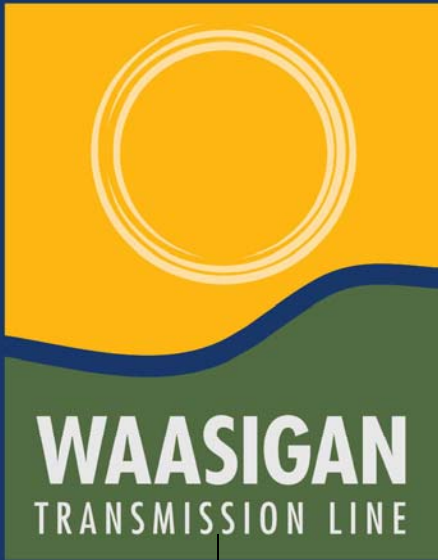


WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE TERMS OF REFERENCE

OCTOBER 2020



WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE
AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE

JUNE 2021

Acronyms

AC	alternating current
ANSI	Area of Natural and Scientific Interest
CAA	Connection Assessment and Approval
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CC	Consultation Committee
CEDC	Community Economic Development Commission
CHC	Cultural Heritage Committee
CHEC	Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions
CHER	Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
CIC	Community Information Centre
CLUPA	Crown Land Use Policy Atlas
CNR	Canadian National Railway
CPR	Canadian Pacific Railway
CNSC	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
CUSW	Canadian Union of Skilled Workers
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EA	environmental assessment
EA Act	<i>Environmental Assessment Act, 1990</i>
EASR	Environmental Activity Sector Registry
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ELC	Ecological Land Classification
EMF	electric and magnetic fields
END	Endangered
EPRI-GTC	Electric Power Research Institute-Georgia Transmission Corporation
ESA	<i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	geographic information system
GLP	Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership
HADD	Harmful Alteration, Disruption, or Destruction
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
Hydro One	Hydro One Networks Inc.
IAA	<i>Impact Assessment Act, 2019</i>



IESO	Independent Electricity System Operator
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IO	Infrastructure Ontario
ISA	Information Sharing Agreement
ITLP	Indigenous Transmission Limited Partnership
IRRP	Integrated Regional Resource Plan
IPSP	Integrated Power System Plan
km	kilometre
kV	kilovolt
LIO	Land Information Ontario
LTEP	Long-Term Energy Plan
L/V	Landform/Vegetation
m	metres
MECP	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
ENDM	Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
MHSTCI	Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
MMAH	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
MNRF	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTO	Ministry of Transportation
MW	megawatt
NAPS	National Air Pollution Surveillance Program
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NHIC	Natural Heritage Information Centre
NOMA	Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
NWOPA	Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association
OBBA	Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas
OEB	Ontario Energy Board
OEB Act	<i>Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998</i>
OMAFRA	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
OPA	Ontario Power Authority
PPS	Provincial Policy Statement



ROW	right-of-way
RSSA	Route Selection Study Area
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	<i>Species at Risk Act, 2002</i>
SARB	Species at Risk Branch
SARO List	Species at Risk in Ontario List
SC	Special Concern
SFL	Sustainable Forest Licence
SWHTG	Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide
THR	Threatened
ToR	Terms of Reference
TPU	Territorial Planning Unit
TS	Transformer Station
VIS	Virtual Information Session



Executive Summary

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One), the proponent, is completing an individual environmental assessment (also referred to as an EA in this document) for the Waasigan Transmission Line (the Project or undertaking), a proposed new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. The length of the new transmission line will be approximately 350 kilometres (km) and will be dependent on the selected preferred route. The Terms of Reference (ToR) is a document prepared by the proponent that establishes the framework for the planning and decision-making process to be followed by the proponent during the preparation of the EA.

The Project was identified as a priority project by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) based on technical, economic and other considerations. The IESO's assessment of northwestern Ontario's electricity forecast has identified that additional capacity will be required in the region, and the Project is critical to meet Ontario's future electricity delivery needs, and in particular, to support growth and maintain a reliable electricity supply to areas west of Atikokan and north of Dryden (Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, 2017). Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decades. Coupled with changes in the region's supply and the connection of remote communities currently relying on diesel generation to the electricity grid, the IESO forecasts a need for new supply to meet future demand in northwestern Ontario (IESO, 2018).

The Project is identified as a Category C in the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) Guide to EA Requirements for Electricity Projects (2011) which provides direction on electricity project classification in Ontario based on Ontario Regulation 116/01 (also referred to as the Electricity Projects Regulation) and requires EA approval under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990* (EA Act). The first step of the individual EA process is the preparation of a ToR for review by Indigenous communities (defined as those communities, nations and organizations identified in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Groups of Canada), government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Ultimately, approval is required by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the Minister) for the Project to proceed. The ToR is prepared by Hydro One to establish the framework for the planning of the EA, including the studies and consultation activities that will be carried out, and decision-making process to be followed. Supporting materials, as well as the Record of Consultation, are submitted separately. The Record of Consultation outlines consultation



and engagement undertaken with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations during the development of the ToR. This document presents the ToR for the Project and was prepared based on the requirements provided in the MECP Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (2014).

Upon approval of the ToR by the Minister, Hydro One will undertake the EA in accordance with the framework laid out in the ToR, and consistent with provincial direction and applicable legislative requirements. The purpose of the EA will be to confirm the preferred route and conceptual design for the Project. Potential effects to the natural and/or socio-economic environment that could result from the construction, operation, maintenance, and retirement of the Project will be identified, and appropriate and necessary mitigation measures to eliminate, minimize, or avoid potential adverse Project-related effects will be documented.

Preliminary baseline environmental conditions were established as part of the development of this ToR to gain a contextual understanding of the Project as well as an understanding of the potential environmental effects that should be assessed. Establishing baseline environmental conditions also assists with determining a pre-construction benchmark for future monitoring programs. The baseline conditions described in this ToR are based on available secondary sources. A more detailed assessment of baseline conditions will be explored and described during the EA and will be used [in the evaluation of alternatives and used](#) for the determination of potential Project-related effects.

In general, the area between the Municipality of Shuniah and the City of Dryden is part of the Canadian Shield and is generally characterized by rugged topography, productive forest, several waterbodies, and wetlands. The area also consists of various land uses, including provincial parks, conservation reserves, enhanced management areas, resource and tourism development/activities, and built-up areas, including small towns and cities.

Pre-consultation was completed as part of the Project prior to the release of the Notice of Commencement of the ToR. This included letters to Indigenous communities with an invite to meet. Pre-consultation meetings and community visits took place with several Indigenous communities. In addition, pre-consultation with municipalities and a conference call with government agencies were held prior to the Notice of Commencement of the ToR to discuss the Project, including the general area, study process and overall schedule.

Engagement and consultation completed during development of this ToR included meetings, workshops, letters, phone calls and e-mail correspondence with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, and will continue during the subsequent EA.

Hydro One conducted two separate consultation and engagement programs as part of the ToR, one for Indigenous communities and another for government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Indigenous communities were also provided with the information prepared and released for the public program and were invited to, and in some cases did participate in public consultation activities, such as attendance at Community Information Centres (CICs).

One round of in-person CICs was held during preparation of this ToR. A virtual information session (VIS) was held in late July 2020 as it was not possible to hold in-person events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, were invited to participate in these events, designed to provide information on the Project and to provide a forum to receive and respond to feedback on a variety of aspects of the Project. In addition, in-person CICs and virtual/teleconference events were held with some Indigenous communities.

In-person and virtual/online Corridor Workshops were held with government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, as well as with some Indigenous communities, during the development of the ToR to provide early input into the routing. In the interest of making the route identification and selection process more transparent and allowing for input to be incorporated early in the planning process, Hydro One elected to use the Electric Power Research Institute-Georgia Transmission Corporation (EPRI-GTC) Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology as a framework. The EPRI-GTC process for the Project included a series of in-person and virtual/online Corridor Workshops with interested representatives of Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, interested persons and organizations, with input from the public provided during CICs and ongoing comment submission. The key benefit of this methodology is the ability to gather input from stakeholders through meetings and workshops and quantitatively consider it early on in the alternative route identification and selection process.

Comments and input received to date were incorporated into the EPRI-GTC alternative route selection process. It also played a role in the refinement of the study area and development of the draft criteria and indicators to be used for the comparative alternative route evaluation and net effects assessment in the EA. Additional CICs and workshops and other engagement opportunities



will continue to be held into the EA phase to continue gathering further input on alternative routes and the net effects assessment. Feedback received will be incorporated into the EA.

The inclusive and consensus-based Corridor Workshops and results from the broader engagement and consultation programs and other activities completed as part of the Project (e.g., baseline conditions) have all played a valuable role in identifying the alternative methods to be assessed and evaluated as part of the EA (e.g., alternative routes between Lakehead TS and Dryden TS).

A draft of this ToR was released and made available to Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, for comment in June 2020. Comments received were incorporated into this ToR. Please see **Section 9.0** for an overview of engagement and consultation activities completed as part of the ToR and the Record of Consultation for how comments were addressed and integrated into this document.

In addition to the requirements under the EA Act, the Project will also be subject to other permits, approvals and authorizations which will be confirmed during the EA and acquired prior to construction, as applicable.



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Appendices

- A Letters of Direction and Order-in-Council
- B Siting Report
- C Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for the Alternative Route Evaluation
- D Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators
- E List of Commitments Made in the Terms of Reference
- F Hydro One Indigenous Relations Policy



1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One), the proponent, is completing an individual environmental assessment (referred to as an EA in this document) for the Waasigan Transmission Line (the Project or undertaking), a proposed new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Depending on the preferred route determined through the EA process, the length of the transmission line will be approximately 350 kilometres (km). The location of the Project is shown in **Figure 1-1**.

The Project was identified by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) as a priority project based on technical, economic and other considerations and is one of several identified by the IESO to meet Ontario's future electricity delivery needs, in particular, to support growth and maintain a reliable electricity supply to areas west of Atikokan and north of Dryden (Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines [ENDM], 2017). Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decades. Coupled with changes in the region's supply and the connection of remote communities currently relying on diesel generation to the electricity grid, the IESO forecasts a need for new supply to meet future demand in northwestern Ontario (IESO, 2018).

The EA will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act, 1990* (EA Act). An EA is designed to assess the existing environment and mitigate potential effects before decisions are made about proceeding with a project. The first step of the EA process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference (ToR) for review and decision by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the Minister). The ToR is a document prepared by the project proponent (Hydro One) to establish the framework for the planning, including an outline of studies and consultation activities that will be carried out, and decision-making process to be followed by the proponent during the EA. Supporting material, as well as the Record of Consultation, is submitted separately. The Record of Consultation outlines consultation and engagement undertaken with Indigenous communities (defined as those communities, nations and organizations identified in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Groups of Canada), government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, during the development of the ToR. This document presents the ToR for the Project and has been prepared based on the requirements provided in the Code of Practice:



Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks [MECP], 2014).

Upon approval of the ToR by the Minister, Hydro One will undertake the EA in accordance with the framework laid out in this document, and consistent with provincial direction and applicable legislative requirements.

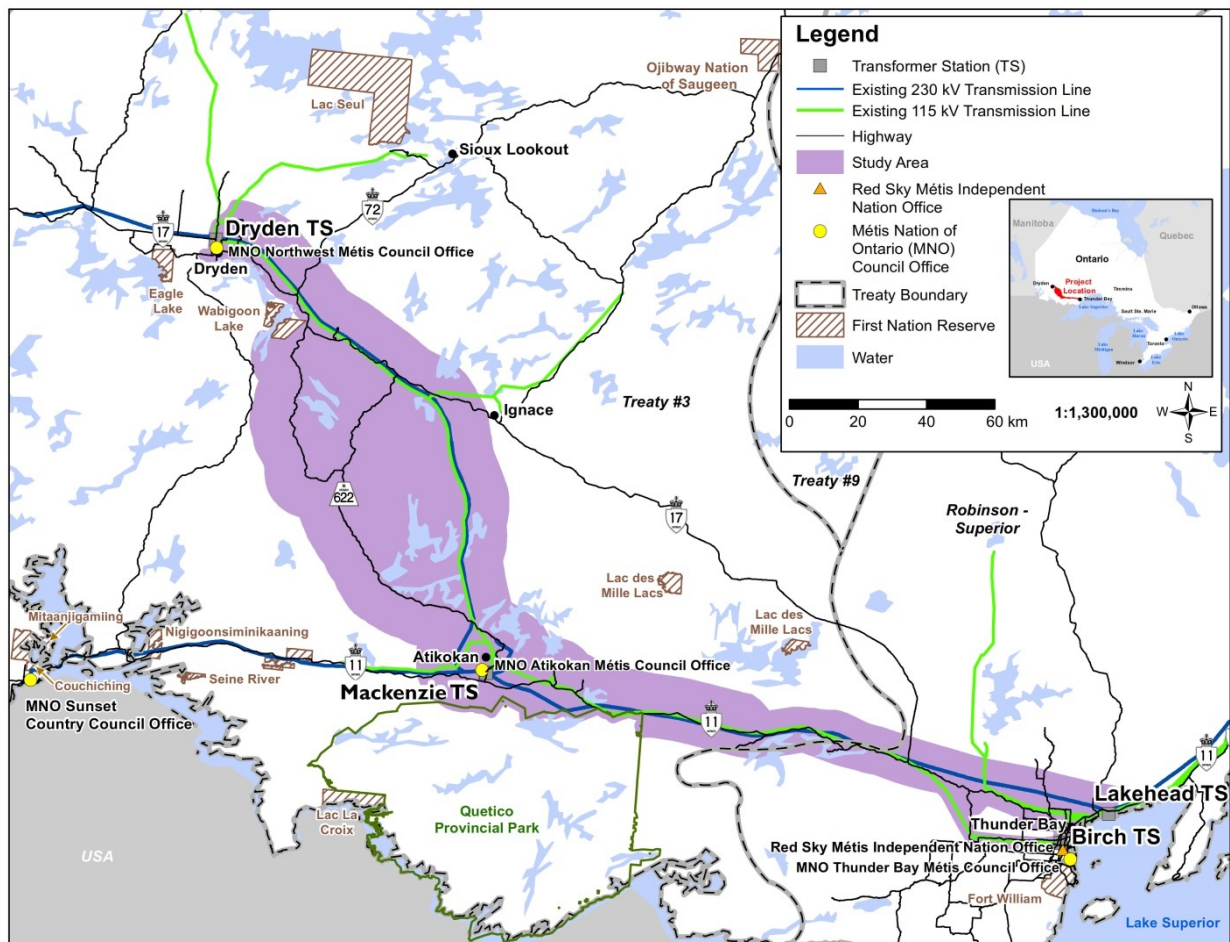


Figure 1-1: Project Location

1.2 Background on the Electricity Sector in Ontario

Legislative changes over the past two decades have led to significant changes to the electricity sector in Ontario. In October 1998, the Ontario Legislature enacted the *Energy Competition Act, 1998*, authorizing the restructuring of Ontario Hydro with the aim of introducing competition in the wholesale and retail electricity markets in Ontario. This Act changed the landscape of the electricity market in Ontario and introduced market deregulation. On April 1, 1999, in accordance with the *Energy Competition Act, 1998*, Ontario Hydro was restructured principally into three separate entities:

- (1) Ontario Power Generation Inc., which has the mandate to generate electricity for Ontarians and generates almost half of the province's electricity;
- (2) Ontario Hydro Services Company Inc., later renamed Hydro One Inc., whose subsidiary Hydro One Networks Inc. (the proponent of this Project), transmits and distributes electricity across Ontario; and,
- (3) The Independent Electricity Market Operator, later renamed the Independent Electricity System Operator, which operates the power system in real time, oversees Ontario's electricity market, promotes conservation and plans for Ontario's future energy needs.

The Ontario government established the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) through the *Electricity Restructuring Act, 2004* (the OPA merged with the IESO in 2015). This legislation made changes to the institutional arrangements of the electricity sector in Ontario and established the OPA as the province's long-term energy planner. Specifically, the OPA was given the mandate to develop integrated electricity plans, with the purpose of providing sustainable electricity solutions to Ontarians into the future.

The OPA was also given the mandate to develop an Integrated Power System Plan (IPSP) and address the supply-demand imbalance in Ontario.

On January 1, 2015, the OPA merged with the IESO to create a new organization that combines the OPA and IESO mandates. The IESO is now directly responsible for establishing the need for new transmission facilities, among other things.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is Ontario's independent energy regulator. The OEB sets rules and guidelines for energy companies in Ontario, such as electricity and gas providers, establishes the rates consumers pay for electricity, licenses the aforementioned providers of energy, monitors the electricity market and companies, and develops new energy policies in consultation with government.

The OEB issued a policy document titled "Framework for Transmission Project Development Plans" on August 26, 2010, which sets out the policy of the OEB for a framework for new transmission investment in Ontario (OEB, 2010). This framework assists transmitters to move forward on development work in a timely manner, provides competition and resources for new entrants to transmission, and further supports economic efficiency for the benefit of ratepayers.



1.3 Background on the Project

The Ministry of Energy (now ENDM) released a series of energy plans that address technology, demographic and economic trends and growth in the renewable energy sector. In 2013, the Ministry of Energy published “Achieving Balance: Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan” (LTEP), which was designed to balance cost-effectiveness, reliability, clean energy, community engagement and conservation and demand management before building new generation. The Project, referred to as the Northwest Bulk Transmission Line, was noted as a key transmission project in the 2013 LTEP. An Order-in-Council was issued December 11, 2013 directing the OEB to amend the Hydro One Electricity Transmission Licence to require Hydro One to develop and seek approvals for the Project in accordance with the scope and timing recommended by the IESO (**Appendix A**).

In January 2014, Hydro One’s transmission licence was amended by the OEB ordering Hydro One to work with the IESO to establish the scope and timing of the Project, and to develop and seek approvals. In 2016 and 2017, the Ministry of Energy and IESO reassessed the scope and schedule of the Project and reconfirmed the need for the Project to support growth and maintain reliable electricity supply in northwestern Ontario. It was determined that the Project will proceed in phases with development work for the first two phases to proceed at the same time (ENDM, 2017). The phases are as follows:

- Phase One – a line from Thunder Bay to Atikokan;
- Phase Two – a line from Atikokan to Dryden; and,
- Phase Three – a line from Dryden to the Manitoba border, to enable the better integration of provincial electricity grids.

Following this, the IESO issued a letter to Hydro One dated October 24, 2018 (**Appendix A**) which provided an update on the need and scope for the Project, and a recommendation for Hydro One to proceed with development work on Phases One and Two of the Project.

In this letter, the IESO indicated that the updated forecast considered new loads from potential industrial developments (e.g., mines), the connection of remote communities and the cancellation of the Energy East pipeline conversion project. Based on the forecast, the area west of Thunder Bay and north of Dryden is adequately supplied today; however, a need for additional capacity will arise in the mid-2030s (IESO, 2018). In addition under the IESO’s high growth scenario, which considers development of the Ring of Fire mineral deposit area with electricity supplied by the Ontario transmission system, a capacity need could potentially arise in the early 2020s (IESO, 2018).



Given the risks associated with load forecast uncertainty and the potential for large industrial projects to add significant load to the area utilizing the remaining capacity margin sooner than anticipated, the IESO recommended Hydro One begin development work on Phases One and Two of the Project to shorten the lead time required should the need materialize. The scope of development work includes preliminary design/engineering, cost estimation, engagement and consultation, routing and siting, and the EA. The IESO did not commit to a timeline for the construction of the Project; however, it was indicated that developments will be monitored to determine when construction of the transmission line should begin.

To supply the area under the high growth scenario, the IESO indicated the Project must meet the following specifications (IESO, 2018):

- a) Consist of a new double-circuit 230 kV line between Lakehead TS and Mackenzie TS (Phase One) with a thermal capacity that is equal to or greater than the existing double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between these stations;
- b) Consist of a new single-circuit 230 kV line from Mackenzie TS to Dryden TS (Phase Two) with a thermal capacity that is equal to or greater than the existing single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between these stations; and,
- c) Separate the necessary sections of F25A and D26A to ensure the circuits do not share a common structure over a distance that exceeds 1.6 km.

These specifications would achieve the westbound transfer of at least 350 megawatts (MW) into and out of Mackenzie TS and Moose Lake TS in Atikokan. If additional transfer capability beyond 350 MW is needed in the future, which could arise from expanded mining and other developments in the region, the existing and proposed transmission lines indicated above, with the installation of new dynamic reactive facilities, such as Static Var Compensators, could provide westbound transfer capability of up to 550 MW.

1.4 Purpose and Rationale of the Proposed Undertaking and EA Study

The purpose of the undertaking, or Project, is to ensure an adequate, safe, reliable and affordable supply of power to enable future growth in northwestern Ontario. In particular, the Project will support growth and maintain reliable electricity supply to areas west of Atikokan and north of Dryden, recognizing the need and rationale/justification for the Project as previously established by the Province through analysis and decisions, including the LTEPs and the IESO's 2018 need assessment, as summarized in **Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.**



The development of this Project would implement the Ministry of Energy's and IESO's recommendation to construct a new double-circuit and a new single-circuit 230 kV overhead transmission line from Thunder Bay to Dryden.

The purpose of the study is to undertake an EA to select and confirm the preferred route and conceptual design for the Project and to identify potential environmental effects that could result from the construction, operation, maintenance, and retirement of the Project. The EA will also recommend and document appropriate and necessary mitigation measures to eliminate, minimize, or avoid potential adverse Project-related effects.

1.5 Proponent

Hydro One is the proponent of the Project and, following direction from the IESO, is responsible for the development of the ToR and subsequent EA. Hydro One Limited, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, is Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution provider with approximately 1.4 million valued customers, approximately \$27.1 billion in assets as at December 31, 2019, and annual revenues in 2019 of approximately \$6.5 billion.

Hydro One's team of approximately 8,800 skilled and dedicated employees proudly build and maintain a safe and reliable electricity system which is essential to supporting strong and successful communities. In 2019, Hydro One invested approximately \$1.7 billion in its transmission and distribution networks and supported the economy through buying approximately \$1.5 billion of goods and services.

