APPENDIX 1-A

MECP Decision on EA Regulation and MEM Indigenous Community List

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Environmental Assessment Branch

7th Floor
135 St. Clair Avenue W
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tel.: 416 314-8001
Fax.: 416 314-8452

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction des évaluations environnementales

7ème étage
135, avenue St. Clair Ouest
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Tél. : 416 314-8001
Téléc. : 416 314-8452

October 24, 2025

Sonny Karunakaran
VP Strategic Projects & Partnerships
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Cell: +1- 647-339-5429
By email only: Sonny.Karunakaran@hydroone.com

Mr. Karunakaran,

I am writing to inform you of a decision regarding the proposed regulation under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) in respect of Hydro One's proposed Northeast Power Line Project (the Project).

The Lieutenant Governor in Council has made Ontario Regulation 234/25 - Northeast Power Line Project (Regulation), setting out the conditions that Hydro One will need to fulfil in order to proceed with the Project and for the Project to be exempt from the EAA. The Regulation was filed on October 22, 2025 and came into effect upon filing.

The conditions of exemption set out in the Regulation that Hydro One is required to satisfy before proceeding with the Project include:

- Preparing a draft Environmental Report that must include:
    - A description of:
        - The Project.
        - An assessment of the potential impacts of constructing the transmission line on specified environmental matters, which include archaeological resources, terrestrial and wetland vegetation, fish and fish habitat, and any other matter identified by Hydro One.
        - Measures to be taken to mitigate the potential negative impacts identified in the assessment of impacts in the paragraph above.
    - A consultation record that includes a summary of the consultation carried out by Hydro One with Indigenous communities, and as applicable, other interested persons in respect of the Project since March 1, 2024.

    - A summary of any comments and concerns raised by Indigenous communities, and responses provided by Hydro One to the communities describing how concerns will be addressed.

- Ensuring that Indigenous communities identified by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) whose constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights may be adversely impacted by the Project have been consulted on the Project (consultation carried out by Hydro One with such communities prior to the Regulation may be relied on by Hydro One).

- Publishing the draft Environmental Report on Hydro One's website, providing notice of the draft report, including to Indigenous communities identified by MEM and providing at least 45 days for review and comment.

- Following expiry of the review and comment period, giving written notice to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) specifying whether or not any concerns in respect of adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights were raised by Indigenous communities during the review and comment period and, how the concerns have been or will be addressed.

- Complying with any consultation direction issued by the MECP Minister in preparing the draft or final Environmental Report and any mitigation or prevention direction in preparing the final Environmental Report and in proceeding with the Project. Such direction by MECP may be given at any time up until the expiry of the 30-day waiting period that follows Hydro One publishing the final report on its website. The MECP Minister may extend or shorten this waiting period in certain circumstances set out in the Regulation.

- Preparing the final Environmental Report, taking into consideration comments received on the draft report, complying with any direction provided by the MECP Minister, publishing the report on Hydro One's website, and providing notice of the report.

- Waiting to proceed with the Project until at least 30 days after publishing the final Environmental Report or such other shorter or longer period that may be specified by the MECP Minister.

The Regulation also includes an addendum process to address changes to the Project that may be proposed after the final Environmental Report is published. The addendum process sets out how Hydro One is to determine whether a change is significant.

The Project is required to be carried out in accordance with the final Environmental Report, any final addenda and any direction given by MECP in respect of mitigating or preventing potential adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights.

In addition, the Regulation unconditionally exempts the following from the EAA:

1. Acquisition of lands and property by Hydro One for the Project

2. Undertakings that are subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects that are for or related to the Project

For a full description of the exemptions and conditions of exemption in respect of the Project, please see the Regulation. A copy of it can be accessed at O. Reg. 234/25 NORTHEAST POWER LINE PROJECT | ontario.ca.

