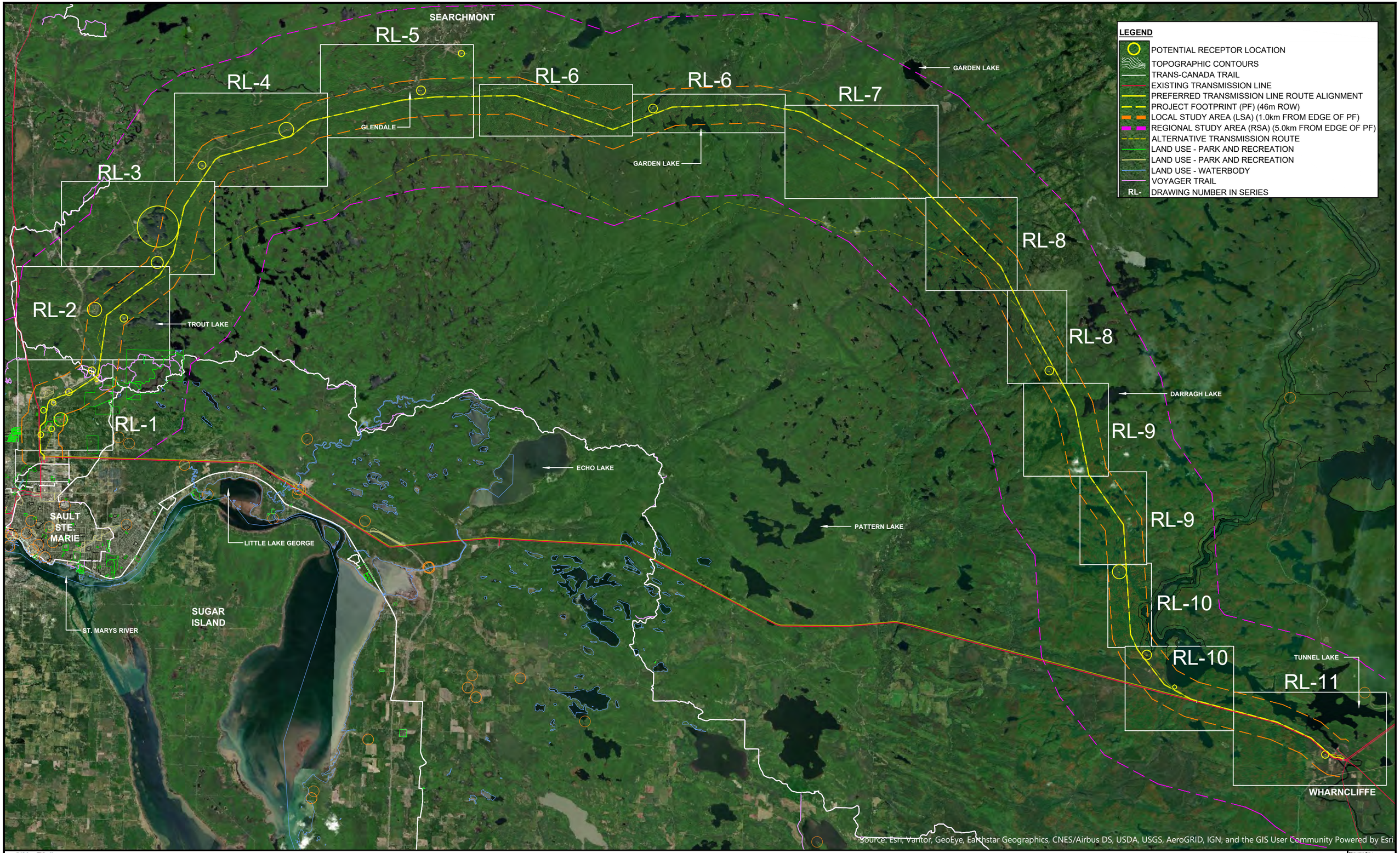
Background Research
This task included the compilation and review of aerial photography, maps and GIS data to gain an understanding of the topography, and physical and biophysical characteristics of the project site, as well as research to identify cultural sites, tourism amenities and recreational amenities and routes in the vicinity of the project site.

Preparation of a Consolidated Base Plan
A Base Plan was prepared that consolidated the findings of the background review and incorporated the data layers in order to define the limits of the potential viewsheds to confirm the location of the potential receptors.

Identification of Potential Receptors
Detailed analysis was undertaken utilizing the Base Plan to identify twenty-two (22) potential receptors as illustrated on **Figures 5.1 - 5.12** (drawings RL-0 to RL-11). Each potential receptor is described in terms of location, type and characteristics.

The proposed transmission line traverses a rugged and remote landscape. Many of the potential receptors are rural properties comprising residences, businesses, tourism and recreational amenities and cultural sites in proximity to the corridor that would elevate the visual sensitivity of a potential receptor. As the proposed transmission line approaches the City of Sault Ste. Marie, the landscape becomes more urban, resulting in receptors that comprise a higher proportion of residential and commercial land uses.

During a subsequent stage in the VA process, field work was conducted to determine the level of sensitivity of each of the potential receptors in order to identify a short-listed suite of receptors that may be sensitive to the potential changes in the visual landscape that are anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of the Project.



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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000
SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-0**

Figure 5.1: Potential Receptors 1-22

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #1
DESCRIPTION: FOURTH LINE E
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 6

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #2
DESCRIPTION: WIGGLE ST
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 13

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #3
DESCRIPTION: ROOT RIVER GOLF CLULB
TYPE: COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL
BUSINESSES: 1

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #4
DESCRIPTION: SAULT STE. MARIE KOA HOLIDAY CAMPGROUND
TYPE: COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL
BUSINESSES: 1

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #5
DESCRIPTION: GASWELL CONCRETE PRODUCTS
TYPE: COMMERCIAL
BUSINESSES: 1

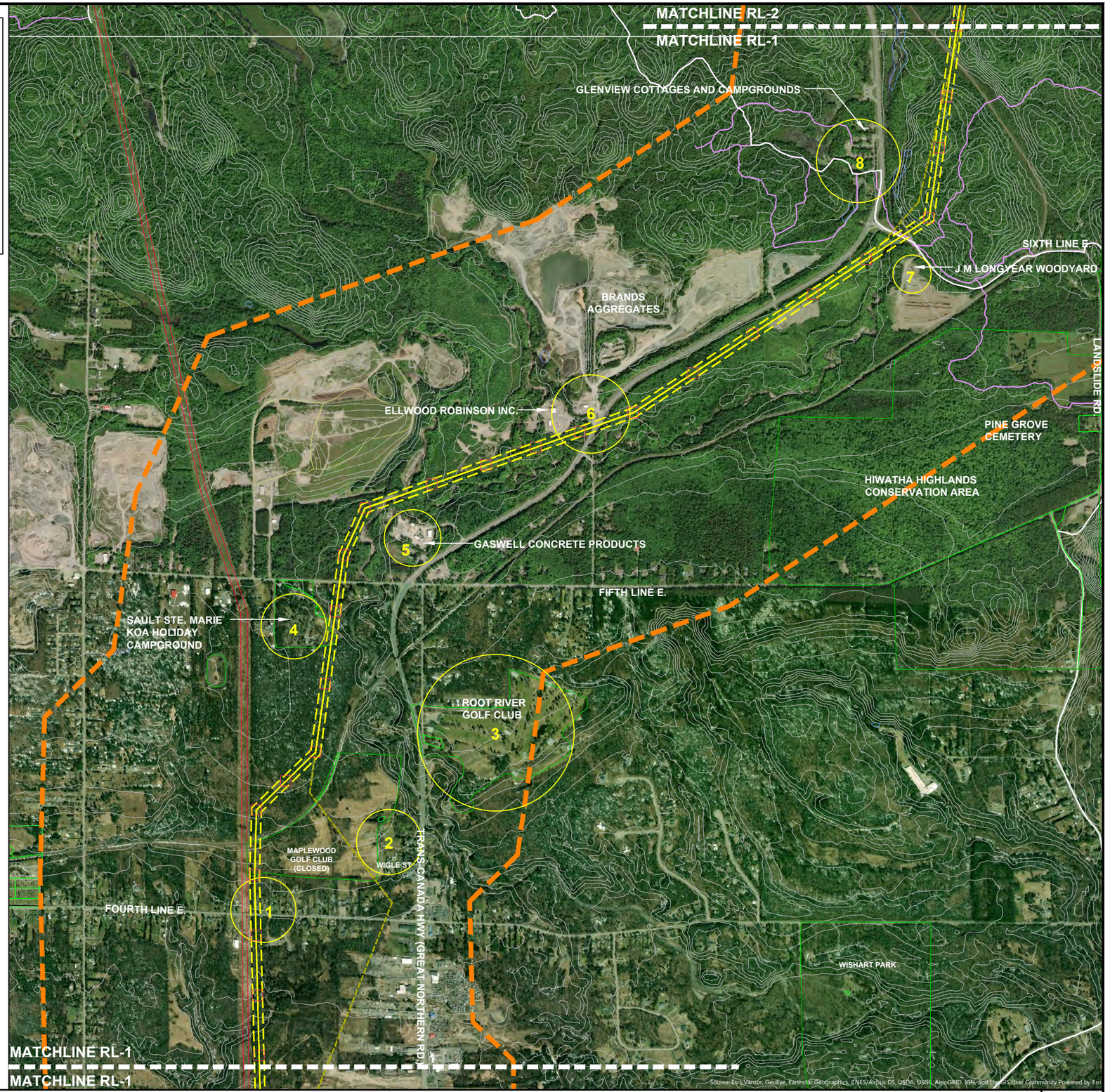
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #6
DESCRIPTION: ELLWOOD ROBINSON INC. AND TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY CROSSING
TYPE: COMMERCIAL
BUSINESSES: 1

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #7
DESCRIPTION: J M LONGYEAR WOODYARD
TYPE: COMMERCIAL
BUSINESSES: 1

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #8
DESCRIPTION: GLENVIEW COTTAGES AND CAMPGROUNDS
TYPE: COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL
BUSINESSES: 1
COTTAGE UNITS: 31

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



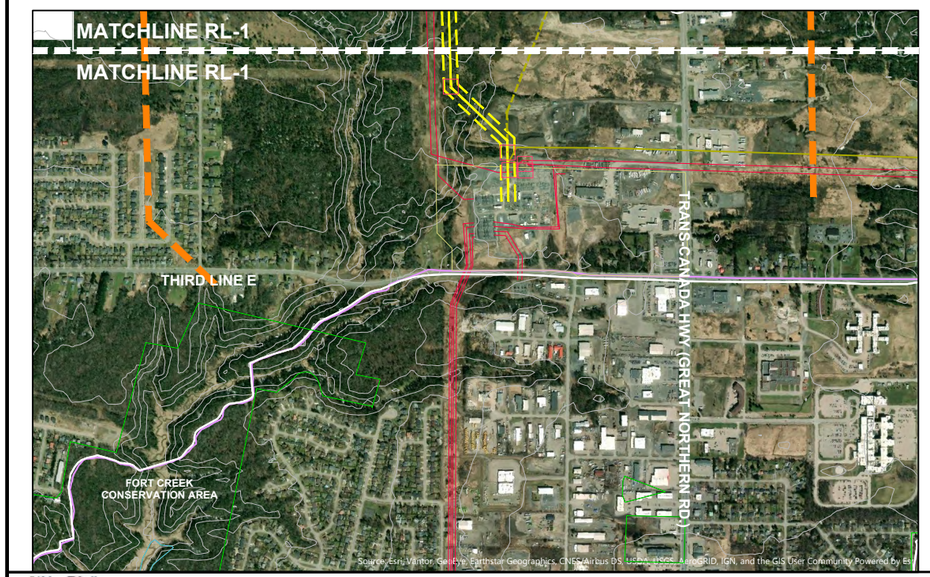


Figure 5.2: Potential Receptors 1-8

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000
SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-1**

MATCHLINE RL-3

MATCHLINE RL-2

HIGHWAY 656

9

TROUT LAKE RD

TROUT LAKE RESORT

10

TROUT LAKE

TRANS-CANADA HWY

MATCHLINE RL-2

MATCHLINE RL-1

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #9
DESCRIPTION: TROUT LAKE RD RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 75+

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #10
DESCRIPTION: TROUT LAKE RESORT
TYPE: COMMERCIAL/RECREATIONAL
BUSINESSES: 1

Source: Esri, Vantor, Geobye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community Powered by Esri

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-2**

Figure 5.3: Potential Receptors 9-10

MATCHLINE RL-4

MATCHLINE RL-3

HIGHWAY 552

HIGHWAY 556

OLD MILL RD

12

UPPER ISLAND LAKE

LOWER ISLAND LAKE

PANTS LAKE RD

11

PANTS LAKE

MATCHLINE RL-3

MATCHLINE RL-2

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR # 11
DESCRIPTION: PANTS LAKE - RURAL/SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES WITH PRIVATE ROAD ACCESS.
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 7

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #12
DESCRIPTION: UPPER ISLAND LAKE - RURAL/SEASONAL LAKE FRONT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES WITH ROAD ACCESS.
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 50+

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community Powered by Esri

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-3**

Figure 5.4: Potential Receptors 11-12

MATCHLINE RL-5

MATCHLINE RL-4

14

HIGHWAY 556

NORTHLAND LAKE RD

BELLEVUE VALLEY PARK

HIGHWAY 556

13

MATCHLINE RL-4

MATCHLINE RL-3

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR # 13
DESCRIPTION: HIGHWAY 556 - RURAL PROPERTIES
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 3

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR # 14
DESCRIPTION: HIGHWAY 556 - RURAL PROPERTIES
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 5