Hydro One is committed to the communities they serve, through community investment, sustainability and diversity initiatives. Hydro One is designated as a Sustainable Electricity Company by the Canadian Electricity Association. Hydro One is also committed to working with and developing respectful and positive relationships with Indigenous communities in a spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility. Hydro One owns and operates transmission assets on 23 First Nation reserves and provides distribution services directly to 88 First Nation communities.

Hydro One Limited's common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: H) and certain of Hydro One Inc.'s medium term notes are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Additional information can be accessed at: www.HydroOne.com; www.Sedar.com; or, www.Sec.gov.



Outline of the Terms of Reference

In accordance with the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014), this ToR contains information relating to the following:

- Purpose of the study or undertaking (**Section 1.4**);
- Identification of the proponent (**Section 1.5**);
- Indication of how the EA will be prepared (**Section 3.0**);
- Flexibility to accommodate new circumstances (**Section 3.3**);
- Description of the existing environment and potential effects of the undertaking (**Section 4.0**);
- Description of and rationale for the undertaking (**Section 5.0**);
- Description of and rationale for alternatives (**Section 6.0**);
- Assessment and evaluation (**Sections 6.0 and 7.0**);
- Commitments and monitoring (**Section 8.0**);
- Consultation plan for the EA (**Section 10.0**); and,
- Other approvals required (**Section 11.0**).

Taken together, the following sections of the ToR are intended to satisfy the requirements under Sections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the EA Act:

- Project approvals framework (**Sections 2.0 and 11.0**);
- Indication of how the EA will be completed (**Section 3.0**);
- Description of existing natural and socio-economic environment (**Section 4.0**);
- Preliminary potential effects (**Section 4.0**);
- Description of the undertaking (**Section 5.0**);
- Identification and evaluation of alternatives (**Section 6.0**);
- Preliminary potential mitigation measures (**Section 7.0**);
- Commitments and monitoring (**Section 8.0**); and,
- Consultation (**Sections 9.0 and 10.0**).



2.0 Overview of the EA Process

This section outlines the framework for EA regulatory approvals in Ontario for electricity transmission projects and how they apply to the Project.

2.1 Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990

The Project is subject to the provincial EA approval process under the EA Act. Under the EA Act, Ontario Regulation 116/01 (Electricity Projects Regulation) sets out the requirements for a variety of electricity projects in Ontario, including transmission lines based on the type of fuel to be used, the size and, in some cases, the efficiency of the planned facility.

While Ontario Regulation 116/01 does not reference specific project classifications, the MECP Guide to EA Requirements for Electricity Projects (2011) (referred to as the Guide) provides direction on electricity project classification in Ontario and is intended to help proponents of electricity projects, consultants, the public and other interested parties understand the EA requirements for new electricity projects which are set out in the regulation. The Guide classifies transmission projects described in Ontario Regulation 116/01 based on voltage and length of transmission lines into three distinct categories.

Based on the Guide, the Project is classified as a Category C project. Category C projects are large-scale, complex projects which generally have the potential for significant environmental effects and require the completion of an individual EA. Category C projects include transmission lines which are greater than 115 kV and less than 500 kV and are greater than, or equal to, 50 km in length.

The Project category and need to complete an individual EA is further noted on page 2 of the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities (2016), which provides information that would enable the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to approve certain types of frequently occurring transmission projects specified in the Guide which are typically smaller scale projects with predictable environmental effects that can be mitigated.

Since the Project meets the above criteria for a Category C project, Hydro One is required to submit an application under Section 5 of the EA Act to the Minister which includes the preparation, submission and approval of a ToR as shown in **Figure 2-1**. The ToR provides the overall study framework that will be followed during the EA. Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, are provided with opportunities



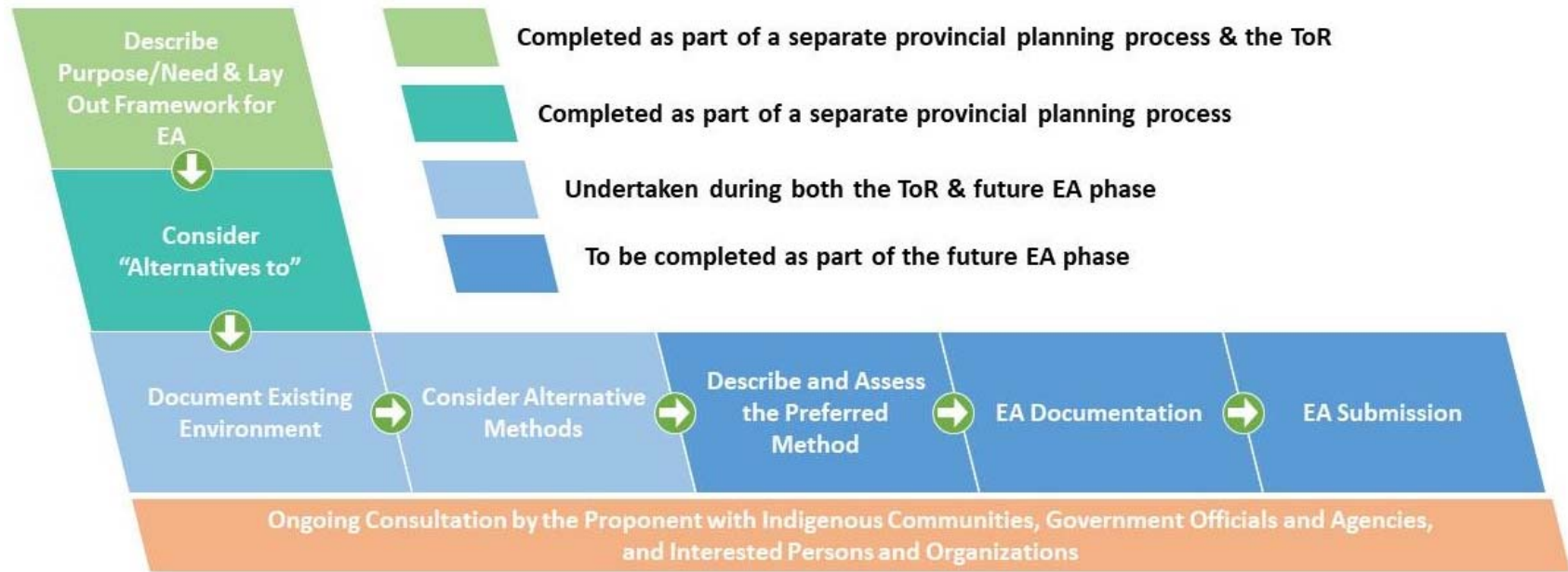
to comment during this process. A draft ToR was posted on the Project website for electronic viewing, and USB flash drives containing the document were made available at public locations. It was also provided to Indigenous communities. Following the review of the draft ToR, a proposed ToR (this document) was formally submitted to the MECP for a decision by the Minister.

If approved by the Minister, the ToR will be used to guide the completion of the EA to ensure it meets the intent of the EA Act and other applicable requirements. The results of the EA process will then be documented in an EA Report to be submitted to the Minister for review and decision.

There are two key documentation requirements for approval to proceed with an undertaking under subsection 5(1) of the EA Act:

- The development, submission, review and approval of the ToR; and,
- The preparation, submission, review and approval of the EA document in accordance with the framework set out in the MECP approved ToR.





* This figure provides a high-level overview of the individual EA process, including the components of the EA process that have been completed as part of a previous planning process (as described in **Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3**), as well as the components completed, or to be completed, as part of the ToR and EA phases.

Figure 2-1: Overview of the Individual Environmental Assessment Process





3.0 Environmental Assessment Approach

This section provides Hydro One's EA approach for the Project, including a rationale for conducting a "focused" EA in accordance with subsections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the EA Act, as well as an overview of other EA requirements related to the Project.

According to subsection 6(2) of the EA Act, the ToR must state how the EA will be prepared and either:

- a) Indicate that the EA will be prepared in accordance with the general requirements in subsection 6.1(2);
- b) Indicate that the EA will be prepared in accordance with such requirements as may be prescribed for the type of undertaking the proponents wish to proceed with; or,
- c) Set out in detail the requirements for the preparation of the EA.

Generally, a proponent uses subsections 6(2)(a) and 6.1(2) if it is early in the planning process and is not sure of the details of its proposal, such as the undertaking, alternatives or potential environmental effects¹. EAs that are completed in accordance with subsection 6.1(2) typically establish the need and rationale for a project and include an assessment of both "alternatives to" and "alternative methods" for carrying out the undertaking. Submission under subsection 6(2)(b) is not possible as no requirements for any types of undertakings have been prescribed in the EA Act (MECP, 2014). Proponents use subsections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) if there is a more defined planning process and more details of the project are already known, e.g., the potential alternatives (MECP, 2014)².

The EA for this Project is proposed to be completed in accordance with subsections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the EA Act. Projects completed in accordance with subsections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the EA Act are referred to as "focused" EAs. The EA for this Project will meet the requirements of subsection 6.1(2), and will not re-examine the "purpose of the undertaking" (need for the Project)

¹ Subsection 6.1(2) outlines the generic requirements of what an EA should include, such as the identification and evaluation of alternatives.

² Subsection 6.1(3) is an exception and indicates that the ToR may provide that the EA consist of information other than what is required by subsection (2).

as this has been established by provincial agencies over the past several years, and will be addressed as part of the Leave to Construct application. Further, the EA will not include an assessment of “alternatives to” with the exception of the “do nothing” alternative. In accordance with the EA Act, “alternative methods” (e.g., alternative routes identified in this ToR [**Section 6.0**]) will be evaluated through the EA process.

The rationale for proceeding in this manner is that a previous planning process has already been undertaken by provincial agencies which led to the identification and justification for the Project. In accordance with the EA Act, the EA will include the evaluation of alternative methods that have been identified in this ToR (**Section 6.0**). The EA will also include an assessment and evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of proceeding with the undertaking (the Project) compared to the “do nothing” or null alternative.

Subsection 6.1(2) of the EA Act

Hydro One will conduct the EA in accordance with the general requirements of subsection 6.1(2) of the EA Act, with the exception of the “purpose of the undertaking” and “alternatives to” the undertaking; however, the “do nothing” alternative will be considered. As such, the EA will consider the following (**Figure 3-1**):

- A description of, and statement of, the rationale for the undertaking and alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking (alternative routes) as described in **Section 6.0** of this ToR);
- A description of:
 - The environment that will be affected, or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the undertaking and the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
 - The effects that will be caused, or that might reasonably be expected to be caused to the environment, by the undertaking and the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
 - The actions necessary, or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary, to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment, by the undertaking and the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- An evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment of the undertaking and the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking; and,
- A description of consultation and engagement about the Project undertaken by the proponent and the results of the consultation and engagement.



Figure 3-1: Effects Assessment Process

3.1 Environmental Assessment Preparation and Submission

The EA will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the EA Act, and as outlined in the approved ToR. Upon completion of the EA, Hydro One will submit it for review and approval to the Minister. As per the MECP’s Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (2014a), the EA will generally include the following elements:

- Executive Summary;
- List of Studies and Report;
- ToR Requirements;
- Identification of the Proponent;
- Commitments and Monitoring;
- Other Approvals;
- Consultation and engagement summary; and,
- Appendices.

The EA will include the following components:

- Description of the purpose of and need for the Project (reference to the applicable section in the approved ToR where this is described);
- Description and statement of the rationale for the undertaking;
- Description of alternative methods of completing the Project;
- Identification of the advantages and disadvantages of the Project;
- Description of the environment that will be affected, or might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly by the Project and the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking;
- Identification and assessment of potential positive and negative environmental Project effects (including net effects) on existing conditions and the development of mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize adverse effects;
- Description and documentation of the results from the EA consultation and engagement program;
- Monitoring, follow-up programs and commitments; and,
- Supporting documentation that includes technical reports completed to support the Project.

A draft EA will be prepared and made available for review by Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Copies of the draft EA are expected to be placed in local municipal offices and other public venues, as well as be posted on Hydro One's website, and will be provided to Indigenous communities. Following the draft review, the EA will be formally submitted to the MECP for a decision by the Minister.

The EA will provide a comprehensive list of all relevant commitments made during the preparation of the ToR and the EA to guide future environmental work and engagement and consultation, as well as effects and compliance monitoring.

The EA will also seek to understand Indigenous community concerns regarding how the Project may impact their rights and interests and reflect those concerns within the appropriate documentation and processes.

3.2 Environmental Assessment Principles

The EA will be conducted in a manner consistent with the MECP's EA principles, including:

- Consult with potentially affected and other interested persons;
- Consider a reasonable range of alternatives (including alternative methods and the "do nothing" alternative);
- Consider all aspects of the environment;



- Systematically evaluate net environmental effects; and,
- Provide clear, complete documentation.

In addition, the EA will be guided by the MECP's project management principles to assist in navigating the EA process successfully, including:

- Timeliness;
- Clarity and consistency;
- Openness and transparency;
- Coordination of approvals;
- Best available information;
- Appropriate level of detail; and,
- Minimize potential harm and enhance benefits to the environment.

3.3 Providing Flexibility to Accommodate New Circumstances

This ToR provides flexibility in the event that unforeseen circumstances arise that could prevent the commitments in the ToR from being met and to allow for minor adjustments to the EA process that may differ slightly from the ToR, without having to restart the ToR and EA process. This is in accordance with Section 5.2.10 of the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014).

Due to the complexity and physical expanse of this Project, flexibility is primarily required to account for changes resulting from updated Project design or other aspects of the Project, including receiving new information (e.g., through advancement of design, completion of environmental studies, etc.), and to allow for the consideration of input received from the consultation and engagement program into the environmental planning process. This will be determined in the EA as the details of the Project are confirmed and finalized.

Although the Project, as described in this ToR, is accurate and realistic at the time of its preparation, the ToR has generally been developed based on preliminary design and preliminary baseline data, as well as early input. Additional consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations will be undertaken during the EA, specifically with respect to facility routing, as well as the approach used to evaluate alternative routes and complete the net effects assessment. If significant changes to the Project are considered, Hydro One will consult with the MECP to determine how they can be accommodated within the framework of the ToR. Potential changes include, but are not limited to, changes to described Project components, the alternative routes, proposed study areas, the evaluation of alternative routes, net effects assessment criteria and indicators, and the EA consultation and engagement plans.

4.0 Existing Environment and Potential Effects

This section provides an overview of the study areas identified for the Project, a general description of the existing environment and how it will be further described during the EA, and a high-level overview of potential effects of the Project.

4.1 Study Area

The following provides a summary of the process followed to develop and identify a suitable study area for the Project.

A Study Area, also referred to as the Route Selection Study Area, or RSSA, was first established for the purposes of the ToR during the pre-consultation phase of the Project which began in early 2019, prior to the public release of the Notice of Commencement of ToR in April 2019 (**Figure 4-1**). The Study Area included a large area generally between the Municipality of Shuniah in the east and the City of Dryden in the west and was used for desktop baseline data collection during the development of the ToR.

The determination of appropriate boundaries for the Study Area was based on several factors, including pre-determined start and end points (connection points) as specified by the IESO in their 2018 letter to Hydro One, having sufficient geographical area that would allow for the collection of applicable baseline information, and identification of a range of potential alternative routes.

The Study Area boundaries were also based on the need to capture areas most likely to be directly, or indirectly, affected by the Project, and to avoid areas with known significant natural and/or socio-economic constraints, such as heavily populated areas in the City of Thunder Bay and Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, Quetico Provincial Park, and Wabigoon Lake. The Study Area also included a portion of the southern area of Thunder Bay to account for a potential connection to Birch TS.

Hydro One held internal workshops to further understand some of the limitations of the Study Area in relation to ongoing operational constraints associated with their existing transmission lines in the area.

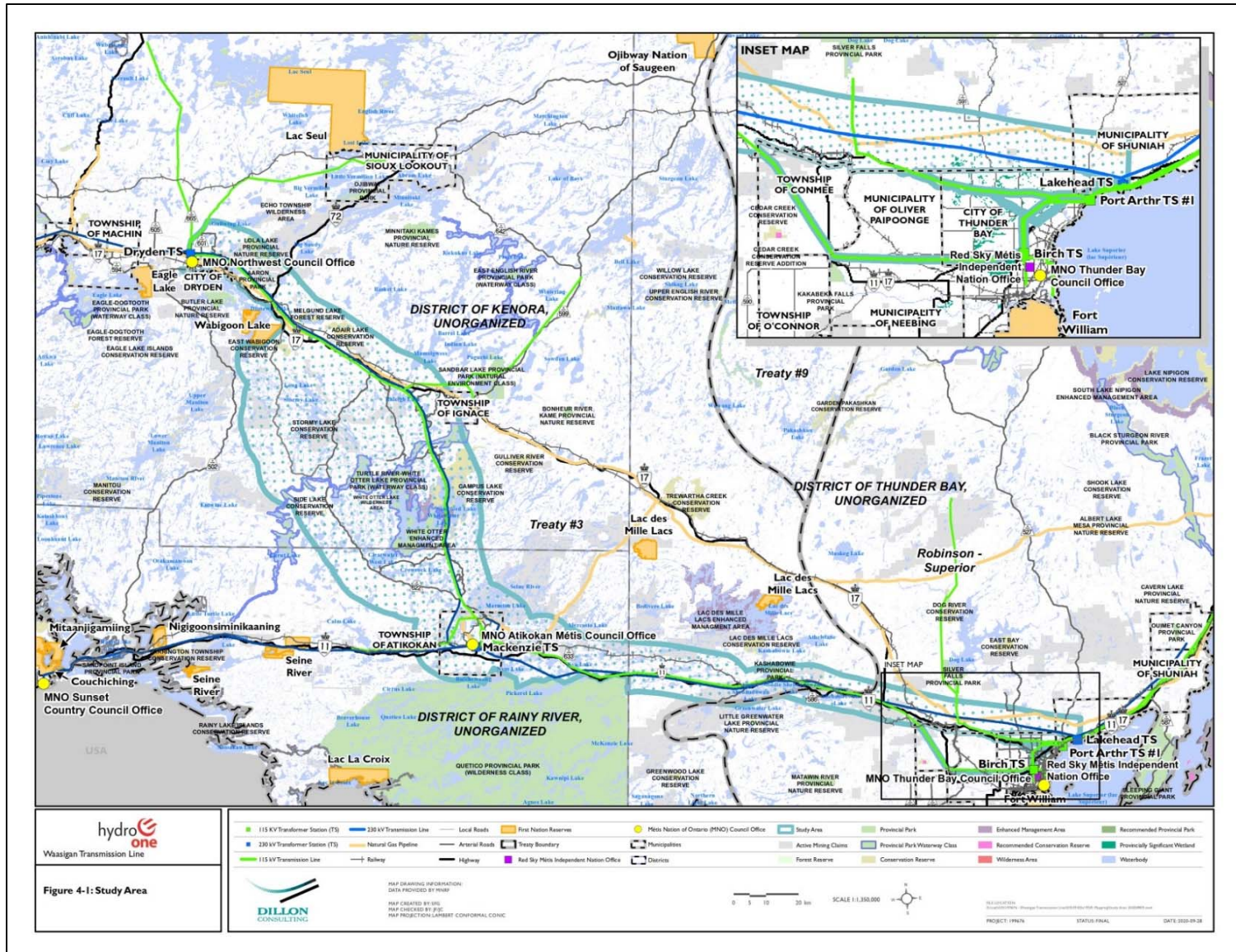


Figure 4-1: Study Area



The Study Area was presented and made available for comment to Indigenous communities (as identified in the provincial delegation letter), municipalities, and government agencies during the pre-consultation period (see Record of Consultation for more information related to specific activities). Pre-consultation activities included a multi-agency conference call held on March 29, 2019 to discuss the Project and review the Study Area. Several agencies were invited, including the following:

- ENDM
- Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- Infrastructure Ontario (IO)
- Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
- Ontario Parks
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
- MECP
- Ontario Power Generation
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
- Transport Canada
- Canadian National Railway (CNR)
- Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR)

Alternative Route Assessment and Evaluation Study Areas

The alternative transmission line routes identified in **Section 6.0** of this ToR will be subject to further data collection activities and an alternative route evaluation as part of the EA. The potential areas of effects and specific data collection areas during the EA will vary by environmental component and associated requirements, as well as assessment criterion. In a general sense, it is anticipated that the study areas to be used during the EA would include the following:

- Project Footprint – lands covered by the transmission line right-of-way (ROW), access roads and supporting infrastructure (e.g., laydown areas) to be considered in completing fieldwork and identifying direct environmental effects;
- Local Study Area – lands within approximately 500 metres (m) on each side of the Project Footprint to be used for background data collection and identifying direct and indirect environmental effects; and,

- Regional Study Area – lands generally up to approximately 5 km or more from the Project Footprint to be used for determining more generalized baseline data collection (e.g., watershed information, socio-economics, etc.) and for the prediction of indirect environmental effects.

The study areas considered in the EA for baseline data collection, alternative route evaluation and preferred route assessment will be refined and confirmed during the EA based on continued input from Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations and predicted Project-related environmental effects. In some cases, study areas may need to be adjusted to allow for a more comprehensive description of baseline conditions, potential Project effects and/or development of mitigation measures. Hydro One is committed to consulting on study areas during the EA with interested Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, as applicable. This would include consulting on specific wildlife species at risk (SAR) study areas with the MECP Species at Risk Branch (SARB). Mapping related to the alternative route evaluation and effects assessment study areas will be provided during the EA.

4.2 Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology

A preliminary desktop review was undertaken as part of this ToR to determine baseline environmental conditions within the Study Area. The preliminary desktop review was based primarily on records published through secondary data sources, including existing literature, as well as geographical information system (GIS) data and other information received from the consultation and engagement program (e.g., meetings and conference calls with government agencies, Community Information Centres [CICs], Corridor Workshops, etc.) undertaken during the development of the ToR.

