



THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS IT?

In Ontario, the *Environmental Assessment Act* and its regulations ensure environmental effects are taken into consideration for all phases of a project, from planning to decommissioning.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) includes consultation with Indigenous communities, government agencies, stakeholders and the public, consideration and evaluation of alternatives and the mitigation of potential environmental effects. The EA process is designed to assess the existing environment and mitigate potential effects before decisions are made about proceeding with a proposed project.

EA's require approval from the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT DEFINES ENVIRONMENT TO MEAN:

- Air, land or water;
- Plant and animal life, including human life;
- The social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community;
- Any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans;
- Any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities; or,
- Any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them.





THE EA PROCESS

Consultation with Indigenous communities, government agencies, stakeholders and the public occurs throughout the EA process.

The milestones involved in an Individual EA are:

- STEP 1** Develop and submit a Terms of Reference
- STEP 2** Prepare an Environmental Assessment based on the approved Terms of Reference
- STEP 3** Submit an Environmental Assessment
- STEP 4** Public and government review
- STEP 5** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks review
- STEP 6** Public consultation on the Ministry Review
- STEP 7** Minister's decision
- STEP 8** Implement the project and monitor compliance

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The first step is the development of a Terms of Reference (ToR) which sets out the framework and work plan for the preparation of the EA, including an outline of the studies and consultation activities that will be carried out. Important aspects of the EA process will be to identify and evaluate alternative routes, assess potential effects of the new transmission line and determine measures to reduce or mitigate these effects.

The ToR was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in February 2022. The EA will proceed as outlined in the approved ToR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the proposed Waasigan Transmission Line and Environmental Assessment visit HydroOne.com/Waasigan



COMPLETE THE WAASIGAN ROUTING SURVEY!

We want to know what is important to you when selecting a preferred route for the Waasigan Transmission Line. By taking our survey, you will be able to:

- Rate the importance of natural environment and socio-economic criteria that will be used for the alternative route evaluation;
- Share your thoughts on the study area and identify areas of interest;
- Rate each alternative route option; and
- Provide additional comments.

See reverse side of handout for additional information on the proposed evaluation criteria.

Your feedback will be considered in the selection of a preferred route.

How to access the survey:

1. QR Code

Using a mobile device or tablet with Wi-Fi connection, open the camera and scan the QR code.



2. Web Link

Enter the following URL: metroquestsurvey.com/Waasigan





PROPOSED EVALUATION CRITERIA



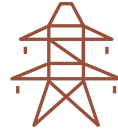
Natural Environment

- Physiography, geology, surficial geology and soils
- Provincial parks, conservation reserves and areas of natural and scientific interest
- Surface water
- Groundwater
- Vegetation and wetlands
- Species at risk & species of conservation concern
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Fish and fish habitat



Socio-Economic Environment

- Land use designations (e.g., provincial parks)
- Infrastructure and community services
- Recreation and tourism
- Visual landscape
- Archaeology
- Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes



Technical and Cost

- Project size
- Existing community infrastructure
- Constructability
- Existing rights-of-way
- Economic (estimated project cost)
- Safety and compatibility with existing grid



Indigenous Community Values

- Indigenous community rights/interests and use of land and resources for traditional purposes
- Cultural and spiritual areas and sites
- Landscapes of importance
- Other applicable criteria/indicators identified by communities