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community Powered by Esri

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-4**

Figure 5.5: Potential Receptors 13-14

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #20
DESCRIPTION: HIGHWAY 556 (RANGER LAKE RD)
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 4

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #21
DESCRIPTION: SEARCHMONT RESORT - SKI RESORT WITH ROAD ACCESS FROM HIGHWAY 532.
TYPE: RECREATIONAL/COMMERCIAL
DWELLINGS: N/A

SEARCHMONT RESORT

16

HIGHWAY 532

HIGHWAY 556

15

HIGHWAY 556
(RANGER LAKE RD)

MOUTAINVIEW
LODGE

HIGHWAY 556

MATCHLINE RL-4

MATCHLINE RL-5

MATCHLINE RL-5

MATCHLINE RL-6

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.:
RL-5

Figure 5.6: Potential Receptors 15-16

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #17
DESCRIPTION: PAQUETTE LAKE - RURAL LAKE FRONT PROPERTIES WITH ROAD ACCESS VIA HIGHWAY 556 (RANGER LAKE ROAD).
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 6

MATCHLINE RL-5
MATCHLINE RL-6
HIGHWAY 556 (RANGER LAKE RD)
MATCHLINE RL-5
MATCHLINE RL-5

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community Powered by Esri

PAQUETTE LAKE
17
HIGHWAY 556 (RANGER LAKE RD)
HIGHWAY 556 (RANGER LAKE RD)
MATCHLINE RL-5
MATCHLINE RL-5
MATCHLINE RL-5
MATCHLINE RL-6

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.:
RL-6

Figure 5.7: Potential Receptor 17

PACKSACK LAKE

GARDEN RIVER

MATCHLINE RL-6

MATCHLINE RL-7

MATCHLINE RL-7

MATCHLINE RL-8

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Co[illegible]

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: RL-7

Figure 5.8: Project Area Absent of Potential Receptors

MATCHLINE RL-7
MATCHLINE RL-8

ONION LAKE

MATCHLINE RL-8
MATCHLINE RL-8

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #18
DESCRIPTION: CARPENTER LAKE CABINS - LAKE FRONT ACCESS TO CARPENTER LAKE WITH PRIVATE ROAD ACCESS VIA CARPENTER LAKE ROAD.
TYPE: RECREATIONAL/RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 15+

MATCHLINE RL-8
MATCHLINE RL-8

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community Powered by Esri

CARPENTER LAKE CABINS
18
CARPENTER LAKE RD
CARPENTER LAKE

MATCHLINE RL-8
MATCHLINE RL-9

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000
SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.:
RL-8

Figure 5.9: Potential Receptor 18

MATCHLINE RL-8
MATCHLINE RL-9

DARRAGH LAKE

SHELDEN LAKE

MATCHLINE RL-9
MATCHLINE RL-9

SORENSON LAKE

DESAYEUX LAKE

MATCHLINE RL-9
MATCHLINE RL-10

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-9**

Figure 5.10: Project Area Absent of Potential Receptors

MATCHLINE RL-9

MATCHLINE RL-10

COOPER LAKE

19

MISSISSAGI RIVER

MATCHLINE RL-10

MATCHLINE RL-10

20

MISSISSAGI RIVER TRIBUTARY

MISSISSAGI RIVER

21

CEDAR RAIL RANCH OUTPOST 2

MATCHLINE RL-10

MATCHLINE RL-11

MATCHLINE RL-10

MATCHLINE RL-10

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Powered by Esri

Source: Esri, Vantor, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #19
DESCRIPTION: COOPER LAKE - RURAL/SEASONAL HOMES WITH AND WITHOUT LAKEFRONT ACCESS, WITH PRIVATE ROAD/TRAIL ACCESS.
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 50+

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #20
DESCRIPTION: MISSISSAGI RIVER - RURAL/SEASONAL MOBILE HOMES WITH PRIVATE ROAD/TRAIL ACCESS.
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 15+

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #21
DESCRIPTION: CEDAR RAIL RANCH OUTPOST 2 CAMPING CABIN - WATER FRONT ACCESS TO MISSISSAGI RIVER TUNNEL LAKE WITH PRIVATE ROAD ACCESS.
TYPE: RECREATIONAL
UNITS: 1

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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.:
RL-10

Figure 5.11: Potential Receptors 19-21

MATCHLINE RL-10
MATCHLINE RL-11

MISSISSAGI RIVER

TUNNEL LAKE

MISSISSAGI RIVER

WHARNFLIFFE RD

POVERTY LN

22

CEDAR RAIL RANCH

MISSISSAGI TS

WHARNCLIFFE CEMETERY

LEGEND

- POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATION
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
- TRANS-CANADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
- PREFERRED TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- PROJECT FOOTPRINT (PF) (46m ROW)
- LOCAL STUDY AREA (LSA) (1.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- REGIONAL STUDY AREA (RSA) (5.0km FROM EDGE OF PF)
- ALTERNATIVE TRANSMISSION ROUTE
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - PARK AND RECREATION
- LAND USE - WATERBODY
- VOYAGER TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRANSMISSION TOWER LOCATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

POTENTIAL RECEPTOR #22
DESCRIPTION: POVERTY LANE - RURAL PROPERTIES.
TYPE: RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS: 6

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000

SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.: **RL-11**

Figure 5.12: Potential Receptor 22

6.0 IDENTIFICATION OF VIEWSHEDS FROM POTENTIAL RECEPTORS

6.1 Potential Receptors

Each of the potential receptors was assessed in the field to determine the extent of the viewshed related to each. Photographs of the views to the corridor at each potential receptor were taken. The potential for viewers to access/use each receptor was assessed and documented to determine the degree of sensitivity for each potential receptor. Representative photographs and a description of the potential viewer sensitivity are illustrated on Figures 5.1 to 5.21.

Potential Receptor 1 – Transmission line crossing at Fourth Line E. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 1 is characterized predominantly as a low density/rural residential and natural environment. Fourth Line E. a paved road with two travel lanes, gravel shoulders with mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland on the north side and individual residences along the south side. The viewshed of the receptor that will be most impacted is viewing west along Fourth Line E. towards the existing transmission corridor. Existing transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.1: Viewing west from Fourth Line E. towards existing transmission corridor.

Potential Receptor 2 – Transmission line adjacent to former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 2 is characterized predominantly as a regenerating natural environment on the former Maplewood Golf Club to the west and low density residential to the east. Viewing west is the former golf club in the foreground and mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland in the background. There are approximately 10 individual residences clustered around Wigle Street. Wigle Street is a paved residential road with granular shoulders and open grass swales.



Figure 6.2: Viewing west from Wiggle Street at former Maplewood Golf Club

Potential Receptor 3 – Transmission line near Root River Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 3 is located at the Root River Golf Club. The golf club lands are predominantly encompassed by natural environment comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland with select individual residences and the Root River Trailer Park to the north. The site is accessible from Old Highway 17 North which is a paved road with two travel lanes and open grass swales. The access from Old Highway 17 North to the golf club comprises a gravel parking lot. Various existing transmission lines and site service transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.3: Viewing west from The Root Golf Club & Restaurant

Potential Receptor 4 – Transmission line abutting Sault Ste, Marie KOA Holiday Campground (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 4 is characterized predominantly as a natural environment, encompassing mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland, descending towards Root River. The Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday campground is open seasonally throughout the spring, summer and fall months. Access to the site is from Fifth Line East. Fifth Line East is a paved asphalt road with two travel lanes and granular shoulders. The existing transmission lines are visible from this potential receptor location.



Figure 6.4: Viewing east from Fifth Line East with KOA Holiday campground to the south

Potential Receptor 5 – Transmission line near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 5 is characterized as an industrial/commercial site encompassed by natural environment predominantly comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and bounded by The Root River. Access to the site is afforded directly from the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 17). The Trans-Canada Highway in this location is a paved three-lane highway with gravel shoulders with two eastbound travel lanes and one westbound travel lane. Local service transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.5: Viewing north-west towards Gaswell Concrete Products from Trans-Canada Highway

Potential Receptor 6 – Transmission line abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 6, Ellwood Robinson Inc. is characterized as an industrial/commercial site with aggregate mining to the north (Brand Aggregates) with natural environment to the south and west that comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and wetland. Access to the site is afforded directly from the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 17). The Trans-Canada Highway in this location is a paved three-lane highway with gravel shoulders with two eastbound travel lanes and one westbound travel lane. Existing local service transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.6: Viewing north from Ellwood Robinson Inc.

Potential Receptor 7 – Transmission line near J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 7 is characterized as a predominantly by natural environment, comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. The J M Longyear Woodyard is located to the south of Sixth Line East and one residence is located to the north. Sixth Line East is a paved road with two travel lanes that terminates at an intersection with the Trans-Canada Highway. Various existing local transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.7: Viewing east from the intersection of Trans-Canada Highway and Sixth Line East

Potential Receptor 8 – Transmission line near Glenview Cottages and Campground (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 8 is characterized as short-term rental accommodation business with approximately 30 cabins and allotments for tent and mobile home accommodation. The site abuts the Trans-Canada Highway and is encompassed by natural environment, comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. Existing local transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.8: Viewing east from Glenview Cottages and Campground

Potential Receptor 9 – Transmission line near Trout Lake Road and Maki Lake Road (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 9 is characterized as a cluster of low-density residences encompassed by natural environment, comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. Accessible from Trout Lake Road, the residences are served by paved roads with two travel lanes and gravel shoulders. Existing local transmission lines are visible from the potential receptor location.



Figure 6.9: Viewing east from intersection of Trout Lake Rd. and Maki Lake Rd.

Potential Receptor 10 – Transmission line near Trout Lake Resort (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 10 is characterized by natural environment, seasonal and year-round residences and the Trout Lake Resort. The natural environment comprises mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland and Trout Lake. Trout Lake Road is a paved road with two travel lanes. Marina Road is one-lane gravel road with limited year-round access.



Figure 6.10: Viewing north from Marina Rd.

Potential Receptor 11 – Transmission line Near Pants Lake (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 11 is limited to seasonal accessibility. The location of the potential receptor is not accessible during the winter months. As such, Potential Receptor 11 has not been identified as a receptor in the Visual Impact Assessment.



Figure 6.11: Viewing south from Old Mill Rd. at Pants Lake Rd.

Potential Receptor 12 – Transmission line near Upper Island Lake (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 12 is characterized as natural environment with seasonal and all-season residences. The natural environment encompasses mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and Upper Island Lake and Lower Island Lake. There are various existing local transmission lines in the area. Old Mill Road is a paved one lane road.



Figure 6.12: Viewing east from Old Mill Rd.

Potential Receptor 13 – Transmission line near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 13 is characterized predominantly as natural environment. Three (3) residential properties are within the vicinity of the receptor. The natural environment comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. Highway 556 is a two-lane paved road with gravel shoulders.



Figure 6.13: Viewing south-east from Highway 556

Potential Receptor 14 – Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 14 is characterized predominantly as a natural environment. The natural environment comprises predominantly mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and areas of low to medium height deciduous vegetation. Six (6) residential properties and a railway corridor are proximate to the Project site. Highway 556 is a two-lane paved road with metal guardrail and gravel shoulders.



Figure 6.14: Viewing east from Highway 556

Potential Receptor 15– Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 14 is characterized as a natural environment. The natural environment comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. Three (3) residential properties and a railway corridor are proximate to the Project site. Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) in this location is a two-lane paved road with gravel shoulders.



Figure 6.15: Viewing south from Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd.)

Potential Receptor 16 – Transmission line in proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 16 is characterized as a commercial ski resort encompassed by natural environment. Searchmond Resort has approximately ten (10) ski runs. The ski runs are located on the north side of the elevated landform. The surrounding natural environment comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodlands.



Figure 6.16: Viewing south-east from Searchmont Resort parking lot

Potential Receptor 17 – Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 17 is characterized as a natural environment. Approximately seven (7) seasonal and year-round residential properties are proximate to the Project site. The natural environment comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) in this location is a two-lane gravel road.



Figure 6.17: Viewing south from Highway 556

Potential Receptor 18 – Abutting Carpenter Lake Cabins (Bruce Mines, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 18 is limited to seasonal accessibility. The location of the potential receptor is not accessible during the winter months. As such, Potential Receptor 18 was not included in the Visual Impact Assessment.



Figure 6.18: Viewing North-East from the seasonal terminus of Poplar Dale Rd.

Potential Receptor 19 – Near Cooper Lake (Bruce Mines, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 19 is limited to seasonal accessibility. The location of the potential receptor is not accessible during the winter months. As such, Potential Receptor 19 was not included in the Visual Impact Assessment.



Figure 6.19: Viewing East from the terminus of Shaw Rd.

Potential Receptor 20 – Near a Mississagi River Tributary (Bruce Mines, ON)
Potential Receptor 21 – Abutting Cedar Rail Ranch Outpost 2 (Wharncliffe, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 20 and 21 are limited to seasonal accessibility. The location of the potential receptors are not accessible during the winter months. As such, Potential Receptors 20 and 21 were not included in the Visual Impact Assessment.



Figure 6.20: Viewing North from the terminus of Wharncliffe Road

Potential Receptor 22 – Transmission line Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON)

Description: Potential Receptor 22 is characterized as rural residential and natural environment. Five (5) residential properties are proximate to the Project site. The natural environment comprises predominantly mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. The existing Hydro One transmission corridor and wooden transmission towers are visible from this receptor. Poverty Lane two-lane gravel road with gravel shoulders and open sod swales.



Figure 6.21: Viewing North-East from Poverty Lane

6.2 Selected Receptors

Based on the outcome of the field investigation, it was confirmed that certain potential receptor locations are limited to seasonal access and are not accessible through the winter season. Areas that are limited by seasonal access do not meet the threshold to serve as a receptor. Areas that qualify as receptors include require all-season access and have a fixed viewshed with potential views of the proposed transmission corridor from a fixed viewer/user/occupant location.