The purpose of establishing baseline environmental conditions is to gain a contextual understanding of the Project as well as an understanding of the potential environmental effects that should be assessed during the EA. Establishing baseline environmental conditions also assists with determining a pre-construction benchmark for future monitoring programs.

Baseline environmental conditions are described in **Sections 4.2.2** and **4.2.3** and are organized based on the following:

Natural environment:

- Physiography, geology, surficial geology and soils;
- Surface water;



- Groundwater;
- Provincial parks, conservation reserves, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and other protected areas;
- Fish and fish habitat;
- Vegetation and wetlands;
- Terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- SAR and SAR habitat;
- Air quality and greenhouse gases; and,
- Acoustic environment.

Socio-economic environment:

- Provincial and municipal policy;
- Community well-being;
- Economy, land and resource use;
- Aesthetics;
- Infrastructure and community services;
- Indigenous community rights/interests and use of land and resources for traditional purposes; and,
- Cultural heritage resources.

The characterization of existing baseline environmental conditions will continue to be developed and refined as part of the EA and will serve as the baseline for the alternative route evaluation and for assessing potential Project-related effects. The characterization of environmental baseline conditions will also be supplemented with field studies completed during the EA. [Initial surveys will focus on collecting data to support the alternative route evaluation. More detailed surveys will then focus on the preferred route and other Project component locations once selected, to allow for design refinements and the development of mitigation to minimize adverse effects. This approach is consistent with Sections 4.1.3 and 4.2.4 of the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario \(MECP, 2014\), which notes that the level of detail at which alternatives are evaluated will normally increase as the proponent proceeds through the planning process.](#) Hydro One will provide opportunities for input throughout the EA for Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, as applicable. The baseline will include as much information about culturally sensitive plants (e.g., traditional medicines), as available. Hydro One will work with Indigenous communities to obtain this information for consideration in the effects assessment.

The EA will also consider new secondary information sources (e.g., published data sources, electronic databases, aerial photographs, published literature and journals, map interpretation,

etc.), as well as primary sources, ~~such as field reconnaissance and surveys,~~ as necessary. Indigenous Knowledge (IK), which includes both Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use, received from Indigenous communities will be incorporated into aspects of the EA, including information on Section 35 (*Constitution Act, 1982*) rights and interests, in consultation with Indigenous communities.

~~Field work may be undertaken to support the alternative route evaluation during the EA. An aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes is planned for~~ was completed in October 2020 to collect data for surface water, fish and fish habitat and the terrestrial environment (e.g., vegetation and wildlife) ~~to support the alternative route evaluation. Further, a).~~ A ground-based survey is planned was also completed in October 2020 to evaluate the physical characteristics of historic mine workings identified in the Abandoned Mine Information System spatial data layer to determine if they have potential to support bat hibernaculum and may be a constraint to development. ~~Consultation on field work plans will be held with regulatory agencies and Indigenous communities.~~

~~Field work is planned during the EA once a preferred route is selected and the locations of additional Project components are determined.~~ Additional field work will be undertaken to support the alternative route evaluation during the EA. Ground-based field surveys will also be used to fill in natural heritage data gaps by confirming the presence of candidate values identified using GIS analysis (e.g., SWH, SAR habitat and waterbody crossings). In addition, bat hibernacula are features that are best avoided to prevent significant adverse effects and early identification of these features can be used to support the design of the Project. Therefore, a bat hibernacula visual assessment and bat hibernacula swarming acoustic monitoring will be completed for the alternative routes to support the alternative route evaluation. Completing this species-specific survey on all alternatives and not just on the preferred route is consistent with Section 4.1.3 of the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014), which notes that the level of detail required will vary depending on the significance of the potential environmental effect. The details of these surveys will be provided in a field work plan and consultation on the field work plan will be held with regulatory agencies and Indigenous communities.

Field work will occur during the EA on the preferred route, once selected, and at additional Project component locations. Field surveys will generally consist of spring, summer and fall floral and faunal investigations, as well as surveys at representative watercourse crossings. These field studies surveys are expected to provide an appropriate level of detail for use in the EA (e.g., for the effects assessment of the preferred route). A field work plan will be developed for the field programs in consultation with applicable agencies to confirm the type, location, timing and



methodologies of field studies to be completed as part of the EA. Indigenous communities will also be engaged during development of the field work plans. As a result, field studies mentioned in this ToR are subject to change.

A preliminary list of the field surveys proposed [for the preferred route and other Project component locations](#) has been developed and the proposed surveys are noted below. These surveys will be described in more detail as part of a field work plan that will be submitted to Indigenous communities and applicable government agencies for review and comment, including an opportunity to provide input on discipline-specific study areas. The preliminary list of surveys to be undertaken on the preferred route and other identified Project component locations includes:

- Wildlife field surveys to collect species-specific information [along the preferred route;](#) [including:](#)
 - [Bat maternity roost habitat assessment and acoustic monitoring;](#)
 - [Barn swallow surveys;](#)
 - [Bank swallow surveys;](#)
 - [Breeding songbird point count surveys;](#)
 - [Marsh bird surveys;](#)
 - [Common nighthawk surveys, or acoustic monitoring in potentially suitable habitat that is not accessible at night;](#)
 - [Eastern whip-poor-will surveys, or acoustic monitoring in potentially suitable habitat that is not accessible at night;](#)
 - [Anuran \(frog and toad\) acoustic monitoring; and](#)
 - [General wildlife surveys that will result in incidental observations \(e.g., terrestrial wildlife, such as mammals, turtles and frogs, encountered while performing other surveys\).](#)
- Vegetation surveys, specifically Ecological Land Classification (ELC) and botanical surveys with a focus on relevant SAR species, rare species, invasive plants, and traditionally used plants;
- Fish and fish habitat field surveys to obtain site-specific field data at a subset of representative waterbody crossings to verify or augment the results and assumptions from the aerial reconnaissance and desktop review; and,
- Surface water surveys to document observed waterbody conditions at a subset of representative waterbody crossings.

4.2.1 Records Reviewed as Part of the Terms of Reference

Table 4-1 outlines some of the key secondary source information used in preparation of this ToR (references are included at the end of this document). These sources, as well as any new sources



identified herein or during the EA, will be reviewed and included in the EA Report, as appropriate.

Table 4-1: Key Records Reviewed

Record Source	Records Reviewed
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	
MNRF Restricted Datasets requested and/or accessed June 2019	Data obtained includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage values • Mineral licks • Nesting sites • Fish nursery areas • Fish spawning areas • Wildlife wintering areas
Land Information Ontario data requested and/or accessed June 2019	Data obtained includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active aggregate pit • ANSIs • Aquatic feeding areas • Aquatic Resource Area water line/water polygon segment • Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA) • Conservation reserves (CLUPA, GapTool) • Forest Resource Inventory Ecosite and Wetland Layer (Land Information Ontario or LIO) • Waterbody • Wetlands • Woodlands • National parks • Provincial parks (CLUPA, GapTool) • Recreation and tourism, such as canoe routes, trails, portages, and campsites
Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) data accessed June 2019	Data obtained includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAR • Plant community occurrences • Provincially tracked species
MNRF Species at Risk in Ontario List (SARO List), accessed June, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessed to determine the status of wildlife or plant species as a species of conservation concern or SAR

Record Source	Records Reviewed
Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (MNR, 2000) and the Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W (MNRF, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria
The Ecosystems of Ontario, Part I: Ecozones and Ecoregions (Crins et al., 2009).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecozones Ecoregions
Other Resources	
Canadian Geographic, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watershed summaries
Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint for Terrestrial Biodiversity, Volume 2: Ecodistrict Summaries (Henson and Brodribb, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecodistrict summaries
Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint for Aquatic Biodiversity, Volume 2: Tertiary Watershed Summaries (Phair et al., 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watershed summaries
Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA) online data, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital data files of species' range distributions
Important Bird Areas - online data, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital data files of Important Bird Areas
Mammals of the Western Hemisphere v3.0, accessed via NatureServe, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital data files of species' range distributions
Ontario Nature Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital data files of species' range distributions
Statistics Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant community and regional profiles
MHSTCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Heritage Toolkit
Canadian Index of Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profile of northern Ontario
MMAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth Plan for northern Ontario
Ontario Mining Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of current and planned mining operations
ENDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLAIMaps Bedrock Geology of Ontario (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011) Abandoned Mines Information System (AMIS) Database
IESO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Regional Resource Plans (IRRP)

Record Source	Records Reviewed
Ontario Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GapTool data set, including reports and shapefiles for underrepresented Landform/Vegetation (L/V) associations for Ecodistricts and critical L/V associations within protected areas • iNaturalist data, including for provincial parks and conservation reserves

The MNRF has reorganized some of the information available in LIO and, as such, this data will be reviewed again at the onset of the EA along with the additional sources listed below and any others identified following submission of this ToR. Additional and/or reorganized sources provided by the MNRF are listed below:

- Wildlife values area and wildlife values sites, including breeding, calving and fawning, denning, feeding, staging, nesting, wintering, general habitat areas, nurseries, travel corridors.
- Data sources from Ontario’s data catalogue (<https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/>):
 - Aggregate Site Authorized – Inactive;
 - MTO Aggregate Sites;
 - Ontario Trail Network (recreation features);
 - Trail segments (recreation features);
 - Fishing access points (recreation features); and,
 - Significant Ecological Area (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat).
- Data sources from NHIC:
 - Species Observation, locally derived (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat).
- Data sources from the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange. The following layers will provide information related to whether Crown land already has commitments (e.g., leases, easements, land use permits etc.), and where private lands are:
 - Crown Dispositions (e.g., Land Use Permit System, leases, easements, etc.); and,
 - Patent Land External (provides a visual between private lands and Crown lands).

4.2.2 Natural Environment

This section provides an overview of the natural environment within the Study Area based on the preliminary desktop review, and describes the data collection methodology that will take place during the EA.

4.2.2.1 Physiography, Geology, Surficial Geology and Soils

The Study Area is located within the Ontario Shield Ecozone, Ontario's portion of the national Boreal Shield Ecozone. The Ontario Shield Ecozone, which occupies more than half of the province, includes both the boreal forest and the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence forest regions (Crins et al., 2009). With a few exceptions, this Ecozone contains the Precambrian bedrock in the province. These rocks are typically ~~granite granites, gneisses, and gneiss, but basalt,~~ greenstone belts made up of metavolcanic and many other mineral types also occur. metasedimentary rocks, as well as younger volcanic and sedimentary rocks (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011). The surficial geology and substrates are diverse across the Ecozone; however, exposed bedrock also constitutes a significant portion of the Ecozone. Topography varies based on both the local bedrock and surficial deposits (Crins, et al., 2009).

The Study Area is located within three Ecoregions: Lake Nipigon (3W), Lake Wabigoon (4S), and Pigeon River (4W) (**Figure 4-2**). These Ecoregions are further subdivided into Ecodistricts based on more finely resolved abiotic data (Crins, et al., 2009). The Study Area spans six Ecodistricts: Savanne (3W-2), Manitou (4S-5), English River (4S-3), Dryden (4S-4), Quetico (4W-1), and Kakabeka (4W-2) (Henson and Brodribb, 2005).

A summary of the physiography, geology, surficial geology and soils of each Ecoregion and Ecodistrict within the Study Area, derived from The Ecosystems of Ontario, Part 1: Ecozones and Ecoregions (Crins et al., 2009) and The Ecosystems of Ontario, Part 2: Ecodistricts (Wester et al., 2018), is provided below.

Lake Nipigon Ecoregion (3W)

This Ecoregion is primarily underlain by ~~granite bedrock as well as basalt granites, gneisses, greenstone belts, and other younger sedimentary, volcanic and mafic intrusive rocks, greenstone, siltstone, and shale.~~ (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011). The landscapes vary from strongly broken in the southern portion to weakly broken, more subdued topography in the north and west. Major substrate types characterizing this Ecoregion include Humo-ferric Podzols, Dystric Brunisols, acidic rock outcrops, and Mesisols. This Ecoregion contains the Savanne Ecodistrict (3W-2).



- **Savanne Ecodistrict (3W-2)**

The Savanne Ecodistrict is dominated by morainal deposits and bedrock outcrops. The landscape of the Ecodistrict is gently rolling and includes features, such as faults, moraines and associated glaciofluvial materials, and eskers.

Lake Wabigoon Ecoregion (4S)

The Lake Wabigoon Ecoregion is primarily composed of gneissic, granitic, and metavolcanic Precambrian bedrock, with substantial areas of bedrock exposures with limited unconsolidated matter. Ground moraine and lacustrine deposits are present in the east, a large clay plain is present near Dryden, and localized pockets of clay and silt are scattered throughout the region. This Ecoregion contains the English River (4S-3), Dryden (4S-4), and Manitou (4S-5) Ecodistricts.

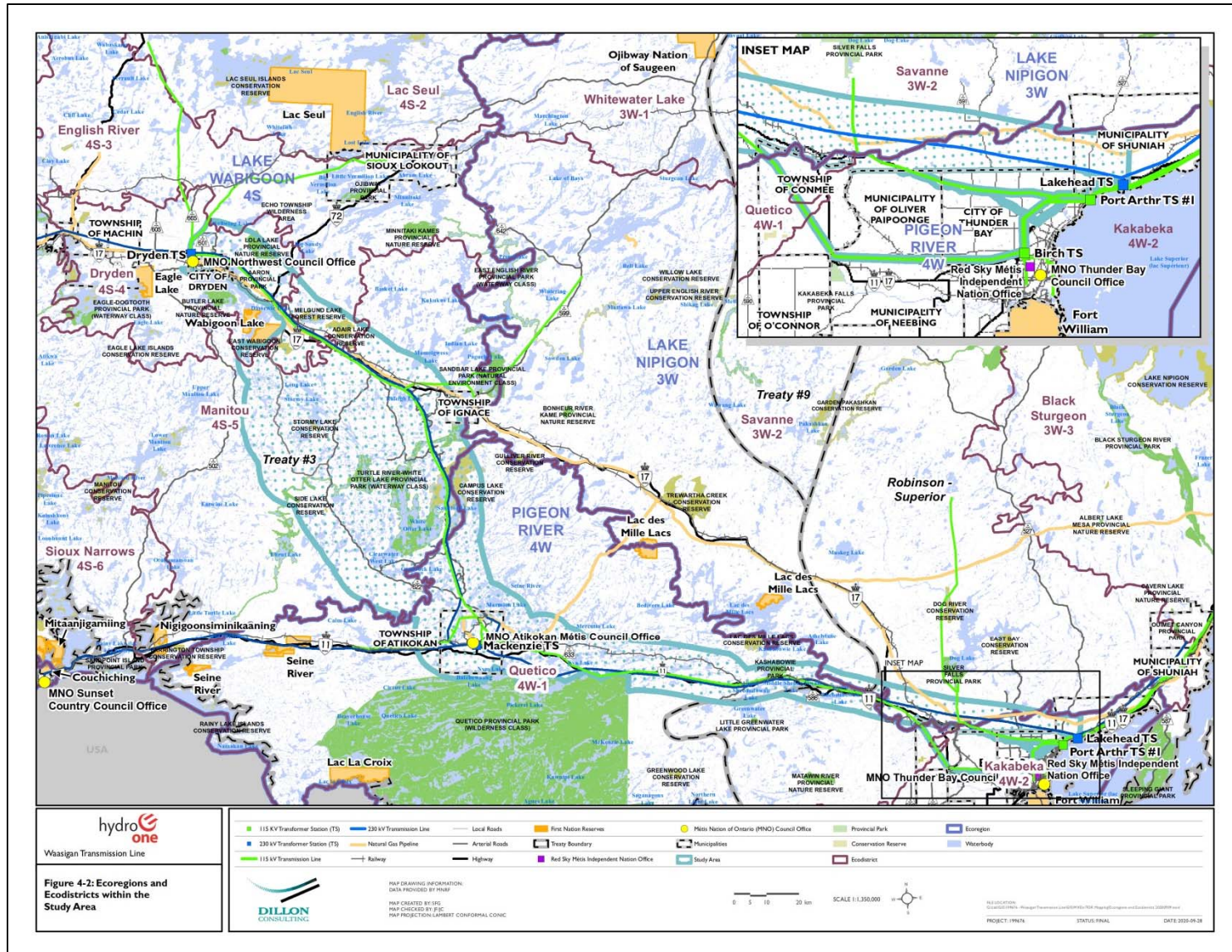


Figure 4-2: Ecoregions and Ecodistricts within the Study Area

- **English River Ecodistrict (4S-3)**

The English River Ecodistrict is hilly and characterized by shallow to deep acidic morainal material over bedrock. Three large moraines occur in the Ecodistrict, as well as a series of faults and glaciofluvial eskers.

- **Dryden Ecodistrict (4S-4)**

The Dryden Ecodistrict has gently rolling to hilly topography and is primarily covered by calcareous glaciolacustrine deposits. Moraines, exposed bedrock or bedrock with a shallow layer of morainal material, glaciofluvial deposits, and limited alluvial, organic and aeolian deposits, also occur within the Ecodistrict.

- **Manitou Ecodistrict (4S-5)**

The Manitou Ecodistrict is dominated by bedrock covered with a very shallow to shallow layer of acidic mineral material. The landscape is hilly and includes features such as faults, valleys with deeper pockets of glaciolacustrine material, moraines, river systems, and lakes.

Pigeon River Ecoregion (4W)

The Pigeon River Ecoregion is located on the Precambrian Shield and the bedrock is dominated by very low-base granites, with bands of base-rich, ultramafic and greenstone minerals, and gneisses, and more base-rich greenstone belts and mafic and ultramafic rocks, as well as younger sedimentary and mafic intrusive rocks (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011). The terrain is irregular and rugged in the central and northern portions of the Ecoregion. Numerous lakes as well as several large, steep-walled cuestas are present within the region. This Ecoregion contains the Quetico (4W-1) and Kakabeka (4W-2) Ecodistricts.

- **Quetico Ecodistrict (4W-1)**

The majority of the Quetico Ecodistrict is characterized by exposed bedrock or bedrock with a very shallow layer of acidic, coarse-textured mineral material. The topography is rolling and also contains moraines and associated morainal material, as well as glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine deposits.

- **Kakabeka Ecodistrict (4W-2)**

The Kakabeka Ecodistrict has a generally undulating to rolling landscape, overlain by a variable layer of coarse-textured, acidic, morainal material. The Ecodistrict, which includes the islands east and south of the City of Thunder Bay, is further described as having upland sites with irregular surface topography, flat-topped ridges with broad valleys and escarpments, and level area of deeper lacustrine and morainal materials. Bedrock ridges

are present adjacent to the Lake Superior shoreline and the Great Lake islands. Significant faults exist near Kakabeka Falls and through Loch Lomand. The Ecodistrict also contains moraines, areas of deep, level morainal deposits, bedrock covered with very shallow to shallow mineral material, and colluvial debris.

The EA will document existing conditions for the physical environment, including physiography, geology, soils and surficial geology, based on desktop studies. Ontario Geological Survey, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and MNRF mapping and reports as well as other existing databases, such as the Northern Ontario Engineering Terrain Studies and the Canadian Soil Information Service, will be consulted during the EA. Areas identified as potentially contaminated will be noted. Desktop studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.

4.2.2.2 **Surface Water**

The Study Area lies within the Hudson Bay and Great Lakes primary watersheds; the Rainy, English, and Northwestern Lake Superior secondary watersheds; and within six tertiary watersheds: Black Sturgeon (2AC), Dog (2AB), Upper Rainy (5PA), Central Rainy (5PB), Upper English (5QA) and Wabigoon (5QD) (Phair et. al., 2005). Tertiary watershed information is available for the Black Sturgeon and Dog watersheds only, which are described further below. Some of the larger surface water features in the Study Area include Wabigoon Lake, Mamegweiss Lake and Dinorwic Lake (Aquatic Resource Area, accessed June 2019).

Rainy Secondary Watershed (05P)

This watershed flows into the Lake of the Woods Secondary Watershed. No other watersheds flow into this watershed. It contains the Upper Rainy and Central Rainy tertiary watersheds (Canadian Geographic, 2018).

English Secondary Watershed (05Q)

This watershed is fed by the Root River Diversion and flows into the Winnipeg Secondary Watershed. It contains the Upper English and Wabigoon tertiary watersheds (Canadian Geographic, 2018).

Northwestern Lake Superior Secondary Watershed (02A)

This watershed flows into Northwestern Lake Superior and includes the Black Sturgeon River and the City of Thunder Bay. Stream systems occupy significant sections of this largely undisturbed watershed (Phair, et. al., 2005). It contains the Black Sturgeon and Dog tertiary watersheds.

Black Sturgeon Tertiary Watershed (2AC)

This watershed flows into northwestern Lake Superior, and includes the Black Sturgeon River. Stream systems occupy over 80 percent of the watershed (Phair, et. al., 2005).

Dog Tertiary Watershed (2AB)

This watershed flows into northwestern Lake Superior and includes the City of Thunder Bay. Most of the watershed is undisturbed (Phair, et. al., 2005).

As described in Section 4.2, field surveys are planned to support the alternative route evaluation and the net effects assessment of the preferred route. Details of these surveys will be provided in field work plans that will be developed subject to consultation with applicable agencies and Indigenous communities. In addition, desktop and field studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.

Baseline conditions for surface water conditions will be documented as part of the EA using published data, GIS mapping and field surveys ~~(as applicable)~~. The potential for effects to surface water will also be reviewed. ~~Desktop studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~

4.2.2.3**Groundwater**

The Study Area consists of a bedrock aquifer made up of granite and gneiss rock. This bedrock is continuous over the region and is thought to be a moderate to poor aquifer. The surficial aquifer system, consisting of sediments deposited by glaciers or glacial melt water, extends discontinuously across the area. Generally, the glacial deposits are thin, having been lost to erosion. Where a bedrock aquifer is present below the surficial aquifer system, the two are usually connected hydraulically. Bedrock aquifers may be exposed at the surface in rock outcrops or road cuts but also extend below the surface to varying extents and depths, where wells can tap their water supplies (Grannemann, et. al., 2000).

