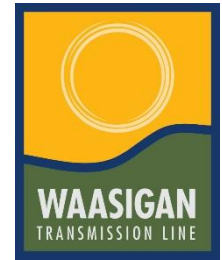


PROJECT NOTICE

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE - BAT MATERNITY ROOST, BREEDING BIRDS, BOTANICAL SURVEYS, EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL, AND BARN AND BANK SWALLOW SURVEYS



MAY 19, 2022

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

- Bat maternity roost surveys;
- Breeding bird surveys (including marsh birds such as least bittern and species at risk such as common nighthawk and bobolink);
- Botanical surveys and ecological land classification (ELC);
- Eastern whip-poor-will surveys; and
- Barn and bank swallow.

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. Golder Associates has also retained Giiwedini / Northwinds Environmental Services to support with the breeding bird surveys. Multiple crews will be required during the various surveys and each crew will generally consist of three individuals, including an Indigenous field crew member.

The table below provides information on each survey:



	BAT MATERNITY ROOST HABITAT	BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS	BOTANICAL AND ELC SURVEYS	EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL SURVEYS	BARN AND BANK SWALLOW
WHY are we doing the surveys?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify maternity roost habitat used by species at risk bats within the local study area. To monitor the level of bat activity in the local study area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To collect data on breeding birds present within the local study area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify plant species at risk, rare plant species, invasive plants, and traditional use plants within the local study area. The survey will classify vegetation communities according to Ecological Land Classification system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify breeding habitat that supports Eastern whip-poor-will (a species at risk bird). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify habitat and features that support nesting barn swallow or bank swallow (species at risk birds).
WHAT activities are involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field crews will travel by truck to stations within suitable habitat. Field crews will undertake an assessment of the roosting habitat and install acoustic recording devices to monitor bat activities over a minimum 10-night period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For breeding song birds, including common nighthawk and bobolinks, field crews will visit potential habitat and listen for calling birds. For marsh bird and least bittern surveys, field crews will visit stations within marsh wetland areas and play audio recordings of marsh birds to encourage them to call back and be detected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field crews will travel by truck to sites throughout the local study area. At each site crews will record all plant species observed including species at risk, rare species, invasive plants, and traditional use plants. Field crews will also classify vegetation communities according to Ecological Land Classification system. (e.g., coniferous forest, marsh, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires three rounds of surveys. Field crews will travel by truck to sites throughout the local study area. Surveyors will listen for the calls of this species and record the approximate location of any individuals heard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field crews will travel by truck to sites throughout the local study area. Field crews will complete a visual assessment of the potential habitat to determine if it is currently or recently been used for nesting.

<p>WHEN will the surveys happen?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys are to be completed in June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For breeding song birds, including common nighthawk and bobolink, surveys will take place between June 1 to July 10 (beginning approximately 30 minutes before sunrise and will end no later than 10:00 a.m.). • For marsh birds, surveys will take place between May 20 to July 5, but are not planned to start earlier than beginning of June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys will take place in June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys will take place one week on either side of the full moon in June and early July to coincide with the appropriate lunar phases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites will be visited opportunistically during other field programs during the bird breeding season (June 1 to July 10).
<p>WHERE will the survey take place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations are distributed across suitable habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations will be distributed throughout the local study area to represent the occurrence and distribution of various ecosite types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations will be distributed throughout the local study area to represent the occurrence and distribution of various ecosite types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations will be distributed throughout the local study area within suitable breeding habitats, with focus on habitats with roadside access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stations will be distributed throughout the local study area in suitable habitat (e.g., bridges for barn swallow and sandy banks for bank swallow).

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 31, 2022** so that they can be considered prior to the start of field work.

INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

Golder is still looking to hire Indigenous field crew members, and communities can also participate by sending community-hired field monitors. The table below provides a summary of the field crews planned to start in early and mid-June. The table describes the general area that each crew plans to cover and whether there is an Indigenous member present within each crew. There is capacity for additional community members within all crews, as noted in the table below.

Survey	Tentative Dates	Golder Crew	Need for Additional Indigenous Field Crew Members	Approximate Geographic Extent / Traditional Territory to be Covered
Botanical Survey and Ecological Land Classification	June 4-11	Two members (both non-Indigenous)	The Fort William First Nation member is available to join the crew towards the later half of the survey after another field program. We could accommodate up to two more Indigenous field crew members, or up to five while the Fort William member is with the crew (they will bring another truck with to accommodate the additional members).	Main focus on the section north of Atikokan and going to Dryden; however, botanical surveys may also be targeted on specific habitat for rare species throughout the local study area.
Amphibian Call Counts Round 2/Turtle Basking and Bat Maternity Roost Habitat	June 1-6	Two members, including one from Fort William First Nation	One member of Golder's crew is from Fort William First Nation. We could accommodate up to two more Indigenous field crew members.	Focus on the section around Thunder Bay and to Atikokan
Amphibian Call Counts Round 2/Turtle Basking and Bat Maternity Roost Habitat	June 4-6	Two members, including one from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	One member of Golder's crew is from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. We could accommodate up to two more Indigenous field crew members.	Focus on the section north of Atikokan and going to Dryden

Eastern Whip-poor-will Rounds 1 and 2 and Significant Wildlife Habitat. Opportunistic surveys (e.g., barn/bank swallow, gray fox dens)	June 11-16	Two members, including one from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	One member of Golder's crew is from Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. We could accommodate up to two more Indigenous field crew members.	Focus on the section around Atikokan
Eastern Whip-poor-will Rounds 1 and 2 and Bat Hibernacula Visual Assessments. Opportunistic surveys (e.g., barn/bank swallow, gray fox dens)	June 14-21	Three members, including one from Fort William First Nation	One member of Golder's crew is from Fort William First Nation. We could accommodate up to one more Indigenous field crew member.	Focus on the section around Thunder Bay and part way to Atikokan
Eastern Whip-poor-will Rounds 1 and 2 and Bat Hibernacula Visual Assessments. Opportunistic surveys (e.g., barn/bank swallow, gray fox dens)	June 7-20	Two members (both non-Indigenous)	No Indigenous field crew members identified to date. We could accommodate up to two Indigenous field crew members.	Focus on the section north of Atikokan and going to Dryden

To ensure community-hired field monitors are protected, **Hydro One requires proof of the following:**

- Property damage and public liability insurance coverage; and
- Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) registration.

If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to these requirements, please contact us so that we can work together to ensure there are no barriers to Indigenous community participation in these field surveys.

Indigenous field crew members hired directly by Golder will be covered under Golder's WSIB and liability insurance. This hiring process can take approximately 1 to 2 weeks.

Another option for participation is a one-day site visit where members of your community can join a crew in the field to discuss the work being completed. If there is any interest in this approach, please let us know and we can work together to plan a visit.

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.