The selected receptors that were identified for further visual analysis are illustrated on **Figure 6.22**

Table 6.1 illustrates the areas that have all-season access and as well as areas that have limited seasonal access.

Table 6.1: All-Season Access vs. Limited Seasonal Access

Potential Receptor Locations	All-Season Access	Limited Seasonal Access
Potential Receptor 1 – The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 2 – Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 3 – Near the Root River Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 4 – Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		X
Potential Receptor 5 – Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 6 – Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 7 – Adjacent to J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 8 – Near Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 9 – Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 10 – Near Trout Lake Resort (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 11 – Near Pants Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		X
Potential Receptor 12 – Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 13 – Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 14 – Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 15 – Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 16 – In proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 17 – Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)	X	
Potential Receptor 18 – Abutting Carpenter Lake Cabins (Bruce Mines, ON)		X
Potential Receptor 19 – Near Cooper Lake (Bruce Mines, ON)		X
Potential Receptor 20 – Near a Mississagi River Tributary (Bruce Mines, ON)		X
Potential Receptor 21 – Abutting Cedar Rail Ranch Outpost 2 (Wharncliffe, ON)		X
Potential Receptor 22 – Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON)	X	

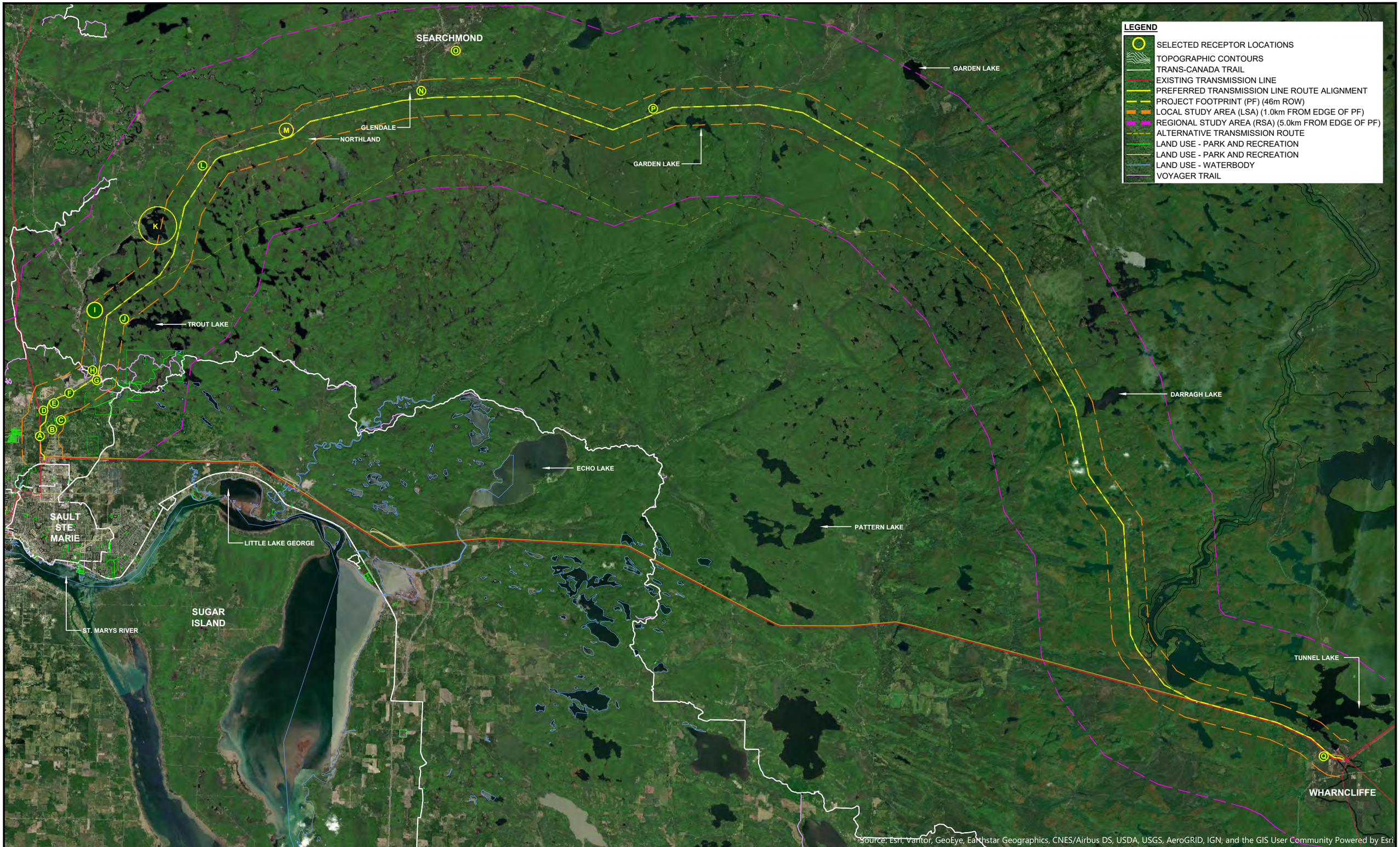
Based on the Potential Receptors in **Table 6.1**, the locations that encompass fixed viewsheds are considered to be Receptors and were further analyzed. The locations that were identified as Receptors include the following:

- Receptor A – The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor B – Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor C – Near the Root River Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor D – Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor E – Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor F – Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor G – Adjacent to J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor H – REGNear Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor I – Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor J – Near Trout Lake Resort (Sault Ste. Marie, ON);
- Receptor K – Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON); and
- Receptor L – Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON);
- Receptor M – Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON);
- Receptor N – Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON);
- Receptor O – In proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON);
- Receptor P – Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) (Algoma, Unorganized, ON);
- Receptor Q – Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON);

No illumination or aviation obstruction lighting is proposed so the transmission towers will not be visible from any receptors during the night.

Analysis of the vistas, viewsheds, viewing distance and visual characteristics of the landscape was completed to determine the potential visual effects at each potential receptor.

Areas that encompass fixed viewsheds meet the threshold to be ‘Receptors’ and were therefore evaluated further as documented in subsequent sections of the report.



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NORTH SHORE LINK - MISSISSAGI TO THIRD LINE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
POTENTIAL RECEPTOR LOCATIONS

0 200 400 800 1600m
SCALE 1:20,000
SCI PROJECT NO. 2024025

Drawing No.:
RL-12

Figure 3.22: Selected Receptor Locations

7.0 POTENTIAL EFFECTS, MITIGATION AND NET EFFECTS

This section describes the potential effects, appropriate mitigation measures and predicted net Project effects for visual environment.

7.1 Effects Assessment Methods

7.1.1 3 Dimensional Visualizations

To enable the visual impact assessment, 3-dimensional (3D) visualizations were prepared for each of the seventeen (17) receptor locations that are situated along the proposed transmission corridor. Three dimensional models were prepared for various viewpoints. The 3D visualizations were constructed utilizing the following base information:

- DEM and LIDAR digital files
- Site photographs taken during 'leaf off' condition
- Aerial imagery

The following **Figures 7.1.1 to 7.1.47** illustrate the pre-construction and the post-construction visual conditions at each of the 17 selected receptor locations.

The implementation of the transmission infrastructure will require the following activities that will have implications on the visual environment:

- Removal of trees and vegetation along the alignment of the corridor;
- Installation of temporary construction access roads and staging areas;
- Installation of long-term maintenance access roads;
- Installation of transmissions towers and associated structural footings; and,
- Restoration of the areas of disturbance.

Once the area has been restored, it is anticipated that low growing vegetation cover will become re-established and maintained in the vicinity of the transmission corridor.



Figure 7.1.1: Receptor 'A' Pre-Construction – Viewing west from Fourth Line E. towards existing transmission corridor.



Figure 7.1.2: Receptor 'A' Post-Construction – Viewing west from Fourth Line E. towards existing transmission corridor.



Figure 7.1.3: Receptor 'A' Viewshed – Fourth Line E.



Figure 7.1.4: Receptor 'B' Pre-Construction – Viewing west from Wiggle Street at former Maplewood Golf Club



Figure 7.1.5: Receptor 'B' Post-Construction – Viewing west from Wiggle Street at former Maplewood Golf Club

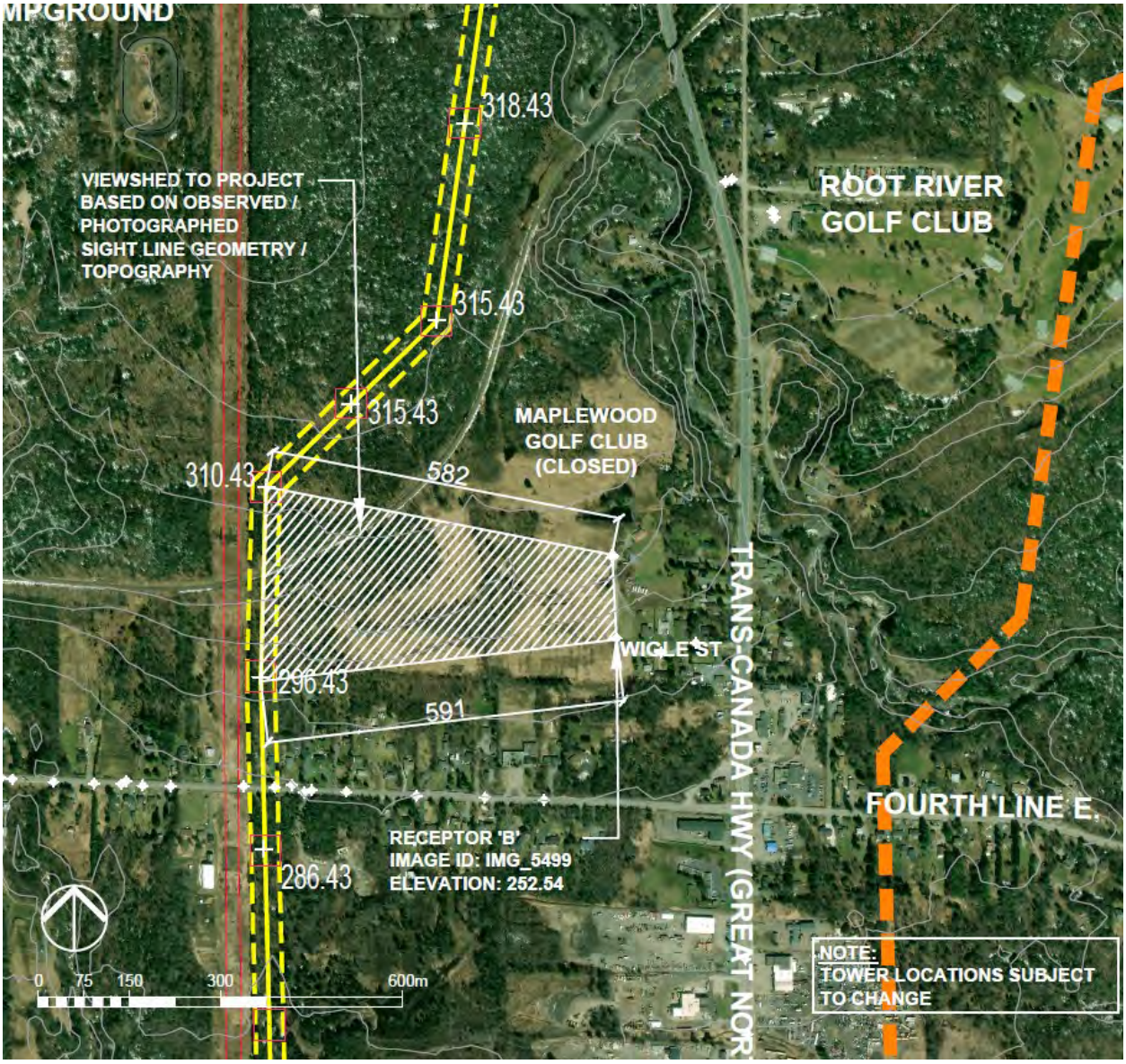


Figure 7.1.6: Receptor 'B' Viewshed – Wiggle Street at former Maplewood Golf Club



Figure 7.1.7: Receptor 'C' Pre/Post Construction – Viewing west from Root Golf Club & Restaurant. No change in visual landscape.



Figure 7.1.8: Receptor 'C' Viewshed – Root Golf Club & Restaurant



Figure 7.1.9: Receptor 'D' Pre-Construction – Viewing east from Fifth Line East with the KOA Holiday campground to the south.



Figure 7.1.10: Receptor 'D' Post-Construction – Viewing east from Fifth Line East with the KOA Holiday campground to the south.