Baseline conditions for groundwater will be documented as part of the EA using published data, including MECP water well records and reports, ECCC's Water Survey of Canada, and GIS mapping. Wells in proximity to the preferred route that could potentially be affected by the Project will also be identified and provided in the EA using the MECP water wells records and input

received from landowners. The potential for groundwater effects will also be reviewed using historical data (e.g., existing MECP water well records and reports, source water protection plans, etc.). Desktop studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities and supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.

4.2.2.4 Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Other Protected Areas

There are no national parks located within the Study Area; however, there are provincial parks, conservation reserves, ANSIs and other protected areas located in, or in proximity to, the Study Area. A preliminary list of these areas is provided in **Table 4-2** and shown in **Figure 4-1**.

Table 4-2: Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, and ANSIs

Category	Natural Heritage Feature
Provincial Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kashabowie Provincial Park • Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park • Aaron Provincial Park • Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park • Quetico Provincial Park • Lola Lake Provincial Park
Conservation Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Wabigoon Conservation Reserve • Melgund Lake Conservation Reserve • Stormy Lake Conservation Reserve • Pyatt Lake Conservation Reserve • Airport Road Conservation Reserve • Campus Lake Conservation Reserve • Side Lake Conservation Reserve • Adair Lake Conservation Reserve
Area of Natural and Scientific Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swamp River Earth Science ANSI • Thunder Bay Lookout Earth Science ANSI

The White Otter Enhanced Management Area is also located within the Study Area. The EA will identify and provide baseline conditions through desktop and field work for those sections of provincial parks, conservation reserves, and ANSIs (as well as any other protected areas) that have the potential to be affected by the Project. Potential Project effects and mitigation will also be developed and provided in the EA Report. Refinement of the preferred route will be undertaken in

the EA to avoid effects, where possible, and to minimize effects on these areas, including minimizing adverse visual effects.

4.2.2.5 **Fish and Fish Habitat**

The Study Area contains many aquatic features, including streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands (Crins et al., 2009) which have the potential to provide direct and indirect habitat for fish. Based on Aquatic Resource Area mapping, the majority of watercourses in the Study Area are classified as coldwater. Characteristic fish species found within the Ecoregions within the Study Area, namely Lake Nipigon Ecoregion (3W), Lake Wabigoon Ecoregion (4S) and Pigeon River Ecoregion (4W), are provided below (Crins et al., 2009).

Lake Nipigon Ecoregion (3W)

Lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), burbot (*Lota lota*), brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis fontinalis*), and mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdi*).

Lake Wabigoon Ecoregion (4S)

Lake trout, northern pike (*Esox lucius*), northern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus eos*), goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*), muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*), pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), and river darter (*Percina shumardi*).

Pigeon River Ecoregion (4W)

Lake trout, northern pike, burbot, lake chub (*Couesius plumbeus*), golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), bluntnose minnow (*Pimephales notatus*), and rock bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*).

In addition, several federally and provincially protected fish SAR have the potential to be found within the Study Area, including Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), American Eel (*Anguilla rostrate*), Shortjaw Cisco (*Coregonus zenithicus*), Northern Brook Lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon fossor*), and Silver Lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon unicuspis*). SAR are discussed further in **Section 4.2.2.8**.

Datasets provided by the MNRF identify three walleye (*Sander vitreus vitreus*) and twenty-four smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) nursery areas, and 364 fish spawning areas within the Study Area.

As described in **Section 4.2**, field surveys are planned to support the alternative route evaluation and the net effects assessment of the preferred route and other key project components. Details of these surveys will be provided in field work plans that will be developed subject to consultation with applicable agencies and Indigenous communities. In addition, desktop and field studies will

~~be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~ The EA will identify and document aquatic features, as well as fish species and fish habitat, which have the potential to be affected by the Project. Aquatic features and species information will be gathered using desktop (including GIS mapping) and field studies, ~~as necessary. Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~

4.2.2.6 **Vegetation and Wetlands**

An overview of the vegetation and natural cover of each Ecoregion within the Study Area, derived from The Ecosystems of Ontario, Part 1: Ecozones and Ecoregions (Crins et al., 2009) and The Ecosystems of Ontario, Part 2: Ecodistricts (Wester et al., 2018), is provided below. Additional Ecodistrict information is available and included for the Kakabeka area only.

Lake Nipigon Ecoregion (3W)

The land cover of the Lake Nipigon Ecoregion is primarily forest, with 23.5 percent mixed forest, 23 percent coniferous forest, 17.1 percent water, 15.1 percent sparse forest, 9 percent deciduous forest, and 5.7 percent cutovers. Vegetation found within the Ecoregion includes tree species such as black spruce (*Picea mariana*), white spruce (*Picea glauca*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*). In addition, the warmer, more southerly portions of the Ecoregion contain Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest species such as eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and red pine (*Pinus resinosa*). In areas of more rich, fine-textured soils associated with river valleys, species such as black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) occur. The cold, rocky shores of Lake Superior also provide habitat for arctic and alpine plants (Crins et al., 2009).

- **Savanne Ecodistrict (3W-2)**

The Savanne Ecodistrict is primarily composed mixed forest, with coniferous forests scattered throughout the Ecodistrict. Sparse forests, deciduous forest, bog and fen complexes, and red pine and white pine old growth forests also occur.

Lake Wabigoon Ecoregion (4S)

The land cover of the Lake Wabigoon Ecoregion is also primarily forest, with 25.2 percent mixed forest, 24 percent water, 23.8 percent sparse forest, 14.3 percent coniferous forest, 4.9 percent cutovers, and 2 percent deciduous forest. In the western portion of the Ecoregion there is a large area dominated by bedrock with bare and sparse vegetation only, due to an intense fire regime, dry climate, and shallow substrate. Vegetation within this Ecoregion is characterized by a rapid



ecological transition. Vegetation includes boreal tree species, such as jack pine, black spruce, balsam fir, trembling aspen, tamarack and white spruce. Species such as American elm, ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), large-tooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), eastern white pine, and red pine are relatively abundant in the warmer and drier sites in the central and southern portions of the Ecoregion. The southern portion of the Ecoregion also contains scattered red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and American basswood (*Tilia americana*). In the western portion of the Ecoregion, drier woodlands provide suitable habitat for species associated with prairies, such as bur oak, nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) (Crins et al., 2009).

- **English River Ecodistrict (4S-3)**

Mixed forests cover nearly half of the English River Ecodistrict. Coniferous forests are present on drier, deep mineral material and rocky uplands, while very shallow substrates generally support sparse forests. Deciduous forests are more common in the eastern portion of the Ecodistrict, and a small portion of the Ecodistrict is comprised of bog and fen complexes, marshes, and exposed bedrock. The Ecodistrict is an area of transition between the temperate and boreal vegetation zones; therefore, both temperate and boreal species occur. White pine and red pine old growth forests are also present.

- **Dryden Ecodistrict (4S-4)**

The Dryden Ecodistrict is dominated by mixed forests and includes temperate, boreal, and grassland species. Sparse forests generally occur on very shallow substrates and coniferous forests occur throughout the Ecodistrict. Deciduous forest is common north of Wabigoon Lake, and bog and fen complexes may occur adjacent to lakes and rivers. Grassland species which occur include Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Norwegian Cinquefoil (*Potentilla norvegica*) and Richardson's Alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*).

- **Manitou Ecodistrict (4S-5)**

The Manitou Ecodistrict is dominated by mixed forest. Sparse forests, which generally occur on bedrock, and coniferous-dominated forests also cover a significant portion of the Ecodistrict. Several red pine and white pine old growth forests are present within the Ecodistrict. Grassland species, such as Prairie Buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and Slender Beardtongue (*Penstemon gracilis*) may occur on warmer-than-normal slopes or on bedrock ridges.

Pigeon River Ecoregion (4W)



The land cover of the Pigeon River Ecoregion is 33.2 percent mixed forest, 19.3 percent sparse forest, 17.5 percent water, 11.5 percent coniferous forest, 10.6 percent deciduous forest, and 3.6 percent cutovers. Vegetation communities in this Ecoregion are a mixture of boreal and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence species, which vary based on the environmental conditions. For example, species such as eastern white pine, white spruce, jack pine, and red pine are found on well-drained sites. Pure or mixed stands of jack pine, trembling aspen, large-tooth aspen, balsam fir, white spruce, and/or black spruce are present in areas disturbed by fire or logging. Low-lying areas contain species such as black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir, tamarack, and eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), black ash, American elm, and red maple. Warmer sites, particularly in the southern areas of the Ecoregion, contain species such as sugar maple, yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), American basswood, ironwood, box elder (*Acer negundo*), and bur oak (Crins et al., 2009).

- **Quetico Ecodistrict (4W-1)**

The Quetico Ecodistrict is primarily composed of mixed forests, which contain both temperate and boreal species. Coniferous forests occur throughout the Ecodistrict, while sparse forests are more common in the southern portion of the Ecodistrict, in areas of discontinuous mineral material and exposed bedrock. Red and white pine old growth forests are present in the north and south. A small portion of land cover is comprised of fen and bog complexes which are scattered throughout the ecodistrict; marshes are limited to lake bays and river mouths.

- **Kakabeka Ecodistrict (4W-2)**

The Kakabeka Ecodistrict is primarily composed of sparse forest. Mixed forests also occur throughout the ecodistrict, but in particular south of Whitefish Lake. Deciduous forests also comprise a large portion of land-cover, while coniferous forests are limited in this area. Bog and fen complexes are restricted to low-lying poorly drained areas, and marshes occur in bays and adjacent to rivers and lakes. In the north-central area of the Ecodistrict, a small portion of land cover is agricultural.

The MNRF provided NHIC Sensitive Datasets which identify the location of several communities of “Medium” Sensitivity within the Study Area, such as Bur Oak Basic Treed Rock Barren Type, Great Lakes Arctic-Alpine Basic Open Bedrock Shoreline Type, and Dry Fescue Mixedgrass Prairie Type. Similarly, the MNRF NHIC Sensitive Datasets identify occurrence records of provincially rare (S1, S2, S3) species within the Study Area, including Pale Moonwort, Drummond’s Thistle, Plains Rough Fescue (*Festuca hallii*), Long-leaved Arnica (*Arnica lonchophylla*), and Ryegrass Sedge (*Carex loliacea*).



~~The EA will contain a description of vegetation potentially affected by the Project using desktop and field studies, as required. Anticipated field studies to be completed during the EA include ELC and botanical surveys, and are subject to consultation with regulatory agencies and Indigenous communities for their input. ELC and botanical surveys will be completed to establish vegetation communities and species. Natural heritage information obtained from these surveys will be used to verify secondary source data. Desktop and field studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~ Based on a preliminary desktop review, many wetlands are present within the Study Area. Wetland types which occur include marshes, bogs, swamps, and fens (MNRF wetland data, provided July 2019).

The majority of these wetlands are unevaluated; however, seven provincially significant wetlands have been identified within the Study Area:

- Basin A;
- Kivikovski;
- Little Falls;
- McVicars Creek;
- Neebing River;
- Sawmill Bay; and,
- William's Bog.

In addition, two other wetlands were identified, Mud Lake and Mud Lake – Pete Lake. This category includes wetlands that have not been evaluated under the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System and those that have been evaluated and did not score as a Provincially Significant Wetland (previously referred to as locally significant wetlands).

~~The EA will identify and document wetlands potentially affected by the Project using desktop studies (including GIS mapping) supplemented with field studies, as necessary. Wetland desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~

As described in **Section 4.2**, field surveys are planned to support the alternative route evaluation and the net effects assessment of the preferred route and other project component locations. Details of these surveys will be provided in field work plans that will be subject to consultation with applicable agencies and Indigenous communities. Anticipated field studies to be completed during the EA on the preferred route and other project component locations include ELC (e.g., wetlands) and botanical surveys. ELC and botanical surveys will be completed to establish vegetation communities and species. Natural heritage information obtained from these surveys

will be used to verify secondary source data. Desktop and field studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities. The EA will contain a description of vegetation and wetlands potentially affected by the Project using desktop and field studies, as required.

4.2.2.7 **Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat**

Based on a preliminary desktop review, a wide variety of birds, mammals, and herpetological fauna have the potential to occur within the Study Area. Characteristic wildlife in this region include, but are not limited to, moose (*Alces americanus*), American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), fisher (*Martes pennanti*), American mink (*Mustela vison*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*), western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*), and northern red-bellied snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata*) (Crins et. al., 2009).

Datasets provided by MNRF identify bird nesting sites (e.g., bald eagle, osprey [*Pandion haliaetus*], great blue heron [*Ardea herodias*], great gray owl [*Strix nebulosa*], red-tailed hawk [*Buteo jamaicensis*], and eastern whip-poor-will [*Caprimulgus vociferous*]), mineral licks, and early and late moose wintering areas within the Study Area. With respect to significant wildlife habitat, the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide or SWHTG; MNRF, 2000) provides descriptions, information and criteria of wildlife habitat that are to be considered for significance in Ontario. However, due to Ontario's large size and biodiversity, significance criteria vary across the province. As a result, Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for specific Ecoregions were created to complement the SWHTG. To date, a draft Schedule for Ecoregion 3W (MNRF, 2017) represents the only criterion schedule developed for the area, in which the Study Area is located (Environmental Registry of Ontario, 2019). A preliminary desktop review of aerial photography, information provided by the MNRF (and other secondary sources), and review of the draft Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W (MNRF, 2017), was undertaken to determine the potential for Significant Wildlife Habitat to occur within the Study Area. Some of these potential habitats include, but are not limited to, bat maternity colonies, amphibian breeding habitat, turtle wintering areas, snake hibernaculum, bald eagle and osprey nesting habitat, woodland raptor nesting habitat, turtle nesting areas, and mineral licks.

As described in Section 4.2, field surveys are planned to support the alternative route evaluation and the net effects assessment of the preferred route and other project components. Details of these surveys will be provided in field work plans that will be developed subject to consultation with applicable agencies and Indigenous communities. Desktop and field studies will be

~~supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~ Wildlife and wildlife habitat information will be provided in the EA based on desktop analysis and field study, ~~as necessary.~~ Wildlife and wildlife habitat with the potential to be affected by the Project will be identified. The EA will also identify Significant Wildlife Habitat of species of conservation concern. In the absence of Ecoregion 4S and 4W Criteria Schedules, the draft Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W (MNRF, 2017) will be referenced to evaluate the presence and significance of wildlife habitat, as applicable. ~~Field studies to be completed for the EA may include breeding bird surveys, incidental wildlife surveys, and other seasonal surveys, subject to consultation with applicable regulatory agencies and Indigenous communities for their input. Desktop and field studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.~~

4.2.2.8 Species at Risk and Species at Risk Habitat

A screening of potential SAR and SAR habitat was conducted through a review of existing background information, datasets provided by the MNRF, and from feedback provided by the MECP SARB. Based on the review, the following terrestrial and aquatic SAR (and related habitat) have been known to occur, or have the potential to occur, within and/or adjacent to the Study Area as outlined in **Table 4.3**.

Table 4-3: Species at Risk Present or Potential to be Present in Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal SARA Registry Status ¹	Ontario ESA SARO List Status	Provincial Conservation Rank (SRank) ²	Source
Birds					
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	SC	SC	S2N,S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Caprimulgus vociferous</i>	Eastern Whip-poor-will	THR	THR	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>	Canada Warbler	THR	SC	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal SARA Registry Status ¹	Ontario ESA SARO List Status	Provincial Conservation Rank (SRank) ²	Source
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	–	SC	S3B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	THR	SC	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	THR	SC	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Contopus virens</i>	Eastern Wood-pewee	SC	SC	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Yellow Rail	SC	SC	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Bobolink	THR	THR	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - SAR; NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	SC	SC	S3B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	–	SC	S2N,S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	THR	THR	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - SAR; NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species



Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal SARA Registry Status ¹	Ontario ESA SARO List Status	Provincial Conservation Rank (SRank) ²	Source
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	THR	THR	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	American White Pelican	–	THR	S2B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Horned Grebe	–	SC	S1B,S4N	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail	END	END	S2B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow	THR	THR	S4B	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - SAR; NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Evening Grosbeak	–	SC	S4B	MECP SARB Consultation
<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Rusty Blackbird	SC	SC	S4B	MECP SARB Consultation
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift	THR	THR	S4B, S4N	MECP SARB Consultation
Herptiles					
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping Turtle	SC	SC	S3	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
Mammals					

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal SARA Registry Status ¹	Ontario ESA SARO List Status	Provincial Conservation Rank (SRank) ²	Source
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little Brown Myotis	END	END	S4	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - SAR; NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis	END	END	S3	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Gray Fox	THR	THR	S1	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger (Northwestern Ontario populations)	SC	END	S2	MECP SARB Consultation
<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Wolverine	SC	THR	S2S3	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Mountain Lion	—	END	SU	MECP SARB Consultation
Fish and Other Aquatic Species					
<i>Acipenser fulvescens pop. 1</i>	Lake Sturgeon (Saskatchewan-Nelson River populations)	—	THR	S2	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Acipenser fulvescens pop. 3</i>	Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence River population)	—	END	S2	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	American Eel	—	END	S1?	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal SARA Registry Status ¹	Ontario ESA SARO List Status	Provincial Conservation Rank (SRank) ²	Source
<i>Coregonus zenithicus</i>	Shortjaw Cisco	THR	THR	S2	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Ichthyomyzon fossor</i>	Northern Brook Lamprey (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations)	SC	SC	S3	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
<i>Ichthyomyzon unicuspis pop. 1</i>	Silver Lamprey (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence populations)	—	SC	S3	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species
Insects					
<i>Bombus terricola</i>	Yellow-banded Bumble Bee	SC	SC	S5	NHIC Sensitive Datasets - Provincially Tracked Species

¹ END = Endangered, THR = Threatened, SC = Special Concern; — = no status.

² S1 - Extremely rare in Ontario; usually five or fewer occurrences in the province, or only a couple remaining hectares; S2 - Very rare in Ontario; usually between six and 20 occurrences in the province, or only a few remaining hectares; S3 - Rare to uncommon in Ontario; usually between 21 and 80 occurrences in the province; may have fewer occurrences, but with some extensive examples remaining; S4 - Considered to be common in Ontario. It denotes a species that is apparently secure, with over 80 occurrences in the province; S5 - Indicates that a species is widespread in Ontario. It is demonstrably secure in the province. ? - A question mark following the rank indicates that there is some uncertainty with the classification due to insufficient information.

Plants were also included in the SAR background review; however, the MNRF datasets did not identify any SAR plant occurrence records within and/or adjacent to the Study Area. Hydro One will consult with MECP SARB for the development of the field work plans and approach to the SAR effects assessment.

SAR and their respective habitats are protected under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) (as updated) and SARA (2002). For the purposes of the EA, SAR and SAR habitat identified will be those designated as Threatened or Endangered under Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act, 2002* (SARA), last amended on May 22, 2019, as well as those listed as Threatened or Endangered under the SARO List (Ontario Regulation 230/08) of the ESA, last amended August 1, 2018. Species listed as Special Concern under the SARA and/or the ESA will also be identified; however, general prohibitions of the SARA (e.g., Section 32 and 33) and the ESA



(e.g., subsections 9 and 10) do not apply to these species. ~~Consultation with the MECP will be undertaken to determine the need for SAR. As described in Section 4.2, field studies surveys are planned to be completed in support of the alternative route evaluation and the net effects assessment of the EA. SAR desktop and field preferred route. Details of these surveys will be provided in field studies work plans that~~ will be subject to consultation with applicable agencies and Indigenous communities ~~for their input.~~ SAR desktop and ~~the field~~ studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.

Light pollution associated with artificial lighting may also result in disturbance to some nocturnal and/or crepuscular SAR (e.g., Eastern Whip-poor-will) during construction and/or operation at specific Project sites (e.g., laydown areas, etc.) and will be further reviewed and considered during the EA.

4.2.2.9 **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases**

Air quality in the Study Area is generally influenced by local sources as well as long-range transport of contaminants from other regions. Potential air emission sources include mining and other industrial operations, as well as vehicular traffic. Data used to characterize current air quality and climate conditions in the area is anticipated to be obtained from ECCC National Air Pollution Surveillance Program (NAPS) air monitoring stations (e.g., Thunder Bay Station). The specific NAPS air monitoring stations used to obtain air quality and climate conditions will be confirmed during the EA once additional Project information becomes available. Air quality criteria, standards and objectives in Ontario have been established by MECP and federally by ECCC. The purpose of air quality objectives and standards is to protect against adverse effects on health and the environment.

The EA will document general baseline conditions for air quality in the area and climate normal using secondary information and the data from representative air quality monitoring. Given the nature of this Project, only temporary construction-related air emissions are anticipated.

A quantitative assessment of air quality emissions associated with construction activities will be completed. Key air quality parameters to be considered in the dispersion modelling are carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x, expressed as NO and NO₂), total suspended particulate (TSP), particulate less than or equal to 10 µm in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 µm in diameter (PM_{2.5}), as well as greenhouse gases (GHGs). Vehicle exhaust emission rates will be calculated using published emission factors for non-road vehicles and the United States' Environmental Protection Agency Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator for haul trucks. Emissions from fugitive dust generated by the vehicle movements and material handling activities during construction will be calculated using published emission factors.

The assessment would be completed using a concentration profile method to assess the air quality emissions from construction activities in the area. This will provide predicted air concentrations at regular distances away from the transmission line (e.g., predict concentrations at specified distances, out to a maximum of 2 km from the preferred route ROW). This method will increase efficiency by eliminating the need to identify all sensitive receptors in the study areas and will permit stakeholders to assess the potential effects of construction activity at any receptor, provided the distance from the transmission line is known.

