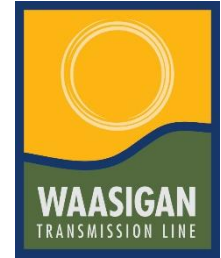


PROJECT NOTICE

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE - AMPHIBIAN, TURTLE BASKING AND BAT HIBERNACULA SURVEYS



MAY 2, 2022

This notice provides information on the planned start of the following field surveys:

- Amphibian (i.e., frog and toad call counts);
- Turtle basking; and
- Bat hibernaculum.

Additional notices will be provided prior to the start of other terrestrial field surveys and for the start of the aquatics (e.g., fish and fish habitat) field program.

SURVEY INFORMATION

Golder Associates, a member of WSP, has been hired by Hydro One to carry out field surveys to support the environmental assessment. Multiple crews will be required during the various surveys and each crew will generally consist of three individuals, including an Indigenous field crew member.

Given the late spring in northwestern Ontario, these surveys are anticipated to start **no earlier than the week of May 16, 2022**. This date may shift later depending on weather conditions. The following table provides information on each survey:

	FROG AND TOAD CALL COUNTS	TURTLE BASKING*	BAT HIBERNACULA
WHY are we doing the surveys?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To capture calling frogs and toads throughout their breeding season based on their distinctive calls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collect data on turtle presence and use of certain wetlands for overwintering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify locations that may support bat hibernaculum (overwintering habitat).
WHAT activities are involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires three rounds of surveys. • Field crews will travel by truck to road-side call count stations. • At each station, a crew will spend three minutes listening for frogs and toads and identifying their species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field crews will visit marsh and wetland areas to visually assess for the presence of basking turtles. • Water temperature will be checked to confirm that air temperature is warmer than the habitats (wetlands and waterbodies) being surveyed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ground survey will be completed to visually inspect sites that could support bat hibernacula.



	FROG AND TOAD CALL COUNTS	TURTLE BASKING*	BAT HIBERNACULA
WHEN will the surveys happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey timing is temperature dependent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round 1 – May (when temperatures are above 5°C at dusk) Round 2 – June (when temperatures are above 10°C at dusk) Round 3 – July (when temperatures are above 15°C at dusk) The survey period will begin 30 minutes after sunset and end by midnight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During spring (late May) and early summer when turtles are actively basking to increase their body temperatures following the hibernation period. Surveys should occur after the ice cover has melted and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be completed alongside other surveys and will not start prior to the start of the frog and toad call count surveys.
WHERE will the survey take place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stations will be distributed across suitable breeding habitat, with focus on habitats with roadside access. Stations will be spaced a minimum of 500 metres apart to avoid double counting individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey locations include areas of potential turtle habitat for overwintering and nesting, such as marshes and open-water wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys will take place at locations of potential bat overwintering habitat within the study area, including historic mine sites and bedrock features.

**Based on feedback from Indigenous communities regarding the cultural significance of turtles, a turtle basking program is now being conducted to collect data on turtle presence and use of certain wetlands for overwintering. This will be added as a new section in the Terrestrial Field Work Plan.*

PROPOSED SURVEY LOCATIONS

The proposed survey locations can be viewed online using a Webviewer at the link below.

We welcome any feedback on the proposed survey locations. Maps of the survey locations are also available for download at the link below. Comments can be made in the field map book and sent back to us via email.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBVIEWER FOR FIELD SURVEY LOCATIONS](#)

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FIELD MAP BOOK](#)

If there is any information regarding the locations or timing of the proposed surveys that you would like us to be aware of, please contact us using the contact details below. **Comments would be appreciated by May 11, 2022** so that they can be considered prior to the start of field work.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We encourage you to take this opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed field work. Golder is also looking for Indigenous field crew members. If you are interested in potential positions or have comments regarding the proposed field work, please contact Golder's Environmental Assessment Specialist, Heather Kyer, at 613-314-8473 or heather.kyer@wsp.com.