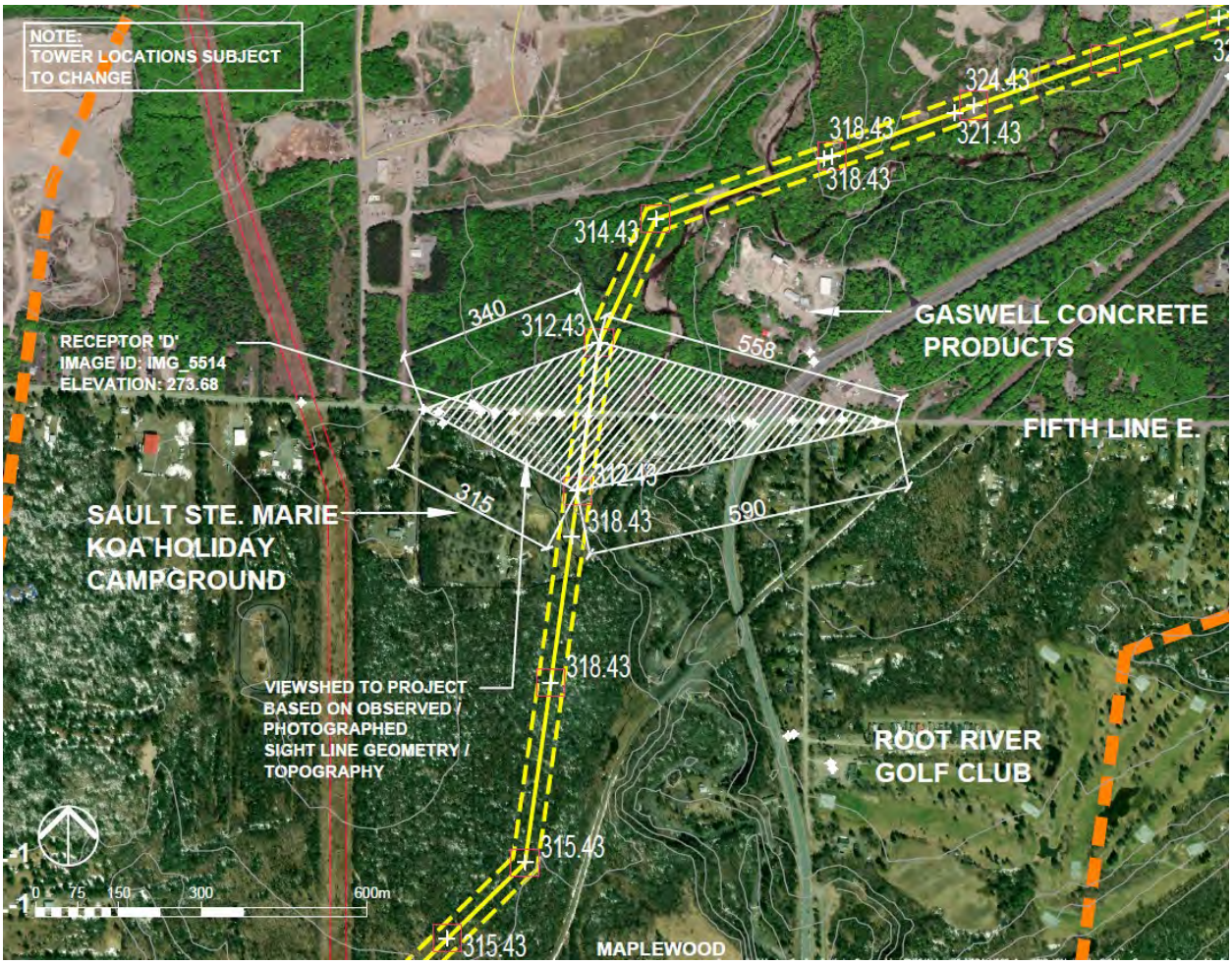


Figure 7.1.11: Receptor 'D' Viewshed – KOA Holiday Campground



Figure 7.1.12: Receptor 'E' Pre-Construction – Viewing north-west towards Gaswell Concrete Products from Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 17)



Figure 7.1.13: Receptor 'E' Post-Construction – Viewing north-west towards Gaswell Concrete Products from Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 17)

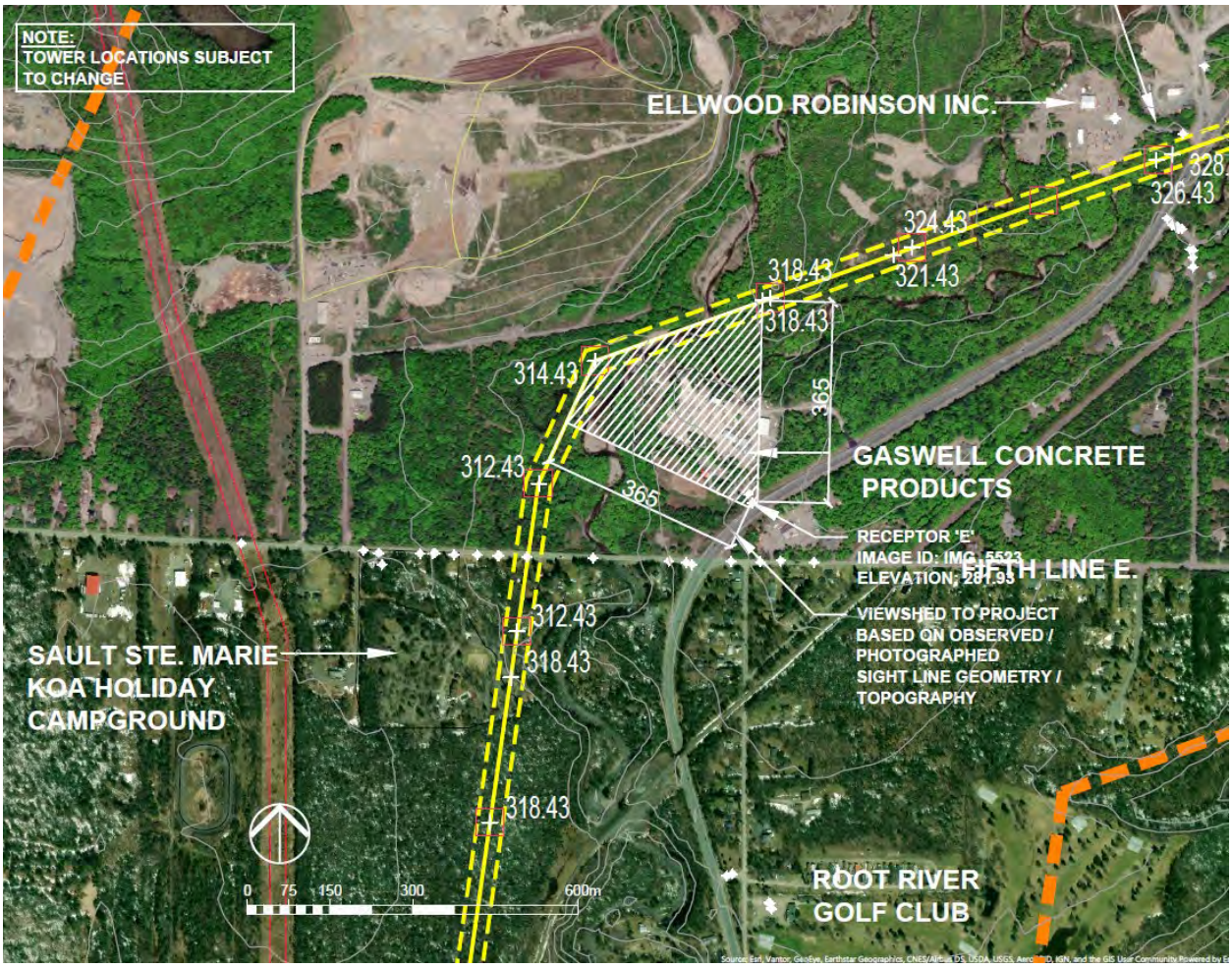


Figure 7.1.14: Receptor 'E' Viewshed – Gaswell Concrete Products



Figure 7.1.15: Receptor 'F' Pre-Construction – Viewing north from Ellwood Robinson Inc.



Figure 7.1.16: Receptor 'F' Post-Construction – Viewing north from Ellwood Robinson Inc.

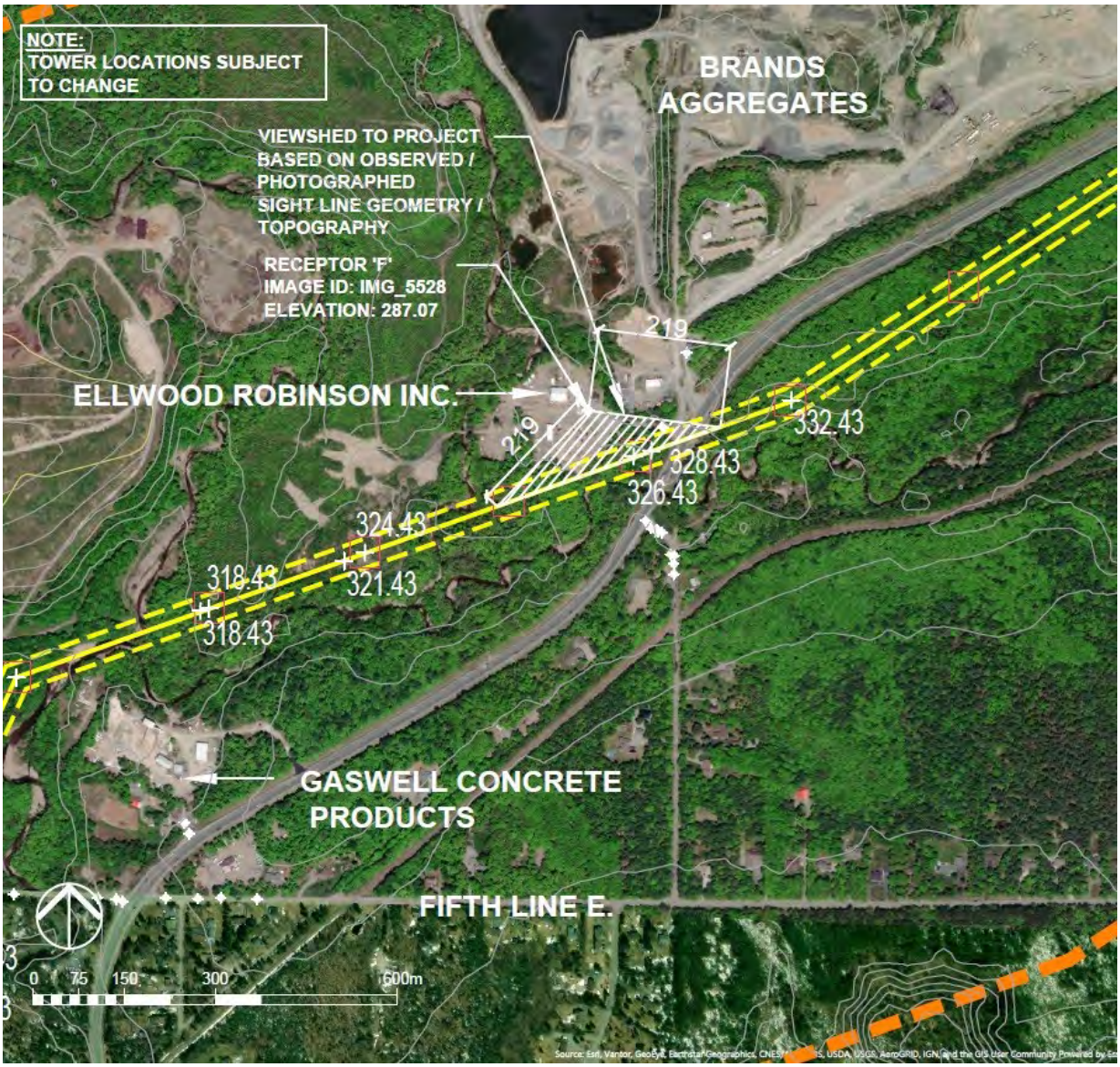


Figure 7.1.17: Receptor 'F' Viewshed – Ellwood Robinson Inc.



Figure 7.1.18: Receptor 'G' Pre-Construction – Viewing east from the intersection of Trans-Canada Highway and Sixth Line East towards



Figure 7.1.19: Receptor 'G' Post-Construction – Viewing east from the intersection of Trans-Canada Highway and Sixth Line East towards

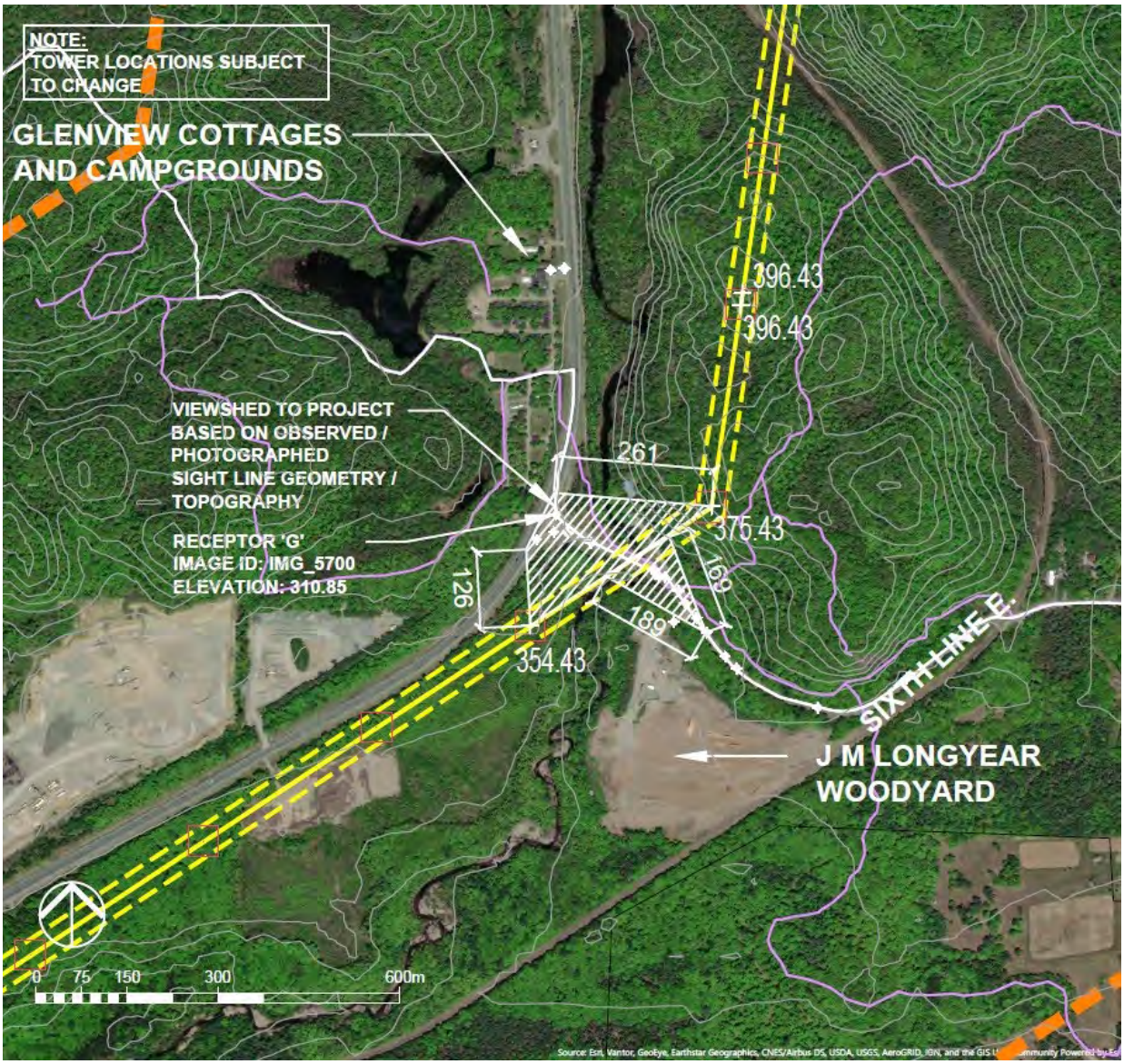


Figure 7.1.20: Receptor 'G' Viewshed –Near J M Longyear Woodyard



Figure 7.1.21: Receptor 'H' Pre-Construction – Viewing east from Glenview Cottages and Campground