Furthermore, please find attached as an appendix to this letter the list of Indigenous communities, as identified by MEM, that have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the Project. This list is being provided for the purpose of the requirement in subsection 3 (1) of the Regulation in respect of the Project. Please note that, if Hydro One wishes to make any changes to the Project in the future, it is required by subsection 3 (1) to obtain a list of Indigenous communities that have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the change from the MEM.

Should you have any questions about this Regulation, please don't hesitate to contact me or my team.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Neill

Kathleen O'Neill
Director
Environmental Assessment Branch

Attachment – Appendix I

cc. Zeljko Romic, Manager, Environmental Assessment Program Support, MECP
Nick Colella, Supervisor, Environmental Assessment Program Support, MECP
Mark Badali, Senior Project Evaluator, Environmental Assessment Program Support, MECP
Samir Adkar, Director, Energy Networks and Indigenous Policy, MEM
Amy Gibson, Manager, Indigenous Energy Policy, MEM
Shannon McCabe, Manager - Strategic Indigenous Initiatives, MEM
Peter Keohane, Director, Strategic Project Delivery, Hydro One
Sean Tutak, Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Business Development, Hydro One
John Chadwick, Sr. Manager, Environmental Services, Hydro One

Appendix I

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Energy Networks and Indigenous Policy Branch

77 Grenville Street, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1
Tel: (416) 529-9137

Ministère de l'Énergie et des Mines

Direction Générale des Réseaux Énergétiques et des Politiques Autochtones

77 Rue Grenville, 6e Étage
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1
Tel: (416) 529-9137

Ontario

Set out below is the list of Indigenous communities identified by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) that have or may have s.35 rights that may be adversely impacted by the Northeast Power Line Project (Project). This list is being provided for the purpose of subsection 3 (1) of Ontario Regulation 234/25 (Northeast Power Line Project) under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and is based on the location of the Project, the Crown's understanding of established or credibly asserted s. 35 rights in the Project area, and its understanding of potential Project impacts at this time.

Community	**Contact Information** *(Note: contact information is believed to be accurate, however, personnel may have changed)*
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek	25 Reserve Road Naughton, ON P0M 2M0 (705) 692-3651 x218 community.consultation@wlfn.com
Batchewana First Nation	236 Frontenac Street Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5K9 (705) 759-0914 dansayers@batchewana.ca; jjohnson@batchewana.ca
Garden River First Nation	7 Shingwauk Street Garden River, ON P6A 6Z8 (705) 946-6300 ext 233

	lands.manager@gardenriver.org; lands.energy.coordinator@gardenriver.org
Mississauga First Nation	64 Park Road, P.O. Box 1299 Blind River, ON P0R 1B0 (705) 356-1621 x2236 keith@mississaugi.com
Sagamok Anishnawbek	4007 Espaneil Street, P.O. Box 610 Algoma District, ON P0P 2L0 (705) 865-1134 keysis_samantha@sagamok.ca
Serpent River First Nation	195 Village Road East Cutler, ON P0P 1B0 (705) 844-2418 lands.resources@serpentriverfn.com
Thessalon First Nation	40 Sugarbush Road Thessalon, ON P0R1L0 (705) 842-2323 knaponse@vianet.ca; darrin.bellerose@thessalonfirstnation.ca robert.simon.jr@thessalonfirstnation.ca
Wahnapitae First Nation	259 Taighwenini Trail Road Capreol, ON P0M 1H0 (705) 858-0610 sara.lehman@wahnapitaefn.com glen.bateman@wahnapitaefn.com
Whitefish River First Nation	46 Bay of Islands Rd, P.O. Box A Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0

	(705) 285-4532 stephenm@whitefishriver.ca; kathleenm@whitefishriver.ca mjacko@whitefishriver.ca
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 4	consultations@metisnation.org mitchc@metisnation.org bonnieb@metisnation.org
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 5	consultations@metisnation.org SuzanneF@metisnation.org bonnieb@metisnation.org

Sincerely,

Samir Adkar
Director, Energy Networks and Indigenous Policy
Ministry of Energy and Mines