Like air quality, GHGs in the Study Area are influenced by local sources as well as long-range transport of GHGs from outside the Project Footprint. Due to the long-lived nature of GHGs and long-range transport, GHGs will be considered at a provincial and national level. Data used to characterize current GHG emission levels is anticipated to be obtained from the National Inventory Report 1990 – 2017 developed by ECCC and will be used to document the baseline conditions for GHGs in the area. For similar reasons to air quality, a quantitative assessment of GHG emissions associated with construction activities (including land clearing) will be completed. Annual GHG emissions from the Project will be quantified for the construction phase using the methodology consistent with the provincial and federal GHG reporting regulations, with preference given to provincial methodology where more than one methodology is available. These emissions will be compared to the provincial and federal emissions inventories to assess the relative contribution of the Project. The emissions from the operation phase of the Project will be qualitatively assessed in comparison to the construction emissions. Qualitative discussion will be provided on reducing GHG emissions through the reduction in reliance on diesel-based power generation, informed by studies completed for similar projects.

The overall assessment of GHGs will have regard to the recently released Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2020) guidance document that was released to look at carbon sinks and how the Project will beneficially contribute to Ontario and Canada meeting its international obligations, including a plan to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

In addition to the description of climate normals as baseline, Hydro One also commits to include in the EA a description of how the climate is projected to change in the Study Area based on available secondary source information.

Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities.

The EA will also seek to understand Indigenous community concerns regarding how the Project may impact their rights and interests and reflect those concerns within the appropriate documentation and processes.

4.2.2.10 **Acoustic Environment**

The existing acoustic environment within the Study Area and the surrounding lands is typical of a rural area and largely characterized by sounds of nature, vehicular traffic, and noise from industrial activities (e.g., mining, quarrying, and forestry). The sound environment in the City of Thunder Bay may, however, be more typical of an urban area with louder background noise levels due to high-volume roadway use and other noise sources. The Study Area includes several communities, recreational areas and other potentially sensitive receptors, including Indigenous harvesters.

A noise work plan for the EA will be developed in consultation with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, to describe the approach for the acoustic assessment and supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities. It will describe the type of data that will be gathered and the assessment methodology with respect to the acoustic environment. The noise work plan will describe how:

- Sensitive receptors will be identified (e.g., recreation areas, tourism facilities, Indigenous harvesters, etc.);
- Existing noise conditions along the preferred route will be established;
- Project activities/sources will be assessed, including consideration of both construction and operations; and,
- Potential noise mitigation measures that could be incorporated into the design of the Project.

4.2.3 **Socio-Economic Environment**

This section provides an overview of the socio-economic environment within the Study Area and describes the data collection methodology that will take place during the EA.

4.2.3.1 **Provincial and Municipal Policy**

Land use planning occurs at the provincial, municipal and regional levels in northern Ontario. Land use planning direction within the Study Area is taken from the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (MMAH, 2020), the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (2011), CLUPA, Fisheries Management Zone Plans (FMZ 4, 5 and 6 plans) and the Shebandowan Lake Management Plan. These plans will be further reviewed as part of the EA.



The PPS sets forth a vision for Ontario's land use planning system by managing and directing land use to achieve efficient development and land use patterns, wise use and management of resources, and protecting public health and safety. The PPS identifies the need for planning authorities to plan for and protect ROWs for infrastructure facilities to meet current and projected needs.

The PPS classifies the Project as infrastructure and describes that infrastructure should be provided in a coordinated, efficient and cost-effective manner, and that before consideration is given to developing new infrastructure, the use of existing infrastructure should be optimized. Section 1.6.8.5 of the PPS states "the co-location of linear infrastructure should be promoted, where appropriate."

The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (2011) guides decision-making and investment planning in northern Ontario until 2036. The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario recognizes that investment in regional energy generation and transmission infrastructure supports the growth and development of the energy sector, while providing reliable energy supply for the sectors of the northern economic base.

The majority of the Study Area is comprised of Crown land. The CLUPA is a source of area-specific land use policy maintained by the Ontario government for Crown lands. CLUPA contains land use policies consolidated from a variety of planning documents, such as District Land Use Guidelines (1983 as revised); local land use area plans; Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999) and the Guide to Crown Land Use Planning (2011). CLUPA will be used to understand the applicable land use designations for the portions of the alternative routes that are located on Crown land.

Additional consideration of activities on Crown land will include forest management plans and other Crown land users, such as mining claim holders, trapline holders, Indigenous harvesters and other tenure holders. Other Crown land users include commercial operations for harvesting natural resources (e.g., baitfish, trapline, bear management, tourism outfitters, forestry, mining, hydro-electric, etc.) as well as non-commercial uses, such as Crown land recreation (e.g., fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing, berry picking, etc.) and general use of land. Some of these activities, particularly the commercial enterprises, are associated with a form of tenure or licence.

Additional legislative and policy direction is provided by the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserve Act, 2006*, which provides the framework for the creation, removal and alteration of provincial parks (Government of Ontario, 2014) and by the Ontario Parks Planning Management

Policies (1992, Update), which aims to protect the natural, cultural and recreational values for which provincial parks are regulated (Golder Associates Limited, 2018).

Land use designations for provincial parks and conservation reserves identified within, and in proximity to, the Study Area include:

- Provincial parks, including Kashabowie Provincial Park, Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park, Aaron Provincial Park, Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, Quetico Provincial Park, and Lola Lake Provincial Park; and,
- Conservation reserves, including East Wabigoon Conservation Reserve, Melgund Lake Conservation Reserve, Stormy Lake Conservation Reserve, Pyatt Lake Conservation Reserve, Airport Road Conservation Reserve, Campus Lake Conservation Reserve, Side Lake Conservation Reserve, and Adair Lake Conservation Reserve.

The Study Area is also comprised of privately-owned and other public lands (e.g., municipal lands) that contain existing, approved and planned land uses.

Existing land uses identified in the area include residential, commercial, industrial, natural areas, recreation, small-scale agricultural, and resource extraction.

Official Plans and other strategic policy direction regarding land use and economic development will be reviewed as part of the EA. The EA will provide additional data relating to the above-noted land uses and requirements of provincial land use policy. Engagement with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations will be undertaken as part of the EA to assist with identifying and confirming secondary data and potential effects.

4.2.3.2 **Community Well-Being**

The Study Area includes the Census divisions of Thunder Bay District, Rainy River District and Kenora District of northwestern Ontario. These districts are roughly captured by the Northwest Economic Region, which the Project is also located within. Larger communities within, or in close proximity to, the Study Area include Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Ignace and Dryden. The population of the Northwest Economic Region was 231,691 as of 2016. The population increased by 3.4 percent between 2011 and 2016. There are 114,959 private dwellings within the region with approximately 83 percent occupied by their usual residents. Median age is 42.6 years which is slightly higher than the provincial average of 41.3 (Statistics Canada, 2017a).

Northwestern Ontario has an aging population, driven by the baby boomer cohort, demographic changes related to longer life expectancy, fewer children and out-migration. Net out-migration has occurred consistently in northwestern Ontario since 2001 and is most prevalent among those

entering the workforce (ages 15 to 34; Cuddy, 2014). Out-migration, while not the sole driver of the aging population, is common for many rural areas in Ontario. The aging population and out-migration may be driven by the types and number of economic opportunities available and have implications for the economy, infrastructure and community services within the region.

The City of Thunder Bay (Census Metropolitan Area) is the most populous municipality in the Study Area, with a population of 121,621, representing 52.5 percent of the Northwest Economic Region population. The population in Thunder Bay did not change significantly between 2011 and 2016 (0.02 percent increase). Thunder Bay contains 49.7 percent of the dwellings in the Northwest Economic Region with approximately 91.9 percent of those occupied by their usual residents. Median age in Thunder Bay is older than the Northwest Economic Region at 44.8 years of age (Statistics Canada, 2017b).

Other municipalities within the region have much smaller populations, such as Atikokan (2,753), Ignace (1,202) and Dryden (7,749; Statistics Canada, 2017c,d,e). Dryden is the only community which experienced a growing population between 2011 and 2016 (1.7 percent). Ignace does not have a changing population and Atikokan's population declined by 1.2 percent (Statistics Canada, 2017c,d,e).

According to the Government of Ontario (2020), Ontario has the largest Indigenous population in Canada and represents 2.8 percent of the total population of Ontario. The Indigenous population in Ontario increased by 54 percent from 2006 to 2016 and there are two explanations for the large growth in the Indigenous population: natural growth and an increase in people voluntarily self-identifying as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis. Thunder Bay is the Census Metropolitan Area with the highest proportion of Indigenous people in Canada (12.7 percent of the population) (Government of Ontario, 2020).

The EA will document additional detail relating to population, demographics and other components of the social environment, such as housing and educational attainment. Potential effects to community well-being and social determinants of health along with safety will also be reviewed as applicable to the Project. This assessment will include a characterization of existing municipalities and communities in the area using primary and secondary sources, including Statistics Canada census data, government publications and reports, and input received from stakeholder consultation. Data sources for community well-being will include Indigenous communities. Hydro One will work with Indigenous communities during the EA to better understand which specific indicators and data sources are recommended to be considered in the EA.

4.2.3.3 ***Economy, Land and Resource Use***

Northern Ontario has differing economic circumstances than other parts of Ontario as agricultural and opportunities related to finance, insurance and real estate are less available, and there is an additional focus on primary resource-based sectors, such as mining and forestry.

Within the Northwest Economic Region, the labour force participation rate is 60.4 percent which is 4.3 percent below the provincial average of 64.7 percent. The unemployment rate of 9.2 percent in the Northwest Economic Region is higher than the provincial average of 7.4 percent (Statistics Canada, 2017a). Despite the fewer economic opportunities, median income in the Northwest Economic Region is \$34,573, which is higher than the provincial average of \$33,539 (Statistics Canada, 2017a). Individual communities within the Study Area have varying income and employment levels, though these are generally similar to the regional norms (Statistics Canada, 2017b,c,d,e).

The main commercial and industrial activities in northwestern Ontario are forestry, mining (mineral and aggregate), and tourism, all of which are vital to Ontario's economy. The EA will document the predominant economic activities in the area, including positive and negative Project-related effects and associated mitigation measures.

The EA will include a general economic narrative on the communities in the area potentially affected by the Project with discussions of the regional economy, economic development, government finances, and labour force, including income and employment. For each of the economic and resource use sectors below, the EA will document the existing conditions governing the sector. This will include primary data collection, such as key informant interviews (as possible) and stakeholder engagement. Secondary data will also be used to document the existing conditions within the sector. The EA will include statistics, planning information, non-government sources and, if applicable, geospatial data. This information will be used to profile the general economy and its key sectors. The EA will include figures showing the locations of identified tourism sites and facilities in relation to the Project area as identified by tourism stakeholders.

The EA will also include the collection of available data that describes economic activities undertaken in the area by Indigenous communities and businesses and how they contribute to the economy.

Key sectors for northwestern Ontario's economy are described below. It is likely these sectors provide important economic and recreational opportunities to individuals within the Study Area.

Energy and Regional Planning



The Study Area fits into two IRRPs: the West of Thunder Bay IRRP and the Thunder Bay IRRP. Within the West of Thunder Bay IRRP area, 491 MW of electricity is generated through hydroelectric, biomass and solar generation (IESO, 2016). There are a number of hydroelectric generation facilities, but the largest are Caribou and Whitedog Generating Stations (IESO, 2016). Additional facilities in the region include the Atikokan biofuel plant and the Rainy River solar operation (IESO, 2016). In the Thunder Bay IRRP area, more than 60 percent of electricity is generated through five major hydroelectric generating stations (IESO, 2016).

Forestry

Forestry management units are a geographic planning area that establishes boundaries for wood harvesting under a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL; Government of Ontario, 2013). The following forest management units (under MNRF jurisdiction) are in the Study Area:

- Lakehead Forest;
- Dryden Forest;
- Dog River-Matawin Forest;
- Boundary Waters Forest (formerly the Sapawe and Crossroute Forests);
- Wabigoon Forest; and,
- English River Forest.

SFL/forest resource licence holders in northwestern Ontario are responsible for creating and maintaining much of the road network in the Project area (particularly where there is no local road network or municipalities). The EA will address, to the extent possible, the effects of the Project on existing roads/road use. Agreements with MNRF and/or third parties responsible for roads on Crown land may be required for any that are used for the Project.

The management of forest area is the joint responsibility of the MNRF and forest product companies through forest management planning. Forest management planning is governed by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* and the EA Act (MNRF, 2019). The Ontario government notes “through forest management planning, forest managers provide for healthy forests now and in the future and provide a range of sustainable benefits (e.g., timber and commercial products, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities)” (MNRF, 2019). As these considerations are identified through forest management planning, the Project’s potential effects to these plans will be identified and considered. A Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with applicable stakeholders.

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

Resource harvesting is a common practice for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the region. Common resource harvesting practices in northern Ontario include fishing, hunting and



trapping. Ontario regulates these activities for non-Indigenous people under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, which outlines restrictions on hunting and fishing, presents licensing and safety requirements, and defines permitted methods. Access for these activities is available through roadways, boat launches and float planes. Baitfish operations and bear management operations are commercial services operating in northwestern Ontario. Recreational fishing and hunting are popular activities in northern Ontario, drawing in tourists and local harvesters.

Mining

There are several companies and individuals with mining claims in the Study Area. Mining claims are located on Crown land and can be used to carry out exploration activities and development under the *Mining Act, 1990*. There is the potential for these claims to be developed during the Project lifecycle, including construction or operation.

Within the vicinity of the Study Area, there are a variety of mining operations at various stages of development. North of the Project is Impala Canada Inc.'s Lac des Iles operation. Most recent information suggests this mine will continue producing until 2027 (North American Palladium, 2019).

The main projects in advanced stages of development in the region include: Treasury Metal's Goliath Gold Mine (east of Dryden and north of Wabigoon Lake), Agnico Eagle Mines' Hammond Reef (north of Atikokan), Ambershaw Metallics' Bending Lake Iron Ore (southwest of Ignace near Highway 622), First Mining Gold Corp's Goldlund Project (northeast of Lola Lake Provincial Nature Reserves [pending closing held by Treasury Metals]), Clean Air Metals Inc. Thunder Bay North Platinum Group Metals Mine (north of Thunder Bay) and the adjacent Escape Lake project (Ontario Mining Association, 2019).

There are also a number of other companies currently exploring in the Atikokan area, including Rio Tinto Inc., Falcon Gold Corp., Nuinsco Resources Ltd., Benton Resources Inc., Portofino Resources Inc., Bold Ventures Inc., and Frontline Gold Corporation.

Metal Earth Research Centre is also conducting research and seismic traces in the Atikokan and Dryden areas.

Delta Resources Ltd., Tashota Resources Inc., and Portofino Resources Inc. are also currently actively exploring the Shebandowan area.

The former Steep Rock mine property is also in the Study Area. This mine has been abandoned and is currently following a rehabilitation plan to address the potential for overflow impacts.



In addition, there are fourteen Abandoned Mine Information System sites with active mining hazards in close proximity (1 km) to the alternative routes. The Mine Rehabilitation and Compliance Unit of ENDM will be contacted for further information during the EA.

Pit and Quarry Operations/Active Aggregate Sites

Aggregate resources are present in the Study Area (MNRF, 2019a, 2019b). Aggregate resources in Ontario are regulated under the *Aggregate Resources Act, 1990*, which requires an Aggregate Permit for extraction on Crown land, and an Aggregate Licence for extraction on private land if the land is within an Aggregate Designated Area (MNRF, 2019a, 2019b). The exception is Category 14 pits which are exempt from the *Aggregate Resources Act, 1990* (MNRF, 2017). These pits are regulated under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1990* for use by the forestry industry for the construction and maintenance of forest access roads (MNRF 2017a). Aggregate resources may be required for Project infrastructure, such as construction access roads. Should this be required, Hydro One intends to use existing licensed sources of aggregate to the extent possible. The EA will include information related to securing aggregate resources for the Project, along with any potential effects related to accessing and using it as it relates to the Project and based on available information at the time. Any applicable authorizations, permits and/or notifications will be acquired from MNRF.

Tourism and Outfitter Operations

The Project occurs within the MHSTCI's Tourism Region 13c where \$108 million was spent in 2013 on pleasure tourism (MHSTCI, 2017). Tourism in the region is generally resource-based with outfitting as the primary tourism activity with 661,000 tourists participating in an outdoor activity as the main purpose of their trips (MHSTCI, 2017). Most of these tourists come from within Ontario. Outfitting involves hunting, fishing or canoeing in remote locations with, or without, a guide. These tourist activities rely on their remote and wilderness setting to attract clients. As a result, access to these services may be provided through road, boat or air. These users are often sensitive to changes in access. Approximately 20 tourism operators have been identified as potentially having overlapping operating areas within the Study Area. It is recognized that not all tourism operators are Crown land tenure holders. It is also recognized that adding road access into areas previously inaccessible by road could be a concern to tourism stakeholders if there are remote tourism interests in the area.

Additional non-consumptive tourism also occurs in the region, including hiking, canoeing and snowmobiling. These activities rely on waterways and trails. Formal Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club snowmobile trails are present within the Study Area and snowmobiling takes place within the region on these trails and on other trails (Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, 2019). The Project transects a variety of trails and waterways used for recreation and tourism in the region, including Path of the Paddle canoe routes from Thunder Bay to Dryden.



Crown land camping is another large, non-consumptive tourism activity that occurs in northwestern Ontario for which access points and trails could potentially be affected.

Wilderness canoeing is also a major recreational activity in the Study Area, especially in Quetico and Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Parks. Although outside of the Study Area, Quetico Provincial Park is a major international canoeing destination, the first wilderness park in the province of Ontario, and the busiest backcountry canoeing park in northwestern Ontario and one of the most popular in the entire province. Many residents and visitors to the area use the backcountry every year with the expectation of a wilderness experience. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota and Quetico Provincial Park are sister sites and together are a significant backcountry canoeing destination in North America. Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park is also a recognized backcountry canoeing destination. These canoeing destinations, as well as any others that are identified for tourism purposes, will be thoroughly reviewed and described in the EA along with any potential effects as a result of the Project.

4.2.3.4 ***Aesthetics***

The remote wilderness aesthetics are important components of the visual environment in the area of the Project as related to the tourism industry and residents of the local communities. Visual aesthetics of the area are largely influenced by natural processes, such as wildfires and human influences, including the existing local communities and linear infrastructure.

Visual illustrations, where possible and appropriate, will be developed to illustrate the anticipated location, height and design of the Project in key areas, including identified sensitive landscape areas. The focus of the exercise will be existing viewpoints that are valued by the public, Indigenous communities, and those identified through consultation activities as playing a main role in the aesthetic appeal and character of a specific area. Data used as part of this exercise may include aerial images and digital data (frames). Viewsheds and/or viewscapes analysis will be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and from recreational features within provincial parks and conservation reserves, as applicable, and to identify key viewpoints along the preferred route. Visual effects to built heritage resources and/or cultural heritage landscapes will also be reviewed in conjunction with the cultural heritage resources assessment. A description of the existing environment, an assessment of potential effects as a result of the Project, as well as mitigation measures will be developed and provided in the EA.

4.2.3.5 ***Infrastructure and Community Services***

The Study Area contains a variety of existing infrastructure, including transmission lines, roads, highways, rail lines and pipelines. Infrastructure is provided by a combination of the provincial government, private sector and local municipalities. Linear infrastructure is used for the transport of goods and services throughout the Study Area.



There are also several community services in the area, often provided by the municipality or a provincial or regional authority. These include emergency services, such as police, fire and ambulance, recreational facilities and other public services, such as waste management facilities. While community services are provided within all communities in the Study Area, Thunder Bay is considered the regional service centre for communities due to the concentration of community services (Northern Policy Institute, 2019).

The provision of community services and infrastructure, as well as other social factors that contribute to community health and well-being, will be further reviewed in the EA. Northern Ontario faces unique challenges, including having the lowest percentages of people in the province with good overall health and good mental health (Smale, 2016).

The EA will consider existing infrastructure and local community services in the area and within each community that could potentially be affected by the Project. The EA will also consider community well-being and social determinants of health. Existing infrastructure will include transmission lines, roads, highways, pipelines, rail lines and other features. Community services may include schools, medical and emergency services facilities, residential settlement areas, public institutions, places of worship, and community gathering areas as well as municipal and provincial parks. Hydro One is currently consulting with stakeholders to better understand existing facilities and potential Project effects. The EA will also comment on overall community well-being, including information from primary and secondary sources.

4.2.3.6 ***Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes***

The Project is located within the boundaries of the Treaty #3 (1905-1906) and the Robinson-Superior Treaty (1850). Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized under Section 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act, 1982* (also referred to as Section 35 rights), which includes recognition of existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights to hunt, trap, fish, gather and manage the lands for all First Nation, Inuit and Métis people of Canada. As part of these rights, the Government of Canada has the Duty to Consult Indigenous communities for this Project. Hydro One is currently engaging with Indigenous communities to better understand the communities' interests and to begin to identify potential Project effects.

Potentially affected First Nation communities include Couchiching First Nation, Eagle Lake First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Seine River First Nation, and, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (**Figure 4-1**).



Potentially affected Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) communities and nations include the Northwestern Métis Community (also referred to as MNO Region 1) and the Métis Nation in MNO Region 2. Potentially affected MNO communities/nations that may be potentially affected by the Project include MNO Atikokan Métis Council, MNO Northwest Métis Council, and MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council. Four additional MNO communities/nations have expressed an interest in this Project – MNO Kenora Métis Council, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council and MNO Greenstone Métis Council.

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation may also be potentially affected by the Project.

Traditional territory has been used by Indigenous people for trapping, hunting, trade and socializing preceding European contact (Grand Council of Treaty #3, 2019). Common land use activities include resource harvesting, such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. These activities may take place throughout the year and are not bound by the provincial harvest seasons and regulations. Ecologically important areas, such as calving or fish spawning areas, are important to traditional land and resource use due to their role in producing the harvested resources. These harvested resources are also utilized for cultural practices.