Figure 7.1.22: Receptor 'H' Post-Construction – Viewing east from Glenview Cottages and Campground

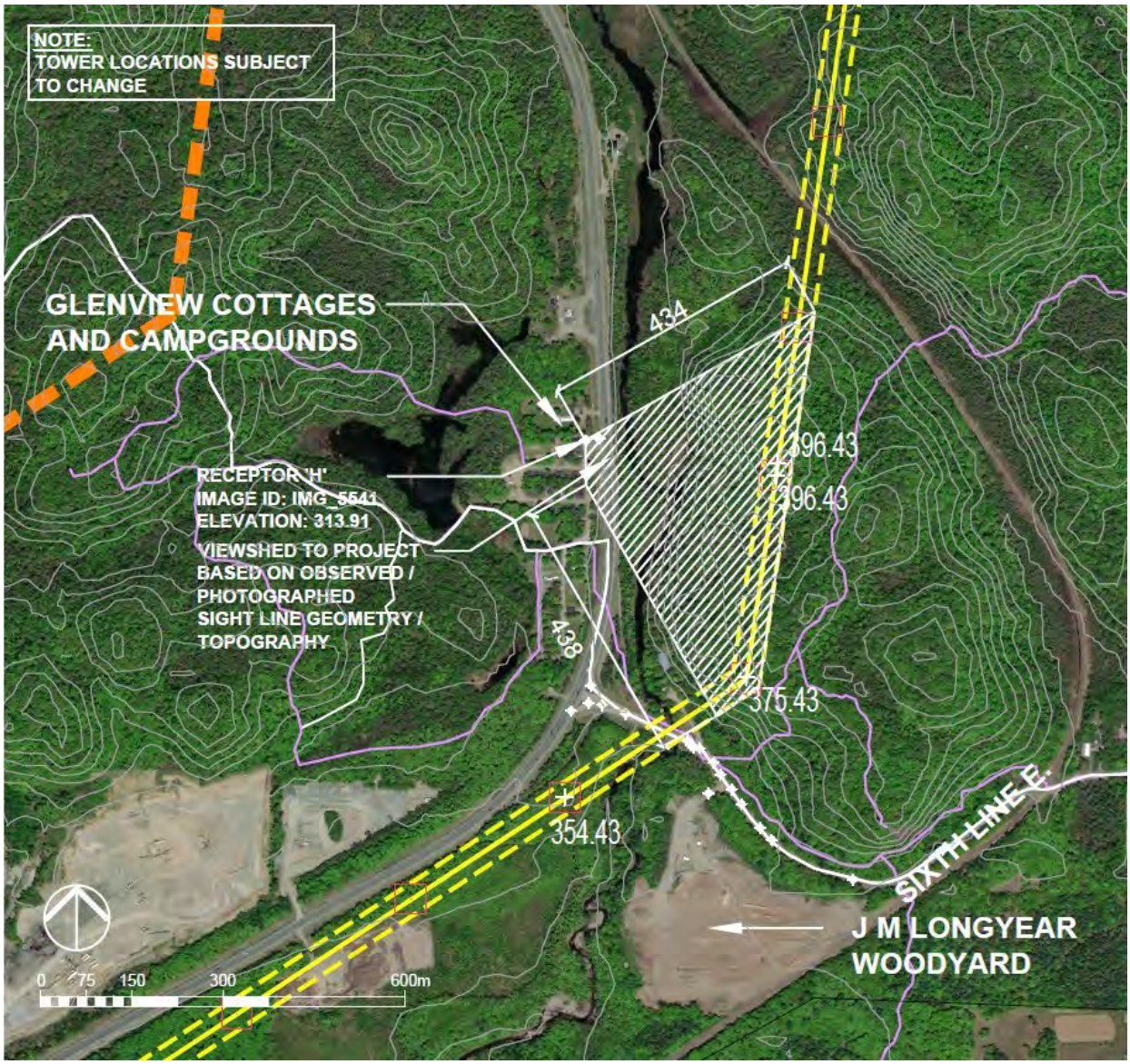


Figure 7.1.23: Receptor 'H' Viewshed –Glenview Cottages and Campground



Figure 7.1.24: Receptor 'I' Pre-Construction – Viewing east from intersection of Trout Lake Rd. and Maki Lake Rd.



Figure 7.1.25: Receptor 'I' Post-Construction – Viewing east from intersection of Trout Lake Rd. and Maki Lake Rd.

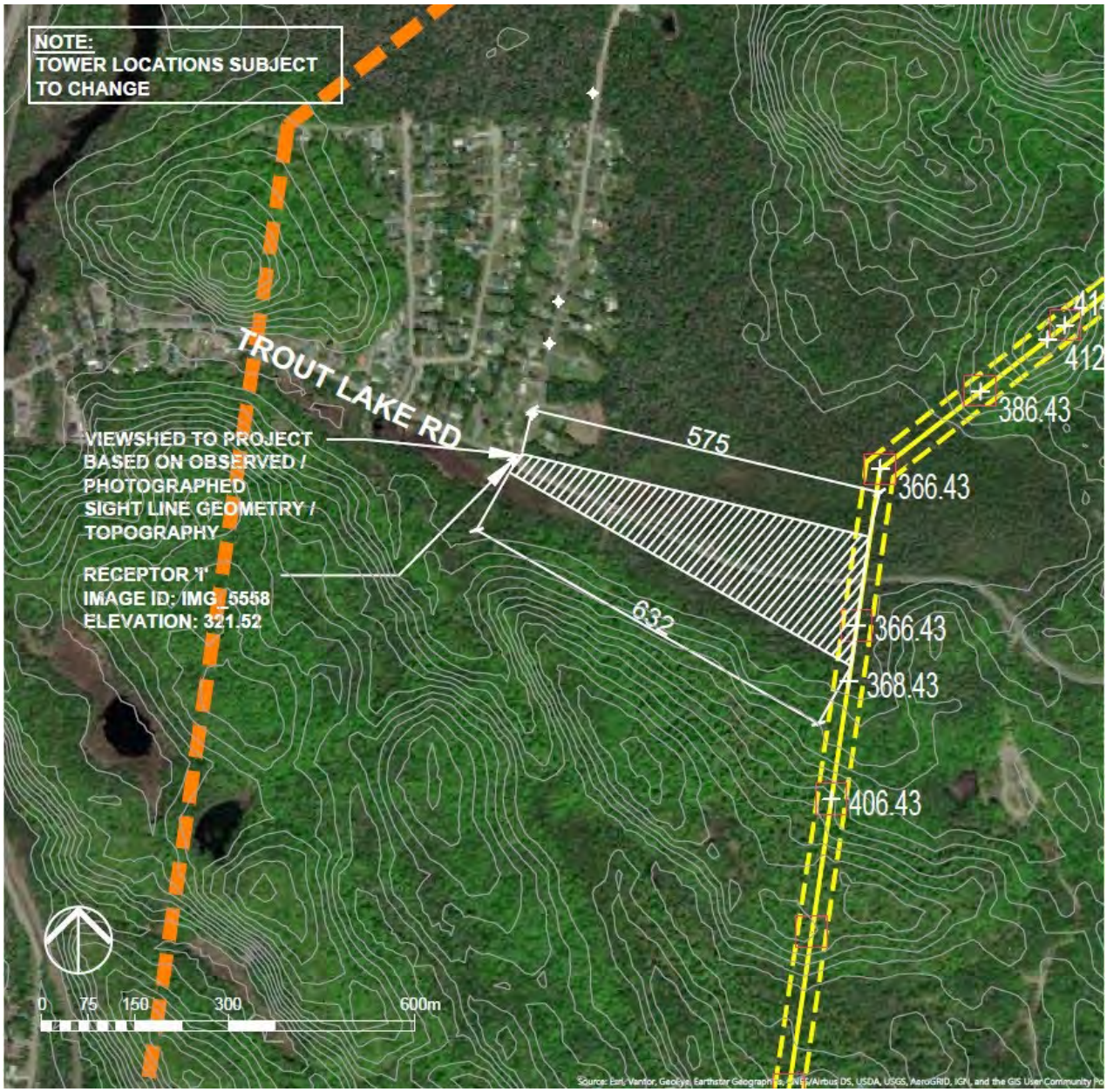


Figure 7.1.26: Receptor 'I' Viewshed – Intersection of Trout Lake Rd. and Maki Lake Rd.



Figure 7.1.27: Receptor 'J' Pre/Post-Construction – Viewing north from Marina Rd. towards Trout Lake Resort. No change in visible landscape.

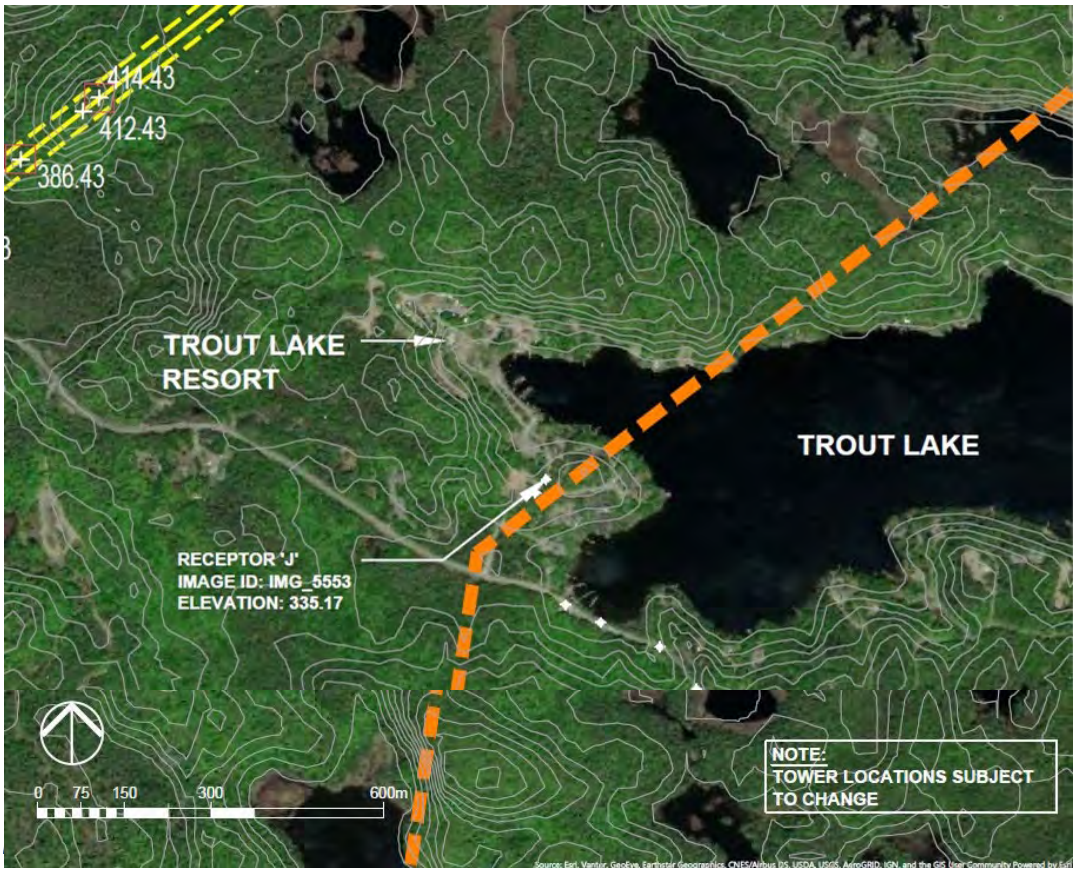




Figure 7.1.29: Receptor 'K' Pre-Construction – Viewing east from Old Mill Rd. towards Upper Island Lake



Figure 7.1.30: Receptor 'K' Post-Construction – Viewing east from Old Mill Rd. towards Upper Island Lake



Figure 7.1.31: Receptor 'K' Viewshed – Upper Island Lake



Figure 7.1.32: Receptor 'L' Pre-Construction – Viewing south-east from Highway 556



Figure 7.1.33: Receptor 'L' Post-Construction – Viewing south-east from Highway 556.