Transportation pathways and features (e.g., trails and waterways) may be used to support traditional use of the land. Trails and paths within the area of the Project may be used to access harvesting areas by Indigenous community members within and beyond the area of the Project. Trails may be accessed on foot or by using all-terrain vehicles, trucks or snowmobiles. In addition, waterways are used as linear transportation features and can be accessed by canoe/portaging or boat. Specific sites, such as cabins and camps, may also be used to contribute to land and resource use. These features are likely connected to communities by transportation features. Camps and cabins may provide locations important for resource harvesting or travel throughout and beyond traditional territory.

Cultural activities and practices and sacred sites may occur or be present throughout the area of the Project at specific sites or may occur independent of a specific location. The location of sites in proximity to the proposed Project components will be identified through the IK program as part of the EA. Provincial parks and conservation reserves are examples of other sensitive landscape areas (e.g., pictograph sites in Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park), where aesthetics will be considered during the EA.

IK will be used to support and strengthen the EA as it has relevance to all aspects of the environment and, as a result, obvious linkages to the assessments of all disciplines (e.g., fish and



wildlife, water, culture, archaeology, etc.). IK will be used, as applicable and available, to identify cultural or heritage uses and will assist in determining health, abundance and distribution of species and their habitats, including seasonal variations and historical fluctuation. IK information will help to establish the historic and current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous communities. The IK information will be particularly valuable as it will help to supplement and inform the data gathered through Western scientific means. With accurate and comprehensive IK available, Hydro One will seek to understand Indigenous community concerns regarding how the Project may impact their rights and interests related to use of the lands. The collection and use of IK is extremely sensitive in nature and will be guided by the direction and values of the Indigenous communities who participate. Hydro One will continue to engage Indigenous communities to determine their interest in participating in the IK Program and to receive IK information. Project timelines will proactively be communicated with Indigenous communities so that this information can be received in a timely manner for proper consideration in the EA.

The EA will document identified features and traditional land use activities in proximity to the alternatives routes, to the extent possible, as well as demographic trends associated with Indigenous communities. This will include a consideration of traditional use, current uses and other relevant socio-economic aspects of the community. Hydro One supports each interested Indigenous community conducting their own IK Study or utilizing Project consultants to assist them in this undertaking. It is anticipated that the Project-specific IK studies will be governed by IK sharing agreements and could involve the following tasks:

- Literature review (e.g., discussion on existing data, etc.);
- Confirmation of the IK study areas;
- Establishing IK categories (e.g., Animal Harvest, Spiritual or Sacred, Habitation, Travel, etc.);
- IK gathering workshops and/or one-on-one interviews;
- Validation sessions;
- Reporting;
 - IK baseline information;
 - IK effects assessment;
 - Proposed mitigation; and,
- Sharing of IK mapping in GIS format (where permitted by the communities).

The EA will also seek to understand Indigenous community concerns regarding how the Project may impact their rights and interests and reflect those concerns within the appropriate documentation and processes.

Collection and Use of IK



Hydro One believes that the Project will benefit greatly with the active engagement of Indigenous communities since they hold IK, including traditional knowledge and land use information, for the area. Hydro One will work with Indigenous communities to obtain such information. This may include IK that has been previously collected and Project-specific IK information that would be collected during the EA.

IK includes traditional ecological knowledge and traditional land and resource use. Traditional ecological knowledge will be provided to other disciplines for incorporation into their baseline and effects assessment and mitigation sections, as applicable. Traditional land and resource use reporting from the communities will be incorporated into the EA. It is recognized that there are strong linkages between IK and the studies undertaken by other disciplines (e.g., fish, wildlife, vegetation, etc.). Hydro One supports each interested Indigenous community collecting their own IK information, using resources provided in Capacity Funding Agreements.

~~IK information will be considered and used in the EA in the following ways:~~

- ~~• To establish and describe baseline conditions (to identify areas of concern that are physical, biological, social or cultural in nature);~~

~~In the review of alternatives and selection of the Effective and meaningful communication/engagement requires continuing to build and establish trust between the Project team and Indigenous communities and organizations, enhancing awareness of the Project, receiving and incorporating input and information from Indigenous communities, and providing flexible consultation opportunities and opportunities for joint decision making, issues resolution and feedback. Hydro One will provide opportunities for Indigenous communities to provide input at critical decision-making points during the EA process, so that Indigenous communities may provide input on how the undertaking and its alternatives may have an impact on their rights and interests through the sharing of IK and other information. Hydro One will ensure that Indigenous communities are consulted and have the opportunity to share IK to be considered and incorporated into each EA decision-making milestone including, but not limited to, the following:~~

- ~~• The development of community-specific Indigenous engagement and communication plans, if requested by interested communities for activities during the completion of the EA;~~
- ~~• The development of the methodology of and documentation of results from EA baseline data collection, including the natural heritage field studies and the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment;~~
- ~~• The development of the approach to the evaluation of alternatives, including confirmation of alternative routes, study areas, and evaluation criteria and indicators;~~
- ~~• Results of the comparative evaluation of alternatives and identification of a preferred route;~~
- ~~• To identify other required Preliminary design of the preferred route and supporting infrastructure, such as access roads, construction camps and lay-down areas; and~~

- ~~The effects assessment of the preferred route and other project components (e.g., access roads, etc.);~~
- ~~To identify potential effects that could arise from the Project; and,~~
- ~~To aid in, including the development of design refinements, mitigation measures and monitoring to avoid or reduce/address any potential adverse effects and monitoring requirements. conclusions of the assessment.~~

The MOU is the instrument through which certain procedural aspects of consultation have been delegated by the Crown to Hydro One on the Waasigan (formerly Northwestern Bulk) Transmission Line project. It also specifies the roles and responsibilities of the Crown and Hydro One with respect to consultation on the Project, and provides a mechanism for effective communication and coordination between Hydro One and the Crown. Hydro One will provide regular updates to ENDM, MECP and MNRF on IK incorporation throughout the EA, prior to proceeding through the EA milestones identified above. This would be consistent with the communication and coordination mechanisms formalized through the MOU between the Crown (represented by ENDM) and Hydro One which specifies Hydro One's roles and responsibilities with respect to supporting the Crown's duty to consult.

IK is considered to be a holistic body of knowledge containing information and records collected by Indigenous communities that is of social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and/or historical significance to its members. Much of this knowledge may have been passed on from generation to generation. Each Indigenous community will have its own approach to collecting, recording, sharing and using this knowledge. Hydro One is willing to enter into IK sharing agreements with Indigenous communities that are willing to share their information. The IK sharing agreements will acknowledge and respect the sensitive and confidential nature of IK collection and its use.

Methodology for Obtaining and Incorporating IK

Hydro One recognizes that the definition of what IK comprises is unique to each Indigenous community. Similarly, it is the Indigenous community that decides what information will be shared and how it should be applied.

Many of the Indigenous communities participating in the Project have developed protocols and restrictions to reduce/prevent the transmission of COVID-19. It is with the utmost support and respect that Hydro One complies with all community COVID-19 protocols and restrictions to help protect the safety and well-being of the Indigenous communities throughout the study area. Further, Hydro One is actively working with Indigenous communities to develop alternative methods for the collection of IK considering COVID-19 limitations. Hydro One commits to continue to work with each Indigenous community throughout the EA to understand and adapt to



community-specific COVID-19 limitations. In addition to examining alternatives methods of IK information collection, communities are being encouraged to provide information that may have already been collected, as appropriate to help inform the EA process prior to the completion of their entire IK study. Providing IK information on an incremental basis will help facilitate EA analyses with important community input.

The following describes the proposed steps and methods Hydro One intends to undertake to collect and use IK information in the EA. These steps are a starting point for further discussion and dialogue with interested Indigenous communities who may have their own individual processes and protocols. As such, the approach outlined here is intended to be preliminary and subject to revision.

1. Establishing an IK Framework and Identifying IK that has been Recorded by Indigenous Communities

The first step would be to establish an appropriate IK framework for the EA through discussions with Hydro One and Indigenous communities. It is recognized that some, but not all, Indigenous communities have formally collected and recorded IK information. It is also recognized that not all Indigenous communities will be willing to share the information that they have collected. Some previously collected IK information may be deemed as being project-specific and not necessarily relevant to this Project which Indigenous communities may choose not to share. Discussion will be held with Indigenous community members, leadership and elders, to determine if information is available and if they are willing to share the information, and any associated conditions with sharing the information per the terms of an information sharing agreement that would be established (see below). Hydro One will work with these Indigenous communities to determine how existing information would be used and documented in the EA.

2. Identifying Community Protocols for Sharing and Using IK

It is recognized some Indigenous communities may request an IK sharing agreement and/or non-disclosure (confidentiality) agreement. Each Indigenous community may have its own protocols and procedures, either formal or informal, to be followed in transferring IK to outside parties, such as Hydro One (either information that already exists or Project-specific information to be collected). Hydro One respects these protocols and will work with each Indigenous community to understand how the information will be transferred, applied and documented. Hydro One respects that IK is “owned” and controlled by the Indigenous community. Hydro One will be sensitive to the conditions of the information sharing agreement established with each interested Indigenous community.



3. Determining the Resources or Capacity Required to Collect, Record and Share IK

Some Indigenous communities may be interested in participating in a Project-specific IK collection exercise. It is anticipated that to undertake these exercises that some amount of support will be required, such as funding and/or technical assistance, to complete the collection and recording of IK.

Hydro One is providing financial assistance through community-specific Capacity Funding Agreements to assist in the gathering and recording of IK and participation in other aspects of the EA process.

4. Working with Indigenous Communities that do not have IK Formally Recorded

It is recognized that some communities may:

- Not have formal IK records;
- Prefer oral methods of sharing information rather than written records;
- Wish to share only a summary or portion of the IK information they have gathered that is pertinent to the EA in order to protect sensitive information; and/or,
- Wish to formally record IK, but may not be ready or may not have sufficient time to record the information within the schedule for the EA, even if the community has accessed the capacity funding process to obtain financial assistance.

Where an Indigenous community does not have, or is not likely to have formal records, but is willing to share IK information orally or by some other means, Hydro One will discuss with Indigenous community members the most appropriate way to facilitate this method of sharing. This could involve meetings with community members, such as land users, elders, and trappers. Sitting together, Hydro One would provide community members the opportunity to share information and stories that would then be recorded by Hydro One for use in the EA effects assessment. The records developed from these meetings would be verified with the Indigenous community who will have the opportunity to add any necessary information, details or perspective before the information is incorporated. It is acknowledged that these records, similar to more formal IK records, are in the ownership of the Indigenous community, and will only be used, shared and published under the terms outlined in any IK sharing agreements.

Hydro One fully respects those Indigenous communities which choose not to share their IK and how they choose to participate in the EA process will be discussed with the leaders of these Indigenous communities during engagement and consultation.



5. Utilizing IK in the EA

IK may be provided in a variety of formats, such as maps, written descriptions or oral stories. Often mapping is provided in a GIS computer-based mapping format. However, where information has not been recorded in GIS format, and hard-copy mapping must be shared, Hydro One understands that these maps must be treated with respect and must remain in the ownership of the community.

In addition to respecting ownership of the information, it is understood that IK provided by Indigenous communities must be protected. For example, where a sacred site has been identified, the Hydro One database will not provide a specific map reference that could lead a third party to the specific location. Typically this type of information is also “buffered” by applying an area of protection around the feature so that the specific location cannot be identified. Such buffers will be used where identified as necessary and as specified by Indigenous communities. Hydro One will also refrain from specifically identifying or labelling an area of community importance that could be of interest to outside parties and could affect the Indigenous community, such as high-quality harvest areas and areas with traditional medicines.

In addition to receiving guidance from the Indigenous community as to how the information will be used and published, Hydro One commits to incorporating input into the development of the analysis framework and addressing effects through mitigation and accommodation, as appropriate, through the EA process.

It is recognized that physically avoiding an area may not be enough to eliminate effects. Areas and sites that may be affected will be discussed with Indigenous community members and measures that could be applied to mitigate the effect, or where appropriate accommodate for the effect, will be identified.

It is recognized that IK may not be limited to physical or spatial features. Information about using the land and Indigenous community culture will also be an important aspect. This information will be treated similar to physical or spatial features. The potential for effects from the Project will be discussed with Indigenous community members, as well as measures to mitigate, and/or where appropriate, accommodate for the effect. It is also important that Indigenous community values and respect for the land are incorporated into the effects assessment, as well as Project design and operations.

6. Reconciling Differences between IK and Western Science



Western science and IK approach environmental evaluation differently. Where Western science often relies on deduction and inference to reach conclusions, information from IK adds an experiential understanding of the land that goes back many, many generations. Where Western science relies on gauges and modelling, it is often based on limited historical data. Indigenous community members have generations of historical knowledge that may be shared. This information is extremely helpful. IK will be used to enhance Western science. Where IK is found to conflict with Western science both will be brought forward for consideration in the evaluation of criteria and indicators and treated with equal weight.

7. Reconciling Differences in IK between Communities

Differences between IK information from one Indigenous community to another will be addressed between Hydro One and the affected Indigenous communities, as they are identified. It is recognized that experiential information may be somewhat different between Indigenous communities for a common parcel of land, and that there are overlaps in traditional territories.

Hydro One recognizes the importance of acknowledging, reconciling and addressing any differences that are identified. Hydro One would aggregate the information and assess effects and mitigation acknowledging both records. Whether the differences are discussed between the Indigenous communities would be at the discretion and the direction of members from each of the Indigenous communities. As mentioned earlier, sacred or significant sites or areas are typically not labelled, and are typically “buffered” with a protection zone to ensure confidentiality where this is considered important by the Indigenous community members. Where differences are considered to conflict, Hydro One will work with each of the Indigenous communities to identify a collaborative process for working through the differences towards an outcome for EA analysis that is acceptable to both communities.

8. Identifying, Discussing and Confirming Mitigation Measures and Accommodation

An important aspect of the EA effects assessment and the incorporation of IK information is the identification and confirmation of mitigation measures and, where appropriate, accommodation.

Using Western science and IK information, Hydro One will conduct an initial analysis of potential effects and identify initial measures to avoid or reduce them. The initial conclusions of this analysis will be discussed with the Indigenous communities. From input received by the Indigenous communities during subsequent engagement, measures will be changed or additional measures added, resulting in a refinement of the effects assessment. It is understood that the process of



discussing and resolving differences and the potential of a mutually acceptable resolution is a fundamental aspect of consultation and the EA process.

Hydro One recognizes that not all Indigenous communities have the resources or capacity available to conduct a detailed review of the EA effects assessment they feel is necessary to adequately reflect and incorporate Indigenous community values and IK. Hydro One is offering financial assistance through a community-specific Capacity Funding Agreement process whereby funding is provided to communities to assist with capacity development, gathering and recording of IK, EA review, and participation in other aspects of the EA process.

4.2.3.7 **Cultural Heritage Resources**

The EA will consider potential effects to built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources. To do this, the EA will draw on archaeological assessments and cultural heritage resource studies, IK gathered from Indigenous communities and information from stakeholders. Results from these studies will be incorporated into the assessment, EA decision-making and construction planning. Indigenous communities will also be consulted for information on any archaeological, built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes in the area.

Archaeology

A Stage 1 archaeological assessment is anticipated to be completed for the Project as part of the EA to identify areas of archaeological potential. The Stage 1 assessment is expected to include information about the geography, history, and previous archaeological fieldwork of the area, as well as an overview of current land conditions. This information will be obtained through the review of existing historical and recent mapping, previous archaeological assessments in proximity to the area, MHSTCI Archaeological Sites Database, and IK pertaining to land use during both pre- and post-contact periods. The Stage 1 assessment will also provide recommendations for additional assessment (e.g., Stage 2 assessment) for areas that display archaeological potential. Additional study (e.g., Stages 3 and 4 assessments) may also be required, but will depend on the conclusions made in the Stage 1 archaeological assessment. Archaeological assessments will be undertaken by a licensed archaeologist under the *Ontario Heritage Act, 1990*. The locations for assessment will be determined using the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists for work within northern Ontario.

Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes



It is anticipated that cultural heritage study reports will document known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes that may be affected by the Project. Hydro One commits to completion of a windshield survey during the EA. Results from these studies will be documented in the EA and used for planning and design purposes. Further, information available from Indigenous communities, municipal officials and/or interested stakeholders (e.g., municipal heritage committees) will also be sought and taken into account as part of the EA.

Cultural heritage assessment activities will be undertaken by a qualified person, as required. A Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions (CHEC) report will be conducted to document any known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. Also, a preliminary Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be completed that may include additional recommendations for further property-specific Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports (CHERs) and/or property-specific HIAs. The requirements for the development of these additional heritage reports will be identified early in the EA process. The completed draft CHERs will be submitted to the Hydro One Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC) for review. MHSTCI will be consulted, as necessary, throughout the process. The technical heritage reports pertaining to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes can be made available for review by MHSTCI.

4.2.4 Summary of Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment

Table 4-4 provides a brief overview of the anticipated additional study that will be carried out to better define existing environmental conditions during the EA. Hydro One has committed to consultation with Indigenous communities and applicable government agencies regarding the planned studies to be completed in the EA. This will include consulting with the MECP SARB for the development of the field work plans and approach to SAR effects assessment during the EA. This table is subject to change based on data availability, ongoing engagement and any new information received during the EA.

Table 4-4: Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment

Baseline Component	Studies to be Completed During the Environmental Assessment
Natural Environment	
Physiography, Geology, Surficial Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study. • Review Ontario Geological Survey, OMAFRA and MNRF mapping and reports as well as other existing databases, such as the Northern Ontario Engineering Terrain Studies and the Canadian Soil Information Service. • Areas identified as potentially contaminated will be noted. • Desktop and field studies (if required) will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement and information from stakeholders.
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement and information from stakeholders. • Surface water surveys to document observed waterbody conditions at a subset of representative waterbody crossings.
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study. • Review national Water Survey of Canada data, MECP water well data, input received from landowners and GIS mapping. • Wells in proximity to the preferred route that could potentially be affected by the Project will also be identified and provided in the EA. • The potential for groundwater effects will be reviewed using historical data (e.g., existing MECP water well records and reports, source water protection plans, etc.). • Desktop and field studies (if required) will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement and information from stakeholders.
Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, ANSIs and Other Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study based on sections of provincial parks, conservation reserves, ANSIs and other protected areas that have the potential to be affected by the Project.
Fish and Fish Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study. • Aquatic features and species information will be gathered using desktop (including GIS mapping) and field studies, as necessary. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement and information from stakeholders.



Baseline Component	Studies to be Completed During the Environmental Assessment
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study using available data and GIS mapping. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement and information from stakeholders.
Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study. • In the absence of Ecoregion 4S and 4W Criteria Schedules, the draft Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W (MNRF, 2017) will be referenced to evaluate the presence and significance of wildlife habitat and identify Significant Wildlife Habitat of species of conservation concern, as applicable. • Field studies to be completed may include breeding bird surveys, incidental wildlife surveys, and other seasonal surveys, subject to consultation with regulatory agencies and Indigenous communities. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement, and information from stakeholders. • Significant Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Support Tool to support the assessment and development of mitigation measures. This tool works collectively with the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide and the Ecoregional Criteria Schedule for 3W.



Baseline Component	Studies to be Completed During the Environmental Assessment
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study. • Anticipated field studies to be completed include ELC and botanical surveys, and are subject to consultation with regulatory agencies and Indigenous communities. ELC and botanical surveys will be completed to establish vegetation communities and species present in the area. Information obtained from these surveys will be used to verify secondary source data. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement, and information from stakeholders.
Species at Risk and Species at Risk Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study and field study. • SAR identified will be those designated as Threatened or Endangered under Schedule 1 of the SARA, last amended on May 22, 2019, as well as those listed as Threatened or Endangered under the SARO List (Ontario Regulation 230/08) of the ESA, last amended August 1, 2018. • Species listed as Special Concern under the SARA and/or the ESA will also be identified; however, general prohibitions of the SARA (e.g., Section 32 and 33) and the ESA (e.g., subsections 9 and 10) do not apply to these species. • Consultation with the MECP and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) will be undertaken to determine the need for SAR field studies to be completed in support of the EA. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement, and information from stakeholders. • Hydro One will consult with MECP SARB for the development of the field work plan and approach to the SAR effects assessment.
Air Quality and GHGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study for climate normals and ambient air quality data taken from representative NAPS air quality monitoring stations close to the Project (e.g., Thunder Bay Station). • Document based on additional desktop study using published emission inventories at a provincial and national level. • A quantitative assessment of air quality emissions associated with construction activities will be completed. • A quantitative assessment of GHG emissions associated with construction activities (including land clearing) will be completed. • Desktop and field studies will be subject to consultation with Indigenous communities for their input and the studies will be supplemented by IK gathered through Indigenous engagement, and information from stakeholders.

Baseline Component	Studies to be Completed During the Environmental Assessment
Acoustic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A noise work plan for the EA will be developed in consultation with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, to describe the approach for the acoustic assessment and supplemented by information from stakeholders and IK gathered through engagement with Indigenous communities. It will describe the type of data that will be gathered and the assessment methodology with respect to the acoustic environment. The noise work plan will describe how: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive receptors will be identified (e.g., recreation areas, tourism facilities, Indigenous harvesters, etc.); • Existing noise conditions along the preferred route will be established; • Project activities/sources will be assessed, including consideration of both construction and operations; and, • Potential noise mitigation measures that could be incorporated into the design of the Project.
Socio-Economic Environment	
Provincial and Municipal Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study using official plans and other strategic policy direction regarding land use and economic development. • Additional data relating to requirements of provincial land use policy will also be provided.
Community Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study using federal (Statistics Canada) and local municipal data to define population, demographics and other components of the social environment, such as housing and educational attainment. This assessment will include a characterization of existing municipalities and communities in the area using primary and secondary sources, including Statistics Canada census data, government publications and reports, and input received from stakeholder consultation. • Document based on additional desktop study and will consider community well-being and social determinants of health. • Data sources for community well-being will include Indigenous communities. Hydro One will work with Indigenous communities during the EA to better understand which specific indicators and data sources are recommended to be considered in the EA.