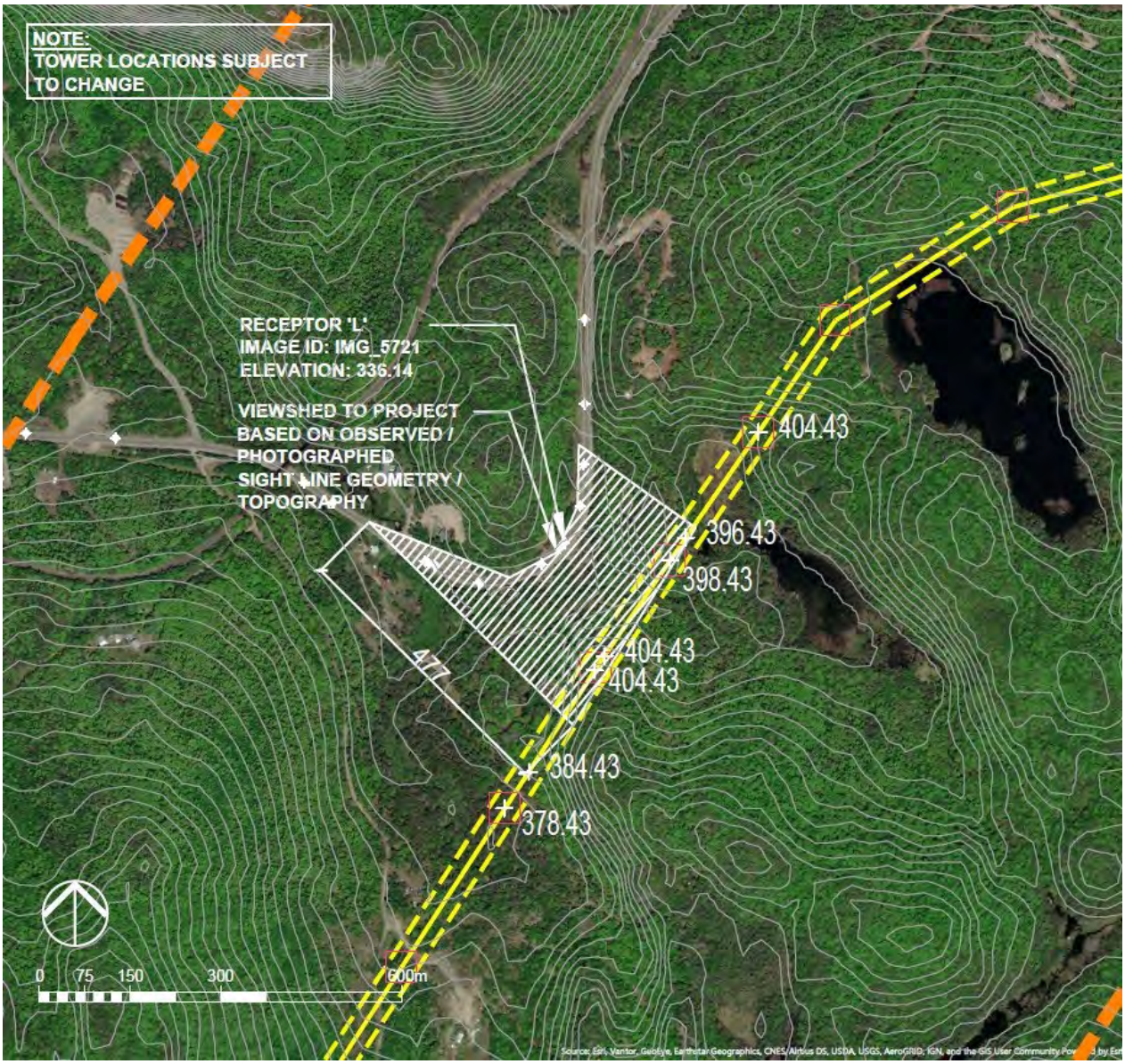


Figure 7.1.34: Receptor 'L' Viewshed – Highway 556



Figure 7.1.35: Receptor 'M' Pre-Construction – Viewing east from Highway 556



Figure 7.1.36: Receptor 'M' Post-Construction – Viewing east from Highway 556

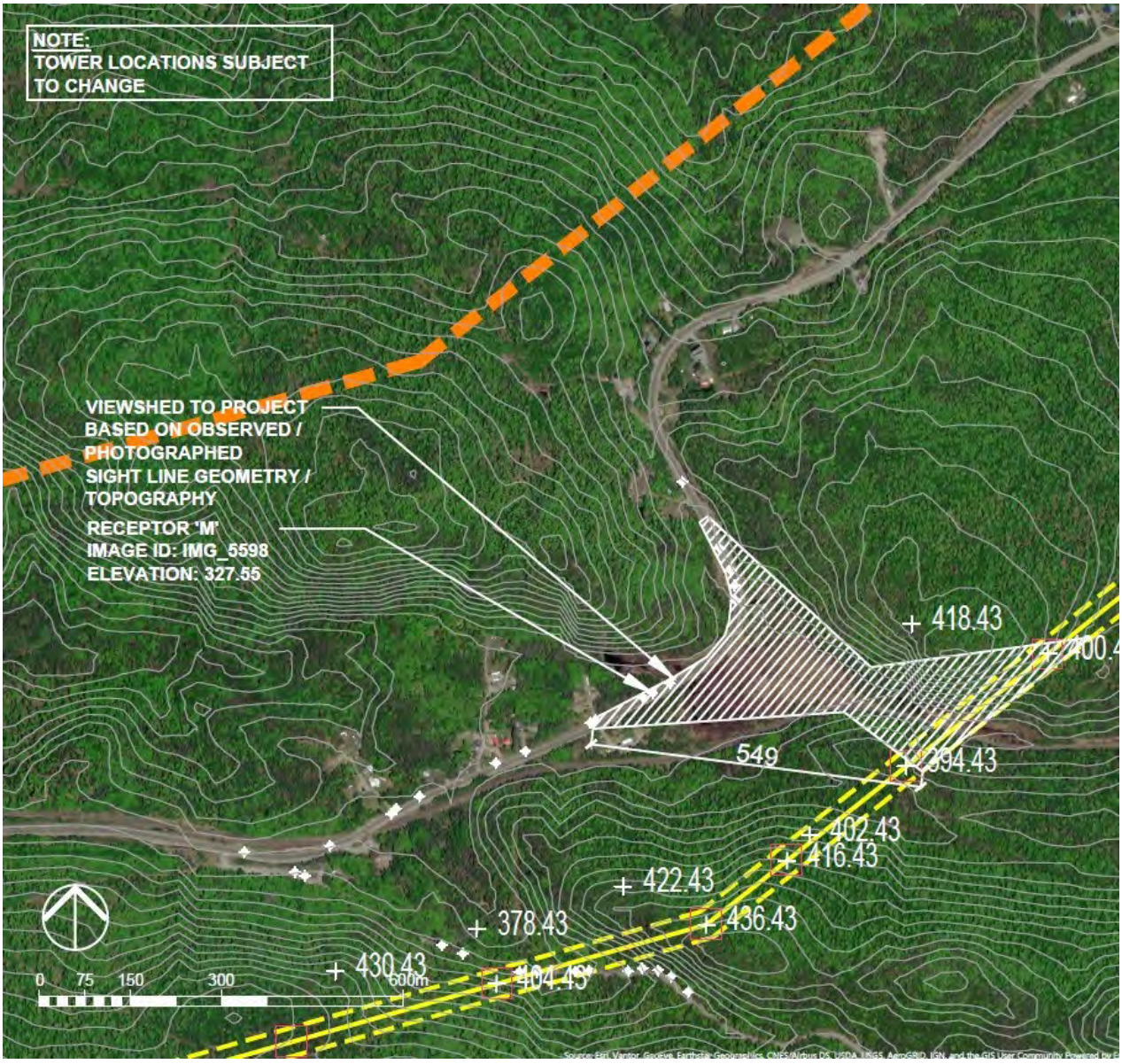


Figure 7.1.37: Receptor 'M' Viewshed – Highway 556



Figure 7.1.38: Receptor 'N' Pre-Construction – Viewing south from Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd.)

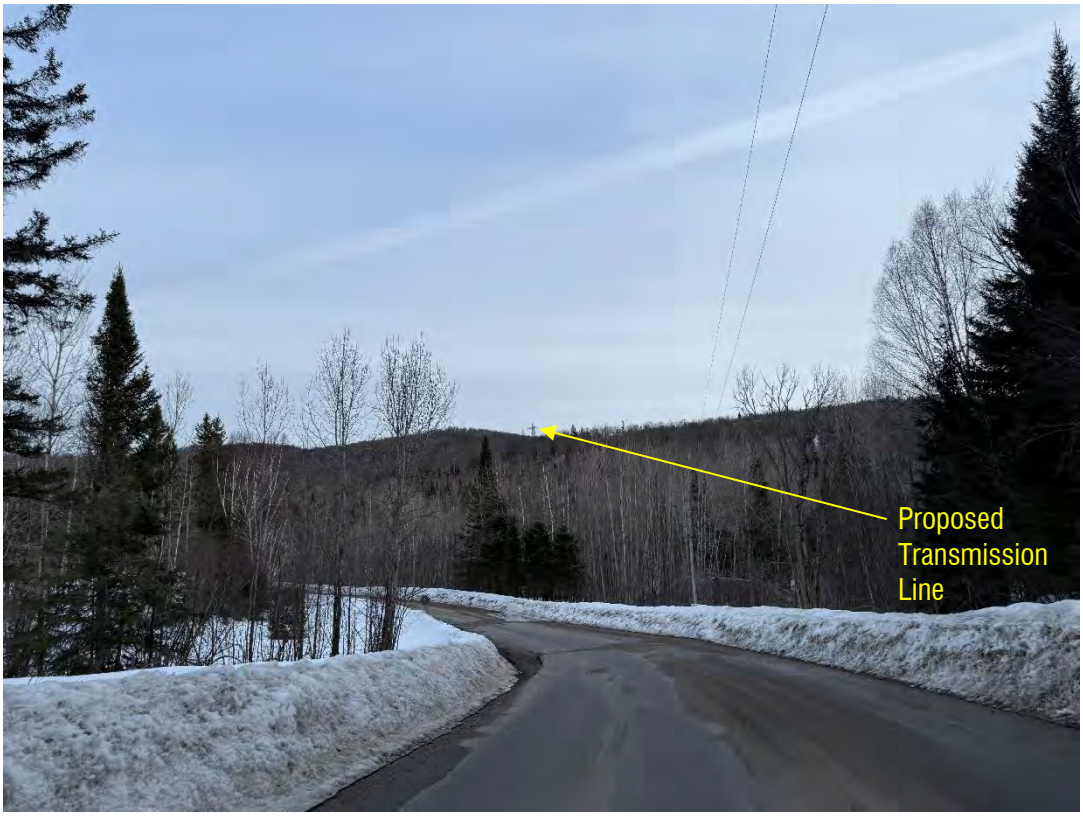


Figure 7.1.39: Receptor 'N' Post-Construction – Viewing south from Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd.)

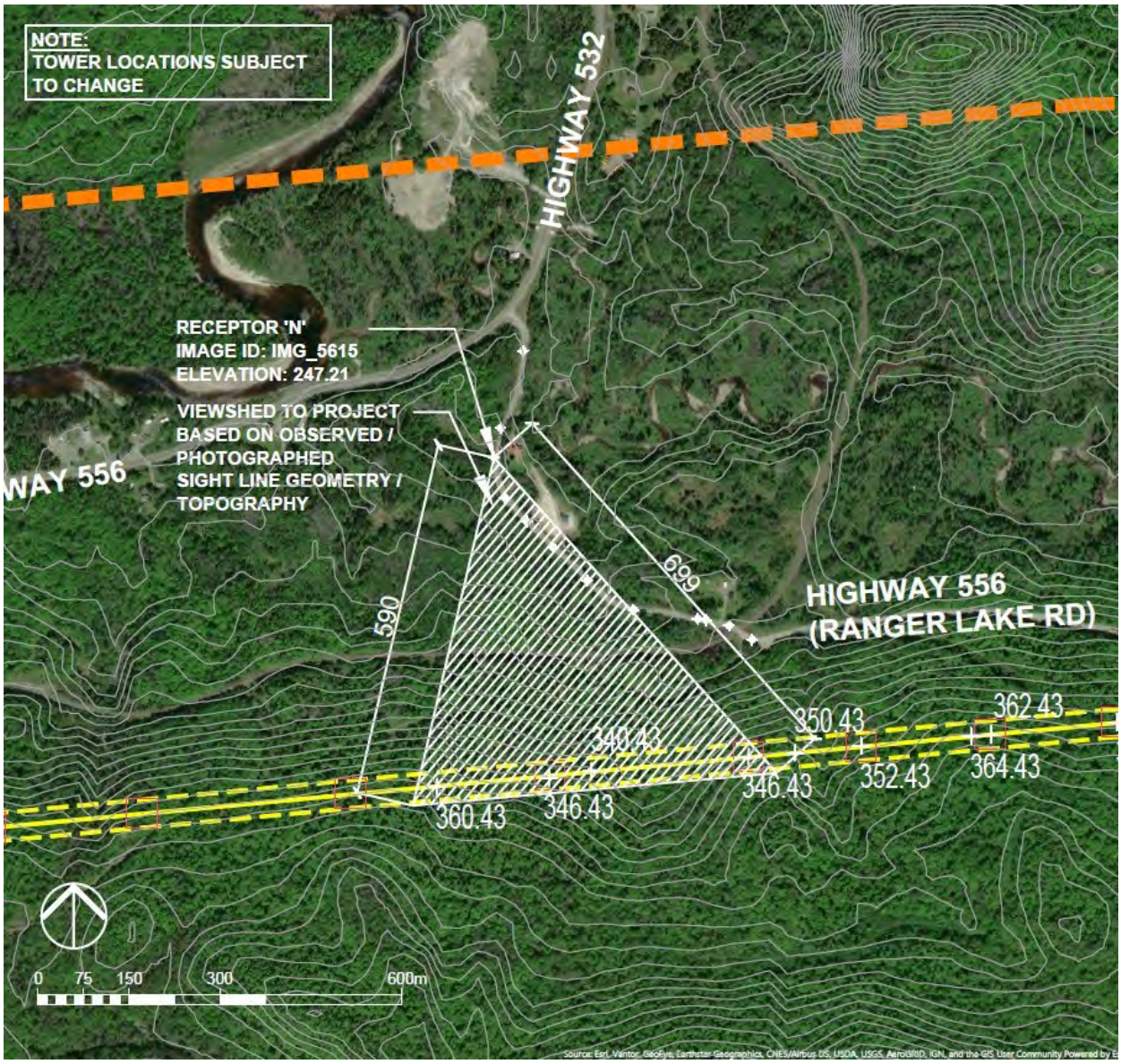


Figure 7.1.40: Receptor 'N' Viewshed – Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Rd.)