Baseline Component	Studies to be Completed During the Environmental Assessment
Economy, Land and Resource Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study, including a general economic narrative of the communities in the area with discussions of the regional economy, economic development, government finances, and labour force, including income and employment. • This will include primary data collection, such as key informant interviews (as possible) and stakeholder engagement. This includes provincial parks management, conservation reserve management, and users. Secondary data will also be used to document the existing conditions within the sector. The EA will include statistics, planning information, non-government sources and, if applicable, geospatial data. • The EA will also include the collection of available data that describes economic activities undertaken in the area by Indigenous communities and businesses and how they contribute to the economy.
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual illustrations using photos taken in the field will be developed to illustrate the anticipated location, height and design of the Project in key areas, including any identified sensitive landscape areas, provincial parks and conservation reserves. Key areas may also include recreational facilities, such as canoe routes and campsites. The focus of the exercise will be on existing viewpoints that are valued by the public and those identified through consultation activities as playing a main role in the aesthetic appeal and character of a specific area. • Data used as part of this exercise may include aerial images and digital data (frames), as well as GIS data, such as land cover, land use and regulatory boundaries. • Viewshed and/or viewscape analysis will be used to determine potential visibility of the Project from recreational features within provincial parks and conservation reserves, and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route and from these features. • The EA will also include consideration of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes including any potential visual effects from the Project.
Infrastructure and Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing infrastructure will include transmission lines, roads, highways, pipelines, rail lines and other features. Community services may include schools, medical and emergency services facilities, residential settlement areas, public institutions, places of worship, and community gathering areas, as well as municipal and provincial parks.



Baseline Component	Studies to be Completed During the Environmental Assessment
Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document based on additional desktop study through traditional land and resource use studies by, or with, Indigenous communities. • Secondary sources may be used to supplement these studies, particularly concerning socio-economic aspects of these communities. • Seek to understand Indigenous community concerns regarding how the Project may impact their rights and interests and reflect those concerns within the appropriate documentation and processes. <p>The following will be characterized as part of the EA, including potential effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous cultural landscapes; ▪ Indigenous harvesting, cultural and spiritual sites; and, ▪ Indigenous determinations of species of importance for harvesting, cultural, medicinal and spiritual purposes. • Socio-economic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous community well-being; ▪ Indigenous community economy, land and resources; and, ▪ Indigenous infrastructure and community services.
Cultural Heritage Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Stage 1 archaeological assessment is anticipated to be completed for the Project. The Stage 1 assessment will provide information about the geography and history of the area, previous archaeological fieldwork and an overview of current land conditions within the area. The Stage 1 assessment will also provide recommendations for additional surveys for the areas that display high archaeological potential. Additional study (e.g., Stage 2, 3 and 4 assessments) may also be required but will depend on the conclusions made in the Stage 1 archaeological assessment. • A cultural heritage evaluation report will document built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes that may be affected by the Project. Results from this assessment will be documented in the EA and used for planning and design purposes. Further, information available from Indigenous communities, municipal officials and/or interested stakeholders (e.g., municipal heritage committees) will also be sought and taken into account. This will be supplemented with a windshield survey where existing data is not available. • Cultural heritage assessment activities will be undertaken by a qualified specialist, as required. CHER and/or HIAs will be conducted for specific built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, if present.



4.3 Potential Project Effects

This section provides a high-level overview description of potential effects of the Project. The EA will include a more detailed and thorough description of potential effects that will be caused, or that might reasonably be expected to be caused, to the natural and socio-economic environment as a result of the Project, as more detail will be available at that time. The effects assessment will consider the proposed Project location and conceptual design, once determined, as well as the input obtained from Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Climate change adaptation (potential effects of climate on the Project) will be considered as part of the assessment.

For a description of the Project, including the anticipated activities associated with all phases of the Project, see **Section 5.0**. The description is preliminary and subject to change as detailed design, field studies and ongoing consultation are completed. A more detailed description of the undertaking will be provided in the EA.

4.3.1 Preliminary Potential Effects to the Natural Environment

Project activities throughout the lifecycle of the Project (e.g., construction, operation and maintenance, and retirement) have the potential to affect the natural environment. Potential effects to the natural environment features described in **Section 4.2.2** (e.g., soils, surface and groundwater, wetlands, terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat, fish and fish habitat, SAR and SAR habitat, etc.) resulting from Project activities will be identified and evaluated in the EA. Potential effects to the natural environment may be positive, negative, neutral, short-term, long-term, and/or cumulative. The EA will propose mitigation measures to address potential effects to the natural environment, as applicable.

The potential effects to the natural environment as a result the Project are summarized in **Table 4-5** and further described below. The potential effects described below are preliminary and will be further defined during the EA.

Table 4-5: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to the Natural Environment

Environmental Feature	Potential Effect of the Project
Physiography, Geology, Surficial Geology and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased potential for soil compaction, mixing and rutting • Increase potential for soil erosion • Potential for loss of soil productivity • Increased potential to destabilize slopes (e.g., rock fall, debris slides, etc.) • Increased potential for Acid Rock Drainage

Environmental Feature	Potential Effect of the Project
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced shade, increased thermal loading of watercourses and increased algae growth • Increased downstream erosion and sedimentation • Collapse of stream banks and downstream sedimentation • Alteration of surface water drainage systems
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term disruption or alterations to natural groundwater levels and flow patterns • Interference with water wells and septic tanks • Potential for contamination due to accidental release of deleterious substances
Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, ANSIs and Other Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration, degradation, effects to visitor experience, and fragmentation of natural heritage features, including provincial parks, conservation reserves, ANSIs, and any other protected areas as identified during the EA • Potential for the Project to affect the values being protected as reflected in the site-specific goals and objectives of each protected area, including natural and cultural features, maintenance of biodiversity and provision of opportunities for recreation
Fish and Fish Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian and in-stream habitat alteration • Habitat fragmentation • Changes to habitat availability or use • Fish injury or mortality • Blockage of fish movement • Introduction and/or spread of aquatic invasive species
Vegetation and Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to native vegetation community composition, diversity and structural complexity • Potential loss of rare vegetation species or rare vegetation communities • Creation of new woodland edge • Woodland fragmentation • Invasive species and/or weed introduction and spread • Alteration of wetland habitat function • Alteration of wetland hydrologic function • Change in wetland plant community composition • Introduction and/or spread of wetland associated invasive species • Fragmentation of wetland habitat • Change in potential for wildland fire risk



Environmental Feature	Potential Effect of the Project
Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss and alteration of wildlife populations and/or habitat • Habitat fragmentation • Significant Wildlife Habitat of Species of Conservation Concern • Changes in habitat distribution, including the effects on wildlife movement and habitat connectivity • Loss and/or alteration of habitat • Changes to habitat availability or use • Qualitative changes to animal populations as a result of altering survival and recruitment • Increase in mortality risk • Displacement of wildlife
Species at Risk and Species at Risk Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss and/or alteration of SAR populations and/or SAR habitat, including trees and/or vegetation • Fragmentation to SAR habitat and/or SAR communities • Changes in SAR habitat distribution, including the effects on wildlife (including fisheries) movement and SAR habitat connectivity • Loss and/or alteration of SAR habitat • Changes to SAR habitat availability or use • Qualitative changes to animal/fish populations as a result of altering survival and recruitment • Increase in mortality risk • Changes as a result of the introduction of artificial lighting
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of localized fugitive dust emissions during construction • Increase in air contaminant and greenhouse gas emissions from construction equipment
Acoustic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary and transitory increase in noise emissions at human receptors during construction

4.3.2 Preliminary Potential Effects to the Socio-Economic Environment

This section outlines potential Project activities and the effects they may have on the socio-economic environment. The Project has the potential to result in socio-economic benefits and negative effects to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and land users in the area. However, it is anticipated that the Project will have an overall net benefit on the socio-economy of northwestern Ontario and of the province as a whole. The socio-economic effects assessment will consider the socio-community, economy, land use, cultural heritage resources and traditional land use. The socio-economic effects assessment will identify the positive and negative effects of the Project.



The socio-economic effects assessment will consider these Project activities and their interactions with identified socio-economic features. Potential effects, such as those listed in **Table 4-6**, will be identified and mitigation measures will be recommended. Note, changes can be either positive or negative. The mitigation measures will seek to enhance the potential socio-economic benefits or reduce negative effects of the Project. The assessment of potential effects will be based on the socio-economic profile of the area, including data collected from primary and secondary sources. The assessment will also consider changes to environmental factors, such as potential effects to wildlife populations, where relevant. It is recognized that potential effects to the natural environment may impact the Section 35 rights and interests, and the use of land by Indigenous communities and harvesters. Activities associated with the Project that are proposed for Crown lands must be consistent with the approved Crown land use policies. The potential effects described below are preliminary and will be further defined during the EA.

Table 4-6: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to the Socio-Economic Environment

Discipline	Potential Effect of the Project
Provincial and Municipal Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility of the Project with existing land uses • Changes to the use of provincial parks, conservation reserves, ANSIs, as well as any other protected areas including access and environmental conditions • Compatibility of the Project with existing Crown land use policies.
Community Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to community well-being from nuisance effects, such as noise or visual changes • Changes to social determinants of health (e.g., air emissions) and safety
Economy, Land and Resource Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in employment and income during construction • Increase in skilled trades in the area due to training opportunities • Change to the regional economy • Increased government revenues • Increased government expenditure • Changes to key economic and resource use sectors, including changes to access and resource availability • Changes to tourism and recreation land users, including access and environmental conditions • Creation of road access into areas previously inaccessible by road
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the perceived visual aesthetics of the area

Discipline	Potential Effect of the Project
Infrastructure and Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary increase in population and changes to demographic profile of the community during construction • Change in availability and use of public services and infrastructure • Increased demand for temporary housing • Change to community well-being
Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in ability to access and use of land and resources for traditional purposes • Changes to community social and economic attributes resulting from changes to access to resources • Changes to sense of place resulting from noise, changes to landscapes and other effects
Cultural Heritage Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to, or the loss of, archaeological or built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes

Preliminary Potential Effects to Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes

The Project has the potential to result in effects to the natural environment, including wildlife, vegetation and water resources. Potential effects to the natural environment may affect the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of communities. The potential effects to Aboriginal and Treaty rights include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Changes to access to resource harvesting and cultural sites within and beyond the area of the Project from effects on features, such as trails and waterways and camps/cabins;
- Changes to use of land for subsistence hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering as protected under Aboriginal and Treaty rights;
- Changes to Indigenous landscape features, such as Place Names, Boundary Markers and Orientation Points, through disturbances to the land within the area of the Project;
- Changes to the environmental conditions, such as vegetation, wildlife, fish and water resources, that may influence traditional activities within the area of the Project; and,
- Changes to spiritual and cultural sites/practices, such as ceremonial, grave, sacred, gathering and worship areas, that may occur in the area of the Project.

The EA will also consider the impact of the construction workforce on local and Indigenous communities, including the requirements for temporary accommodation, food, transportation and other services for the construction workforce of this Project, [as well as other possible economic implications of the Project.](#)

The MNO provided feedback during the ToR on the criteria and indicators selected to assess effects to Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes. The MNO requested that Métis-specific criteria and indicators be included in the ToR. These draft Métis-specific criteria and indicators are provided in **Appendix D**.

During the EA, respecting cultural protocols and governance structures, Indigenous communities will be engaged with to inform the natural and social environment criteria and indicators so that IK perspectives are considered in routing decisions and the effects assessment. IK can provide different perspectives on the natural and socio-economic environmental components that may be affected by the Project. Indigenous communities will be encouraged to share IK on key topics, issues and concerns to further identify, inform, and refine the criteria and indicators.

Indigenous communities will also be engaged during the effects assessment to help Hydro One better understand whether the Project will have an effect on a particular feature of importance from an IK perspective, or changes to lifestyle. Hydro One will engage Indigenous communities to identify potential Project effects and significance. By using IK and collaborating with Indigenous communities, Hydro One will be in a better position to document concerns and have Indigenous communities participate directly and effectively in the effects prediction and assessment. The manner in which this input and information is collected is expected to vary by community. Information sharing protocols will be established with the interested Indigenous communities to guide the manner in which information is collected and used in the EA.

5.0 Description of the Undertaking

This section provides a general description of the undertaking, or the Project, including the anticipated activities associated with all phases of the Project. This description should be considered preliminary and subject to change as detailed design, including detailed surveys, additional studies and ongoing consultation, has not yet been completed. A more detailed description of the undertaking will be provided in the EA and will be sufficient to allow for the identification and assessment of potential effects for the Project.

5.1 Description of the Undertaking (Project)

Hydro One is proposing to construct a new double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. The transmission line length is anticipated to be approximately 350 km depending on the preferred route selected through the EA process. The Project also includes the separation of approximately 1 km of the double-circuit section of the existing 230 kV transmission line outside of Mackenzie TS in Atikokan (circuits F25A and D26A) into two separate single-circuit transmission lines. Upgrades will be required to the existing Hydro One stations that serve as connection points for the undertaking.

5.1.1 Preliminary Facility Design

The connection locations and technical specifications for the Project (e.g., number of circuits, capacity, etc.) was determined by the IESO (**Appendix A**). The Project will comply with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and IESO reliability standards. The following sections describe the key components of the Project which are subject to confirmation based on outcomes of the EA, subsequent detailed design work, and Project constructor methods.

5.1.1.1 Transmission Line

The new transmission line will be designed to be an overhead 230 kV alternating current (AC) double-circuit (between Lakehead TS and Mackenzie TS) and single-circuit (between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS). It will consist of transmission structures, conductors, insulators, overhead shield wires/optical ground wire and grounding.

The proposed ROW for the Project is expected to be approximately 40 m to 45 m. In some sections of the ROW, additional width may be required depending on the specific location of the new transmission line, the local terrain, distance between the transmission structures and specific contractor requirements. Additional ROW width may be required where there are angles in the



route, crossings of existing lines, for general construction access, temporary working space and laydown areas, access roads, and where the landscape/topography requires additional lands for access (e.g., in areas with steep slopes or other challenging terrain). The ROW width will be confirmed based on the final route, design of the structures, the sag and span between structures, and location of the ROW (e.g., greenfield route or adjacent to an existing, previously disturbed ROW).

Typical construction activities would include site preparation, such as vegetation removal, grading, building temporary and permanent access roads and laydown areas, installation of temporary fences, entrances, and concrete foundations, installation of transmission line structures, stringing, sagging and site restoration.

Different types of steel lattice transmission structures and wood pole structures may be used for the Project (**Figure 5-1**). The final structure type and number of structures required will be dependent on the final Project location/siting identified during detailed design. Towers are expected to be approximately 30 m high for single-circuit towers (typical) and 40 m high for double-circuit towers, depending on the structure used. Typical tower spacing is approximately 300 m for single-circuit towers and 270 m for double-circuit towers. Longer spans may be possible with larger towers.

Concrete foundations are anticipated for each structure; however, this will be dependent on structure type, site and soil conditions, including topography, sensitive features, and span length, and will be determined during detailed design.



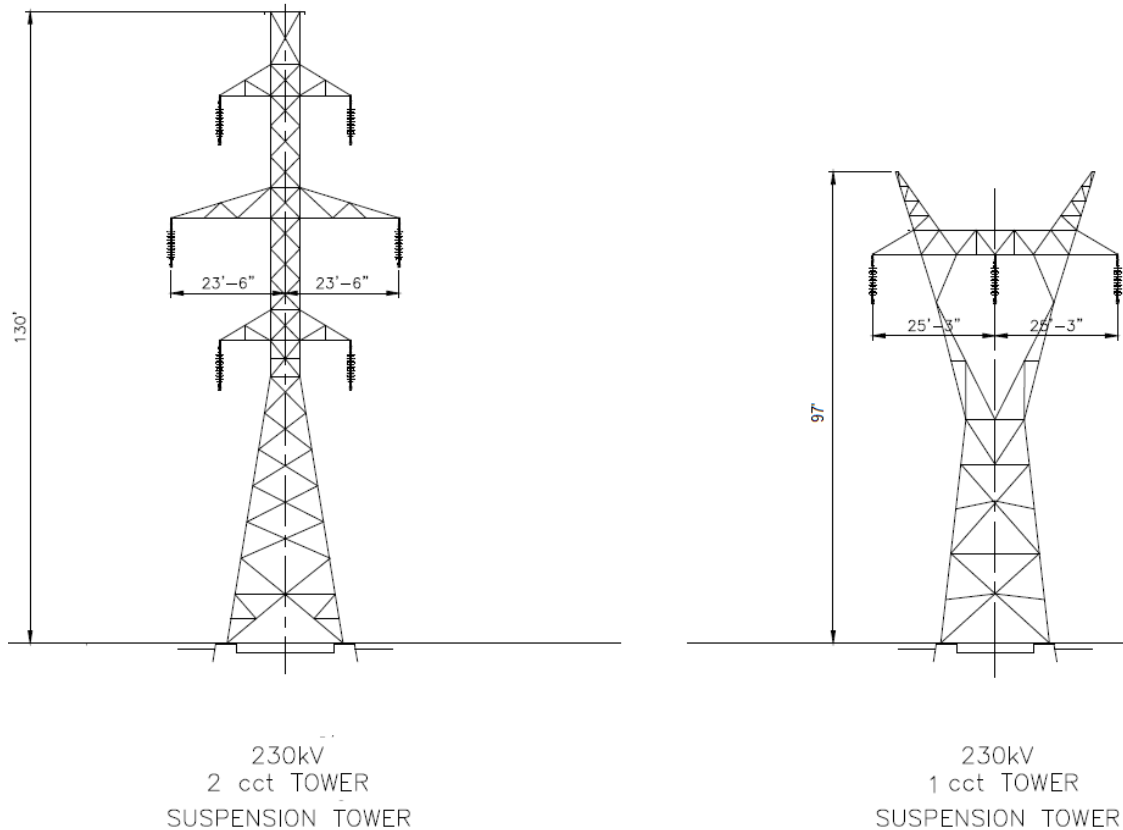


Figure 5-1: Typical Structure Types and Heights

5.1.1.2 Access Roads

Temporary and permanent access roads are anticipated to be required for the construction and operation phases of the Project. The access requirements for construction and operation are different. During construction, temporary access is required to the ROW for clearing and site preparation, construction of each tower with heavy equipment, and for cleanup and site restoration. The operation phase requires permanent access to the ROW for lighter vehicles conducting inspections, maintenance, emergency repairs, and vegetation management. Temporary and/or permanent watercourse crossings may also be required.

Hydro One's preference will be to use the Project ROW for access and build access roads within the ROW, where possible. Where travel in the ROW with heavy equipment is not possible due to terrain, ground conditions or environmental sensitivities, Hydro One may use existing roads and/or trails that connect to the Project ROW, which in some cases may require upgrades or improvements. In the event there are no existing roads or trails that connect to the ROW, Hydro One may need to build new access roads. Permits and/or authorization to construct access roads and water crossings on Crown land will be obtained prior to construction, as applicable.

The number, location, and characteristics of existing and proposed new access roads to be used for the Project will be refined through technical design work and through consultation with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Ontario Parks has expressed concerns regarding the potential development of new access roadways in provincial parks and conservation reserves; development of new access roads is not supported by most provincial parks/conservation reserve management directives, as development should be minimized, and avoid protected area lands, whenever possible.

Access roads will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA and will form part of a larger preliminary Access Plan that will be developed based on available information. This plan will identify the general road improvements for the Project, the need for new access roads, the general watercourse crossing types to be considered for the Project and identify potential impacts (i.e., natural environment, social and economic) of the roads and associated mitigation measures (such as decommissioning or access restrictions). Where changes in access are proposed as part of the consideration of economic impacts, the effects of these changes on tourism operations will also be assessed in the EA. Construction access roads that are presented in the EA Report would be considered preliminary subject to refinement based on detailed design and Project constructor input.

To minimize adverse effects, Hydro One commits to progressively restoring temporary construction access roads located on previously undisturbed lands. It may be necessary to maintain some access roads to support long-term inspection and maintenance activities. Access roads that are to remain will be identified in the EA.

5.1.1.3 **Equipment/Material Laydown Areas**

Equipment and material laydown areas, as well as fly yards, construction/stringing pads, and staging areas, may be required to receive and distribute material during Project construction. The preference will be to use previously disturbed areas or the ROW for these areas where possible. These areas will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA, as available.

It is anticipated that construction material and equipment from the storage yards will be transported by truck to laydown areas or to specific locations within the ROW. Materials and/or equipment may also be transported by helicopter to areas not accessible by ground. Permits and/or authorizations for the construction of these areas will be obtained prior to their use, as applicable. Storage yards will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA, as available.



To minimize adverse effects, Hydro One commits to progressively restoring areas to be used on a temporary basis during construction such as laydown areas, pull sites, and helipads, located on previously undisturbed lands. Some of these areas may be required on a permanent basis depending on the location of the preferred route to be identified in the EA.

Where Crown land is needed to erect supporting infrastructure (e.g., construction offices, laydown areas and/or work camps, etc.), permits and/or authorizations may be required from the MNRF.

5.1.1.4 **Temporary Construction Camps**

Lodging and accommodation for construction workers may be required during the construction phase. Construction camps, if required, are expected to be established along the transmission line to provide accommodation to workers on a temporary basis in select locations along the preferred route. It is expected that each camp would occupy a space of approximately 400 m by 400 m and will be located at least 30 m from any waterbodies. The specific location, size and requirements of these areas will be based on site characteristics, natural and socio-economic constraints and specific contractor requirements. Construction camp facilities will comply with the Ontario *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990* and required permits, authorizations and approvals will be acquired prior to their construction. It is anticipated that potable water for construction camps will be obtained from municipal sources, where available, or from groundwater wells. Permits to take Water or Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) will be required prior to taking or discharging groundwater. Municipal sewage disposal services will be used where available and where they are not, septic fields, on-site treatment and trucking off-site are options for sewage disposal. The appropriate approvals (e.g., Environmental Compliance Approvals, municipal approvals, etc.) will be acquired, as needed. Grey water will be discharged according to permit and/or authorization requirements. Electricity, if needed, will be supplied through the existing electrical grid or temporary diesel generators. Hydro One will progressively restore temporary construction camp sites as the Project construction progresses and they are no longer needed.