Figure 7.1.41: Receptor 'O' Pre/Post-Construction – Viewing south-east from Searchmont Resort parking lot – No change in visual landscape



Figure 7.1.42: Receptor 'O' Viewshed – Searchmont Resort



Figure 7.1.43: Receptor 'P' Pre/Post-Construction – Viewing south from Highway 556 – No change in visual landscape

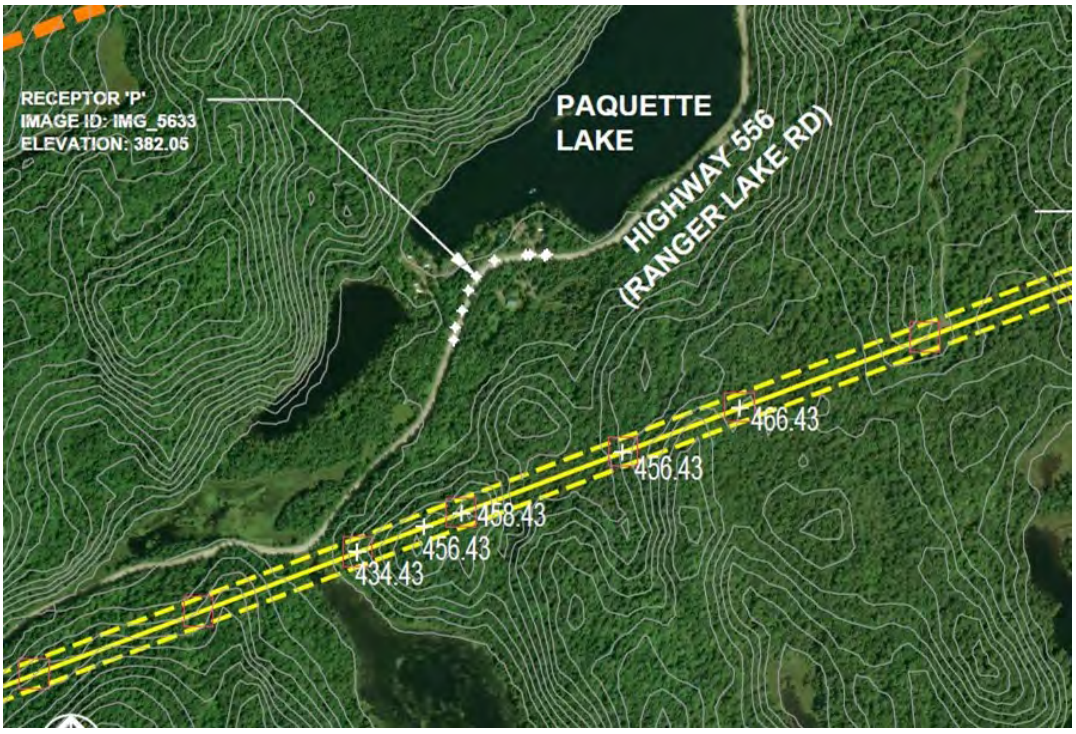


Figure 7.1.44: Receptor 'P' Viewshed – Highway 556



Figure 7.1.45: Receptor 'Q' Pre-Construction – Viewing North-East from Poverty Lane



Figure 7.1.46: Receptor 'Q' Post-Construction – Viewing North-East from Poverty Lane

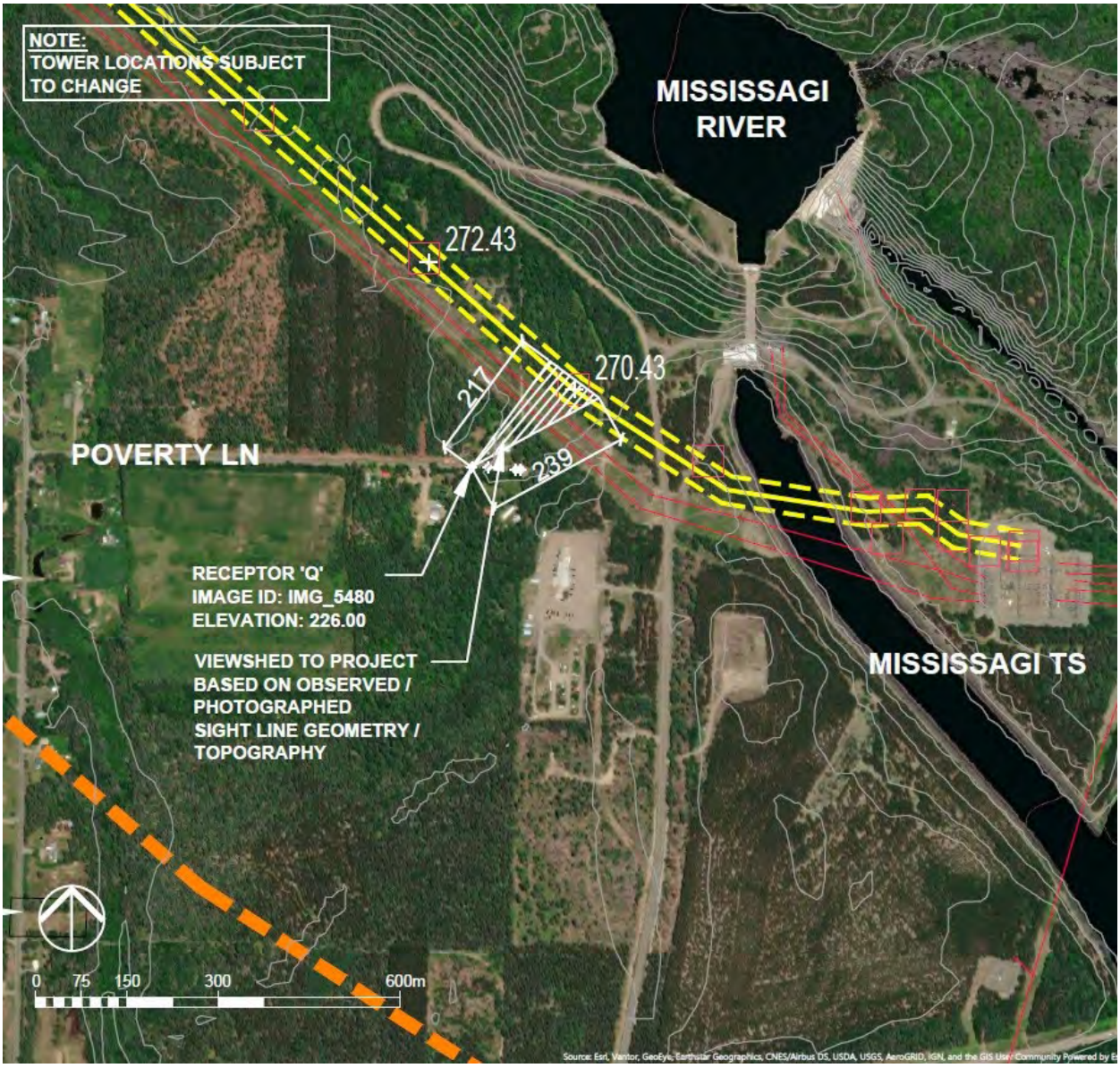


Figure 7.1.47: Receptor 'Q' Viewshed – Poverty Lane

7.1.2 Scenic Quality, Viewer Sensitivity and Distance Ratings

Utilizing the 3D visualization, the visual assessment of the 17 selected receptor locations associated with the transmission corridor alignment was completed. The following three assessment categories were applied, as previously summarized in Section 3 – Criteria and Indicators, to predict potential impacts on the visual landscape:

Scenic Quality Rating (SQR)
The SQR is determined based upon the physical characteristics of the landscape within the viewshed, under both the pre- and post-construction condition. The landscape characteristics that were analyzed included visible landform, vegetation communities, water and shoreline features and unique natural and cultural heritage elements.

Viewer Sensitivity Rating (VSR)
The VSR was determined based upon the input derived from consultations, and the quantitative assessment of permanent user view from the receptor.

Viewing Distance Rating (VDR)
The VDR was determined for each of the receptors utilizing aerial imagery. The VDR assessed the magnitude of the visual impact of the Project on the existing landscape from various distances and defined the distances at which the view becomes obstructed, or the impact becomes obsolete.

A Composite Rating is determined based on the SQR, VSR and VDR which defines the degree of change in the visual environment. The magnitude of the visual effect is determined by aggregating the SQR, VSR and VDR to yield a Composite Rating of 'High', 'Moderate' or 'Minimal'.

7.1.3 Project Visibility/Prominence

The potential visual prominence of Project was determined based on a measurement of the distance from which the Project would be visible within the limits of the viewshed using the dimensions of following dimensions:

- Height and profile of the proposed transmission towers.
- The height of the transmission lines.
- The extent of vegetation clearing.

The visible distance at which the structure would be perceptible within the viewshed was calculated utilizing the intercept theorem:

$$\frac{X}{\text{Viewer Distance}} = \frac{\text{Height and Profile of Object (peak thickness)}}{\text{Viewshed Distance}}$$

For the purposes of this assessment, 1.0 m has been utilized as the viewer distance, this equates to the viewpoint being 1.0 m in front of the viewer at eye level.

7.2 Potential Effects

The potential effect on the visual environment was determined for each of the 17 receptors based on an assessment of the viewshed at each receptor, as well as on an assessment of the anticipated change in the visual environment in comparison to the SQR, VSR and VDR. A Composite Rating was then determined that defines the overall magnitude of the effect on the visual environment.

7.2.1 Changes to Landscape Quality

Utilizing the 3D visualizations and the visual assessment categories described in Sections 7.1.1 and 7.1.2, the following matrix was generated that sets out the values that were attributed to each of the proposed receptor locations and the results are summarized in **Table 7.1 - Visual Assessment Categories and Composite Ratings**. Based on the values assigned to the SQR, VSR and VDR respectively, a Composite Rating was determined as an aggregate of the three values. The Composite Rating defines the overall magnitude of the potential effect on the visual environment.

Receptor A – The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized predominantly as a low density/rural residential and natural environment. Existing local and regional transmission lines are visible from the receptor location.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Residence adjacent to the proposed transmission line will be impacted.
	VSR:	High
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 321m to the East and 308m to the west (refer to **Figure 7.1.3**).
	VDR:	High
Receptor B – Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized predominantly as a regenerating natural environment on the former Maplewood Golf Club to the west and low density residential to the east. There are approximately 10 individual residences clustered around Wigle Street.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from the Residence on Wigle Street will be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 591m (refer to **Figure 7.1.6**).
	VDR:	Moderate
Receptor C – Near the Root River Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized by Root River Golf Club. The golf club lands are predominantly encompassed by natural environment comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland with select individual residences and the Root River Trailer Park to the north.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from the Root River Golf Club will not be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	There is no viewshed within the receptor (refer to **Figure 7.1.8**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor D – Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized predominantly as a natural environment, the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday campground is encompassed by mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland, descending towards Root River.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from the various industrial businesses will be impacted.

	VSR:	High
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 590m to the East and 340m to the West (refer to **Figure 7.1.11**).
	VDR:	High
Receptor E – Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as an industrial/commercial site encompassed by natural environment predominantly comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and bounded by the Root River.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from Gaswell Concrete Products will be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 356m (refer to **Figure 7.1.14**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor F – Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Ellwood Robinson Inc. is characterized as an industrial/commercial site with aggregate mining to the north (Brand Aggregates) and natural environment to the south and west that comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and wetland.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from Ellwood Robinson Inc. will be impacted.
	VSR:	Moderate
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 216m (refer to **Figure 7.1.17**).
	VDR:	High
Receptor G – Adjacent to J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as a predominantly by natural environment, comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland. The J M Longyear Woodyard is located to the south of Sixth Line East and one residence is located to the north.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from J M Longyear Woodyard and the one residence will be impacted.
	VSR:	Moderate
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 189m to the East and 261m to the West (refer to **Figure 7.1.20**).
	VDR:	Moderate
Receptor H – Near Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds is characterized as short-term rental accommodation business with approximately 30 cabins and allotments for tent and mobile home accommodation.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from J Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds will be impacted.
	VSR:	Moderate

Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 438m (refer to **Figure 7.1.23**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor I – Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as a cluster of low-density residences encompassed by natural environment, comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from individual residences will not be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 632m (refer to **Figure 7.1.26**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor J – Near Trout Lake Resort (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized by natural environment, seasonal and year-round residences and the Trout Lake Resort. The natural environment comprises mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland and Trout Lake.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from Trout Lake Resort will not be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	There is no viewshed within the receptor (refer to **Figure 7.1.28**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor K – Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as natural environment with seasonal and all-season residences. The natural environment encompasses mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland and Upper Island Lake and Lower Island Lake.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Some views from residence may be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 2154m (refer to **Figure 7.1.31**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor L – Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized predominantly as natural environment. Three (3) residential properties are within the vicinity of the receptor. The natural environment comprises mixed coniferous/deciduous woodland.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from residence will be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 477m (refer to **Figure 7.1.34**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor M – Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON)		

Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized predominantly as a natural environment with six (6) residential properties and a railway corridor are proximate to the Project site.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from some residences will be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 549m (refer to **Figure 7.1.37**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor N – Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as a natural environment with three (3) residential properties and a railway corridor are proximate to the Project site
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from some residences will be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 699m (refer to **Figure 7.1.40**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor O – In proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Searchmond Resort is characterized as a commercial ski resort encompassed by natural environment comprising mixed coniferous/deciduous woodlands. The ski runs are located on the north side of the elevated landform.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from the resort will not be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	There is no viewshed within the receptor (refer to **Figure 7.1.42**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor P – Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as a natural environment with approximately seven (7) seasonal and year-round residential properties are proximate to the Project site.
	SQR:	Minimal
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from the residences will not be impacted.
	VSR:	Minimal
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	There is no viewshed within the receptor (refer to **Figure 7.1.44**).
	VDR:	Minimal
Receptor Q – Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON)		
Scenic Quality Rating	Description:	Characterized as rural residential and natural environment with five (5) residential properties that are proximate to the Project site.
	SQR:	Moderate
Viewer Sensitivity Rating	Description:	Views from the residences will be impacted.
	VSR:	High
Viewing Distance Rating	Description:	The viewshed extends approximately 239m (refer to **Figure 7.1.47**).
	VDR:	High

Table 6.1: Visual Assessment Categories and Composite Ratings

Receptor	Visual Assessment Categories			
	SQR	VSR	VDR	Composite Rating
Receptor A – The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Moderate	High	High	High
Receptor B – Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Moderate	Minimal
Receptor C – Near the Root River Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor D – Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground	Moderate	High	High	High
Receptor E – Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor F – Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Minimal	Moderate	High	Moderate
Receptor G – Adjacent to J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Receptor H – Near Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Moderate	Moderate	Minimal	Moderate
Receptor I – Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor J – Near Trout Lake Resort (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor K – Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor L – Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON)	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor M – Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON)	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor N – Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor O – In proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor P – Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal
Receptor Q – Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON)	Moderate	High	High	High

Notes:
- SQR = Scenic Quality Rating
- VSR = Viewer Sensitive Rating
- VDR = Viewing Distance Rating
- Composite Rating = Aggregate of SQR, VSR and VDR that defines overall visual effect

Based on this assessment, the Project as viewed from Receptor A – Crossing at Fourth Line East, Receptor D – KOA Holiday Campground and Receptor Q – Poverty Lane were determined to have the highest potential to affect a change in the quality of the visual landscape based on the scenic quality of the existing landscape, the height of the proposed transmission structure, and the extent of the viewsheds from which the transmission structure will be visible from sensitive fixed receptor locations. Receptors F, G and H were determined to have a moderate potential to affect a change in the quality of the existing landscape. Receptors B, C, E, I, J, K, L, M, N, O and P have a minimal potential to affect change in the quality of the visual landscape.

In addition to the assessment described above, the potential for change to the quality of the visual landscape was assessed utilizing the 3D visualizations (**Figures 7.1.1 to 7.1.47**) to confirm potential visual prominence or visibility of the Project at each of the receptor locations based on the distance from which the Project would be visible within the limits of the viewshed. The Intercept Theorem as described in Section 6.1.3 was utilized to calculate the visual prominence of the Project based on the distance from the project to the receptor.

Table 7.2 provides a summary of the parameters and outcomes of the calculation for visibility within the limits of the viewshed.

Table 7.2: Visibility Parameters and Outcomes

Receptor	Parameters		
	Transmission Tower Height (m)	Viewshed Distance (m)	Visual Height from Viewer's Perspective (mm)
Receptor A – The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	321m to the East and 308m to the West	0.138 East 0.144 West
Receptor B – Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	591m	0.075
Receptor C – Near the Root River Golf Club (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	No Viewshed	No Visibility from Viewer's Perspective
Receptor D – Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground	44.43m	590m to the East and 340m to the West	0.075 East 0.131 West
Receptor E – Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	365m	0.122
Receptor F – Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	219m	0.20
Receptor G – Adjacent to J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	189m to the East and 261m to the West	0.235 East 0.170 West
Receptor H – Near Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	438m	0.101
Receptor I – Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	632m	0.070
Receptor J – Near Trout Lake Resort (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	No Viewshed	No Visibility from Viewer's Perspective
Receptor K – Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)	44.43m	2154m	0.021
Receptor L – Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON)	44.43m	477m	0.093
Receptor M – Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON)	44.43m	549m	0.081
Receptor N – Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)	44.43m	699m	0.064
Receptor O – In proximity to Searchmont Resort (Searchmont, ON)	44.43m	No Viewshed	No Visibility from Viewer's Perspective
Receptor P – Near Paquette Lake on Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)	44.43m	No Viewshed	No Visibility from Viewer's Perspective
Receptor Q – Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON)	44.43m	239m	0.186

Based upon data presented in **Table 7.2**, the visual height of the proposed Project at the limit of the viewshed of 13 receptors results in the Project being barely perceivable from each respective Receptor. There is no visibility of the proposed Project at the remaining four (4) Receptors.

7.3 Mitigation

Mitigation measures for effects to visual environment will be incorporated into the Project design and will be implemented to minimize negative effects. Mitigation measures considered in the potential effects analysis for visual environment included the following:

- Avoiding new Project footprint disturbances to the extent practicable, with special consideration for the areas in the vicinity of the selected receptors.
- Minimizing the extent of vegetation clearing at the corridor crossing locations.
- Maximizing efforts to retain existing vegetation and landforms, to the extent practicable, to provide screening of activities and Project components.
- Reducing the extent of disturbed area within the ROW. Disturbed areas will be restored and seeded to allow for natural revegetation and its management to support the safe operation of the transmission corridor

The mitigation measures will be effective in reducing the extent and magnitude of change to the visual environment.

7.4 Net Effects Assessment

Based upon the outcomes of the assessment of changes to visual quality as summarized in Tables 7.1 and 7.2, and with application of mitigation, the net effects of the Project at each Receptor is summarized as follows:

Receptor A

- Composite Rating of High.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.138mm and 0.144mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is moderate/high.

Receptor B

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.075mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal.

Receptor C

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- No Viewer's perspective of the Project.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal with no change to the visual landscape.

Receptor D

- Composite Rating of High.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.075mm and 0.131mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is moderate/high.

Receptor E

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.122mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal.

Receptor F

- Composite Rating of Moderate.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of Viewers perspective of 0.020mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal/moderate.

Receptor G

- Composite Rating of Moderate.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height 0.235 and 0.170.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal/moderate.

Receptor H

- Composite Rating of Moderate.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.101mm and 0.068mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal/moderate.

Receptor I

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.070mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal.

Receptor J

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- No Viewer's perspective of the Project.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal with no change to the visual landscape.

Receptor K

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of 0.021mm
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal.

Receptor L

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of Viewers perspective of 0.093mm.
- Overall Visual Impact minimal.

Receptor M

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of Viewers perspective of 0.081mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal.

Receptor N

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of Viewers perspective of 0.064mm.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal.

Receptor O

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- No Viewer's perspective of the Project.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal with no change to the visual landscape.

Receptor P

- Composite Rating of Minimal.
- No Viewer's perspective of the Project.
- Overall Visual Impact is minimal with no change to the visual landscape.

Receptor Q

- Composite Rating of High.
- Viewer's perspective of the Project at the limit of the receptor is low with a perceived height of Viewers perspective of 0.186.
- Overall Visual Impact is moderate/high.

7.5 Visual Effects Associated with Supportive Infrastructure

Locations for supportive infrastructure were not assessed as a component of this VIA. The effects of permanent infrastructure such as maintenance access roads will have little to no visibility from the receptor viewsheds and temporary construction roads and staging areas would be restored to a natural condition upon completion of construction.

7.6 Net Effect Characterization

The effects assessment approach for the visual environment followed the general effects assessment process for the Project Impact Assessment. Net effects are described using the significance factors identified in Section 7.7.

Results from the visual impact assessment rating were used to determine the magnitude of net effects on the quality of visual landscape as this rating provides an indication of the predicted intensity of the net effect.

Table 7.3: Magnitude Effect Levels for Visual Environment

Net Effect	Low	Moderate	High
Net change to the visual landscape from existing conditions	Effect has limited or no visibility and average visual impact rating of the Project is low; there is minimal visual change compared to baseline.	Effect is visible and average visual impact rating of the Project is moderate; there is evident visual change compared to baseline.	Effect is highly visible and average visual impact rating of the Project is high; there is a substantial visual change compared to baseline.

With the application of the proposed mitigation, the magnitude of net effects predicted for the visual landscape at each of the 17 receptors are as follows:

- Receptor A – Moderate/High
- Receptor B – Minimal
- Receptor C – Minimal
- Receptor D – Moderate/High
- Receptor E – Minimal
- Receptor F – Minimal/Moderate
- Receptor G – Minimal/Moderate
- Receptor H – Minimal/Moderate
- Receptor I – Minimal
- Receptor J – Minimal
- Receptor K – Minimal
- Receptor L – Minimal
- Receptor M – Minimal
- Receptor N – Minimal
- Receptor O – Minimal
- Receptor P – Minimal
- Receptor Q – Moderate/High

7.7 Assessment of Significance

The assessment of significance of net effects is informed by the interaction between the significance factors, with magnitude, duration, and geographic extent being the most important factors. A predicted net effect to the visual environment would be considered significant if it is assessed as:

- High magnitude;
- Long-term to permanent in duration; and,
- Occurring at any geographical extent.

Taking into account the implementation of the mitigation measures, the magnitude of the net effects for changes to the visual landscape during the construction, and operation and maintenance phases was determined to be minimal for 11 of the 17 receptors. Four (4) of the 11 receptors that are rated as minimal have no change in the visible landscape. As a result, the net effects for changes to the visual landscape for those 11 receptors was assessed as not significant. For Receptor F, G and H the net effect was determined to be minimal/moderate and will result in a limited change to the visual landscape. For Receptors A, D and Q the net effect was determined to be moderate/high and will result in a limited but significant change to the visual landscape.

8.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects result from interactions between net effects of the Project and the effects of other reasonably foreseeable future projects and activities. However, there are no other known future projects that are in the planning stages beyond the limits of the Project.

An assessment of cumulative effects on visual environment was not warranted for the Project based on the following rationale:

- There are no past, present or ongoing physical activities in the LSA identified as having visual effects that would contribute to cumulative visual effects.
- Information or design details for other reasonably foreseeable future Projects or physical activities that may result in future change to the visual environment in the project study area are not available.

9.0 SUMMARY

The North Shore Link is proposed to extend from the Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in the City of Sault Ste. Marie to the Mississaugi Transformer Station (TS) in the Unorganized District of Algoma. The Visual Impact Assessment was completed to support the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) – Environmental Study Report (ESR) prepared by Hydro One Networks Inc.

The visual effects of the proposed Project were assessed in the context of the project study areas: the Project Footprint (PF), the Local Study Area (LSA) and the Regional Study Area (RSA). The landscape that the Project traverses is typical of the Canadian Shield and the Great Lakes Basin and is primarily located within the Boreal Shield physiographic region. The Project largely traverses landscapes that are characterized as natural environment, with limited proximity to urban centers, with the exception of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The topography along the transmission corridor varies, with a total topographic elevation change of 310m, with a high point of 518m and a low point of 208m.

The following 13 Receptors were identified and assessed to predict potential visual effects:

- Receptor A – The transmission line crossing at Fourth Line East (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor B – Adjacent to the former Maplewood Golf Club (Sault, Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor D – Abutting the Sault Ste. Marie KOA Holiday Campground
- Receptor E – Near Gaswell Concrete Products (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor F – Abutting Ellwood Robinson Inc. (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor G – Adjacent to J M Longyear Woodyard (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor H – Near Glenview Cottages and Campgrounds (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor I – Near Trout Lake Road (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)
- Receptor K – Near Upper Island Lake (Sault Ste. Marie, ON)

- Receptor L – Near Highway 556 and Bellevue Valley Road (Goulais River, ON)
- Receptor M – Near Highway 556 and Northland Lake Road (Goulais River, ON)
- Receptor N – Near Highway 556 (Ranger Lake Road) and Highway 532 (Algoma, Unorganized, ON)
- Receptor Q – Near Poverty Lane (Wharncliffe, ON)

The assessment determined that only Receptors A, D and Q were determined to be subject to a high composite rating. However, the perceived visual height of the project will be minimal when viewed from the limit of the viewshed, resulting in net moderate/high effect on the overall landscape. Receptors F, G and H will have a moderate composite rating and a minimal perception from the limits of the viewshed, resulting in a minimal/moderate net effect on the overall landscape. Receptors B, E, I, K, L, M and N will have a minimal composite rating and a minimal perception from the limits of the viewshed, resulting in a minimal visual impact on the overall landscape. Receptors C, J, O, P will have no visual change and no visible perception from the limits of the viewshed.

None of the visual effects of the of the project extend beyond the LSA or RSA and are limited to the viewsheds as mapped in Section 7.1.

The visual effects associated with supportive infrastructure components will be confined to the PF and will be limited.

An assessment of cumulative effects was not undertaken due to the fact that there are no past, present or ongoing physical activities in the LSA that have been identified as having visual effects that would contribute to cumulative visual effects, and because there are no other reasonably foreseeable projects or physical activities anticipated in future.

10.0 REFERENCES

Hydro One, *Ortho Mapping and Digital Files*, various dates

Google Earth, *Satellite Imagery*

ESRI, *Satellite Imagery*