5.1.1.5 **Construction Offices**

Temporary mobile offices may be required during the construction period. It is anticipated that these temporary offices will be located in developed areas near the ROW, such as the City of Thunder Bay, Town of Atikokan, Township of Ignace, City of Dryden or near laydown areas, storage yards, or other temporary facilities, if available. The construction offices are anticipated to be decommissioned following Project construction. Hydro One commits to progressively restoring mobile construction office sites as the Project construction progresses and the construction office



sites are no longer needed. Construction offices will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA, as available.

Where Crown land is needed to erect supporting infrastructure (e.g., construction offices, laydown areas and/or construction camps, etc.), permits and/or authorizations may be required from the MNRF.

5.1.1.6 **Temporary Land Rights**

Temporary land rights may be required at some locations along the ROW to accommodate construction activities, such as providing additional working space, stockpiling, and equipment/material laydown or to facilitate conductor pulling/tensioning. These sites, if required, are anticipated to be decommissioned and restored following construction. Appropriate approvals and/or authorizations will be obtained for any Crown land required for construction activities.

5.1.1.7 **Upgrades to Existing Transformer Stations**

Connections to existing transformer stations will be required for the Project, including at Lakehead TS, Mackenzie TS, and Dryden TS. The type and extent of station work will be determined and confirmed during detailed design and after detailed requirements are identified by the IESO's connection assessment and approval (CAA) process; however, may generally include the following:

- Expansion of the fenced-in area of Lakehead TS, Mackenzie TS, and Dryden TS;
- Installation of new line terminations, bus-work extensions, circuit breakers, disconnect switches, and associated protection, control and telecommunication facilities at all three of the above-mentioned stations; and,
- Installation of shunt reactors and other reactive devices, as may be required by the IESO's CAA at the three above-mentioned stations.

No new transformer stations are required for the Project at this time. If acquisition of additional land is required to accommodate the upgrades, including Crown land or private land, this will be discussed with relevant parties and the appropriate approvals will be acquired beforehand.

5.1.1.8 **Separation of Existing Transmission Lines**

The Project also includes the separation of two existing 230 kV transmission circuits out of Mackenzie TS in Atikokan (circuits F25A and D26A). Approximately 2.5 km of these two circuits currently share one set of structures. Approximately 1 km of this double-circuit section of transmission line needs to be separated into two single-circuit sections (without sharing structures), as required by the NERC transmission planning standard. The expansion of the ROW to



accommodate the separation of the existing 230 kV transmission circuits out of Mackenzie TS will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA.

The type and extent of work associated with this activity will be determined and confirmed during detailed design; however, may generally include the following:

- Expansion of the existing F25A/D26A ROW;
- Installation of new single-circuit structures; and,
- Removal of the existing conductors and their insulators of one of the circuits (D26A or F25A) from the existing common structures and installation of new conductors/insulators and required shield wires on the new structures.

5.2 Project Activities

The Project can be broken down into three phases: construction, operation and maintenance, and retirement. Activities associated with these phases are described below.

5.2.1 Construction

The construction of the Project is expected to occur over an approximate three-year period (to be confirmed upon contractor selection). All required permits, approvals, and authorizations will be obtained, as necessary. Specific timing, sequencing and staging will be determined during the detailed design phase.

Construction activities are expected to occur throughout the year with staging to avoid and/or minimize potential effects on environmentally sensitive areas or wildlife breeding cycles (e.g., breeding bird period, fisheries windows, etc.), where possible.

The main construction activities anticipated for the Project include the following:

- Surveying and staking;
- Clearing, grubbing and grading the ROW;
- Construction of access roads, watercourse crossings, laydown areas, and construction camps;
- Equipment and material delivery;
- Tower structure foundation installation;
- Tower structure assembly and erection;
- Conductor stringing and installation;
- Clean-up and restoration; and,
- Testing and commissioning.



Potential Employment/Procurement Opportunities and Economic Spin-Offs

The Project is expected to generate both local and regional employment and procurement opportunities, as well as economic spinoffs during the construction period, including, but not limited to, the following:

Equipment and Related Rentals

- Truck and car rentals;
- All-terrain vehicle rental (e.g., Argos, side-by-sides, quads/4-wheelers, snowmobiles, boats, etc.);
- Construction equipment and supplies (e.g., helicopters, aggregates, etc.);
- Storage facilities;
- Outdoor gear; and,
- Health and safety equipment and field camp supplies.

Accommodations and Food

- Restaurants and/or fast food chains;
- Catering services;
- Hotels; and,
- Event venues.

Labour Services

- Heavy equipment operators; and,
- General labourers.

Technical and Professional Services

- Engineers, planners, biologists, archaeologists, geologists, construction monitors, communication liaisons, etc.

5.2.2

Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance phase would include transmission line condition assessments and vegetation maintenance, which would be completed on a regular basis. Ongoing vegetation management activities are required to manage and mitigate safety and reliability risks by maintaining clearances between transmission lines and vegetation on, and along, the ROW.

The anticipated operating services include:

- Structure climbing and helicopter inspections;
- Line hardware and insulator thermography;
- ROW inspections;



- Visual ground patrol;
- Vegetation management; and,
- Ongoing repairs and maintenance activities.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are physical and invisible fields produced by electrically charged objects, such as electrical equipment, power cords, and wires that carry electricity. Although they are often referred to as EMF, electric and magnetic fields are actually two distinct components of electricity.

Hydro One is committed to maintaining safe EMF exposure levels for all of their assets and facilities. Potential EMF levels are taken into consideration during the design of any new assets. This commitment ensures that Hydro One employees maintaining its assets and facilities, as well as people in the vicinity of these assets and facilities, are not exposed to elevated EMF levels.

The EA will include additional information related to the Project and EMF.

5.2.3 Retirement

The Project will be operated for an indeterminate time period and retirement, or decommissioning, is not anticipated. Should a decision be made to decommission the Project at a future point in time, a detailed review of the potential effects and mitigation measures existing at that time will be completed and decommissioning will be planned and conducted in accordance with the relevant standards and regulatory requirements in effect at the time. Activities that would typically be completed to facilitate the decommissioning of a project of this type would include removing towers and transmission line cables, insulators and other hardware, and ground reclamation.

The net effects assessment 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, and this will be further described in the EA.

6.0 Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives

This section describes the approach to the identification of alternatives, including alternative routes, during the ToR. It also describes the steps to be completed during the EA including the evaluation of alternative routes ~~and~~, determination of a preferred route, [and design refinements based on engagement feedback, IK provided by Indigenous communities and field survey data.](#)

Proponents are typically required to assess two types of alternatives: 1) “alternatives to” the undertaking (the Project), and 2) “alternative methods” of carrying out the undertaking. “Alternatives to” are functionally different ways of approaching and dealing with a problem, or opportunity, while “alternative methods” are different ways of doing the same activity.

As previously mentioned in **Section 3.0**, the EA will be “focused” and thus completed in accordance with subsections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the EA Act. With the exception of the “do nothing” alternative, the EA will not include an evaluation of “alternatives to.”

The “do nothing” alternative will be compared against the Project to confirm the recommended undertaking (preferred alternative). “Alternative methods” of carrying out the Project will be considered, assessed and evaluated in the EA.

6.1 Alternatives to the Undertaking

The Province (i.e., ENDM and IESO) established the anticipated need and justification for the Project as previously described in **Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3**. The EA will not re-examine these past planning processes and decisions, but will include an assessment and evaluation of the “do nothing” alternative compared against the recommended undertaking (the Project).

6.2 Alternative Methods Identification

Alternative routes for the proposed transmission line have been identified as part of the ToR. Feedback received to date during the development of this ToR was incorporated into the identification of the siting criteria and indicators, and the identification of the alternative routes for the proposed transmission line.

Section 10.0 of this ToR describes the planned consultation and engagement activities to be undertaken during the EA that will inform the alternative route evaluation and preferred route effects assessment.

The main steps completed to identify alternative routes during the ToR phase, include the following:

ToR Step 1: Identification of Alternative Corridors

ToR Step 2: Identification of Alternative Routes

The main steps to be completed during the EA phase include the following:

EA Step 1: Confirmation of Alternative Routes

EA Step 2: Comparative Alternative Route Evaluation and Selection of a Preferred Route

EA Step 3: Net Effects Assessment of the Preferred Route

The following provides a summary of the process undertaken to complete ToR Step 1 (Section 6.2.1 Identification of Alternative Corridors) and ToR Step 2 (Section 6.2.2 Identification of Alternative Routes). Further details on ToR Step 1 and ToR Step 2 are available in **Appendix B**.

6.2.1 Identification of Alternative Corridors

As previously described in **Section 4.1**, the Study Area or RSSA was identified based on several factors. These factors include pre-determined start and end points (connection points) as specified by the IESO in their 2018 letter to Hydro One, having sufficient geographical area that would allow for a range of potential alternatives and consideration of key physical, and natural and socio-economic features in the area. The RSSA extends from Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah to Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan and then to Dryden TS in the City of Dryden.

Baseline data collection activities were undertaken [during ToR preparation](#) for all relevant components of the environment within the RSSA in order to feed into the identification of alternative corridors. Alternative corridors are areas within the RSSA considered to be more suitable for a future transmission facility and provided an area of focus for the identification of alternative routes. A focus of this effort was on the collection of spatial or GIS-based data that was used in the route identification process. Various provincial datasets were accessed for this information and discussions were held with agencies regarding accessing the data that was in their possession. While primary data collection was not undertaken to support alternative corridor identification, air photo interpretation was undertaken to identify building locations within the RSSA.

In the interest of making the route identification process more transparent, consensus-based, and allow for input to be taken into account early in the process, Hydro One elected to use the Electric



Power Research Institute-Georgia Transmission Corporation (EPRI-GTC) Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology as a framework. In order to implement the EPRI-GTC Siting Methodology, input-gathering sessions, called Corridor Workshops, were held with Indigenous communities, government agency and municipal representatives, and organizations, to identify and consider the suitability of specific values when siting a transmission line. This input was then compiled into a GIS-based siting model, along with other desktop data, including secondary source information, such as official plans, mapping (including LIO data), orthophotos, and data provided by government agencies and other existing published literature. The siting model would be used to guide the identification of alternative routes. Hydro One will be offering workshops and other engagement activities (in-person or virtual) to Indigenous communities throughout the EA process to better understand how their knowledge can contribute to route evaluation, selection of a preferred route, and understanding of the potential effects of the preferred route.

The EPRI-GTC Siting Methodology requires “model calibration” which involves determining the siting criteria and their relative importance. An initial internal (Hydro One) workshop session was held to receive input from Hydro One regarding the technical requirements of the proposed facility. Input from this session was used to develop preliminary model siting criteria to be used as a starting point for stakeholder and Indigenous community input. The main activity held to receive external input on the siting model were the Corridor Workshop sessions held in the City of Thunder Bay over three days in June 2019. Government agency and municipal representatives, and organizations and Indigenous communities were invited to these workshops. In addition to the June 2019 workshops, Hydro One offered to hold supplementary “siting model calibration” sessions in each interested Indigenous community. Sessions were held with Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation (results pending), the MNO and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

Overall, the results of the workshops and input received indicated that there is a strong preference to co-locate the new transmission facility close to existing infrastructure. The preference to locate the new transmission facility close to existing infrastructure corridors is also supported in Section 1.6.8.5 of the recently updated PPS (2020) released under the *Planning Act*, 1990, which states that “the co-location of linear infrastructure should be promoted, where appropriate.” The preference for co-location has been further supported based on past environmental hearing decisions by the OEB, such as the East-West Tie Transmission line (currently under construction), Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project (currently under construction), and the Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement (December, 2008).

Co-locating with existing linear facilities has the potential to offer several advantages that were identified by stakeholders and Indigenous communities as part of the engagement activities held during the development of the ToR. Many of these advantages are greater if co-locating with a transmission line, and in particular, offer the potential to minimize:

- New access to previously inaccessible natural areas, such as undisturbed lakes and/or other natural areas, by using existing ROWs and access roads;
- Disturbance to potentially sensitive interior forest wildlife and/or habitat;
- The amount of new ROW required (as overlap with the existing ROW may be possible);
- Overall line length and angles (corners) as existing transmission lines are generally shorter and straighter than other types of infrastructure and greenfield routes;
- Visual effects; and,
- Overall operational costs as there may be efficiencies in ROW maintenance if two transmission lines are located together.

Considering the developed siting model and the collected GIS data, a suitability map representing the simple average of all perspectives was created. As presented in **Figure 6-1**, lands in green followed by those in yellow are most suitable and lands in red are least suitable based on the Project siting model that considers input received to date from stakeholders and Indigenous communities.

The generated suitability map was used to develop alternative corridors for each perspective which were created by calculating the top three percent of all routes to connect the three transformer station sites. A composite of the alternative corridors was created and is presented in **Figure 6-2**.

During the corridor identification process, Hydro One identified that there is a potential long-term need to provide an additional transmission connection to Birch TS, which is located in the City of Thunder Bay. As a result, the study area as described in **Section 4.1** included areas that would enable the Project to be brought closer to Birch TS. The areas near Birch TS were examined. Through this process it was determined that connecting the transmission facility to Birch TS would require a route that passes in close proximity to dense residential development and would add about 15 km to the overall route length, adding cost and potential effects. Considering the additional cost, potential effects, and that the connection to Birch TS is not an immediate requirement, an alternative corridor extending southwest to the vicinity of Birch TS was not identified.

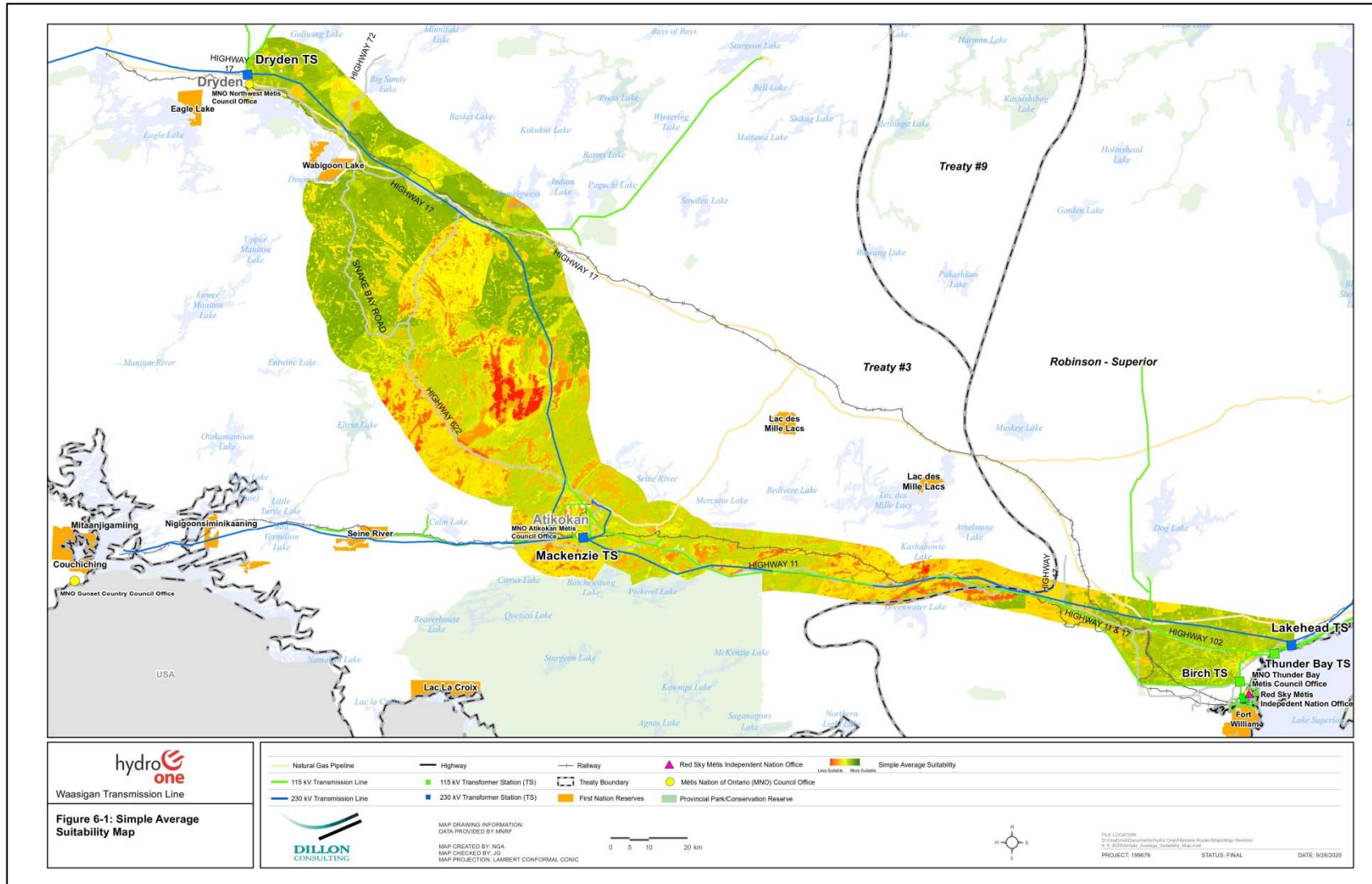
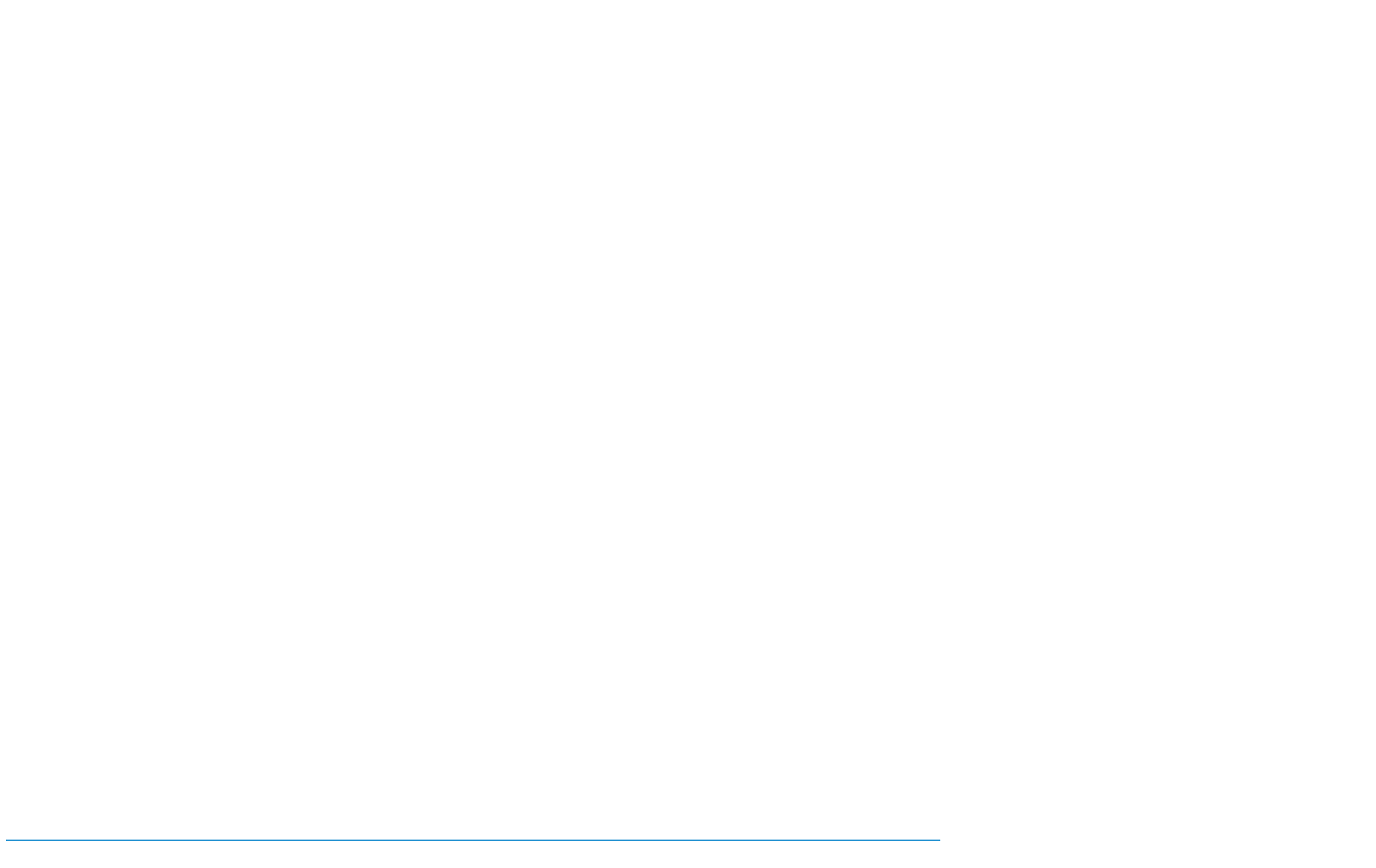


Figure 6-1: Simple Average Suitability Map



6.2.2 Identification of Alternative Routes

Once the composite corridor was identified (**Figure 6-2**), the next step was to identify alternative routes within it. The following provides a summary of the alternative route identification process. For further details on the process followed, please refer to **Appendix B**. To characterize the preliminary alternative routes, it was assumed that, for modelling purposes, an average 45 m ROW would be required for a greenfield route and an average 40 m ROW when paralleling an existing transmission line would be required.

Decisions related to identifying alternative routes were based on a variety of factors, including consultation, input and data received during the Corridor Workshops (e.g., overwhelming consensus to co-locate with existing similar infrastructure in the area in all perspectives), the general character of the area (e.g., land use and location of sensitive features), the type and location of existing, previously disturbed ROWs that could potentially be paralleled (e.g., many are located very close to each other thus not providing any material difference), and a preference for co-location with existing infrastructure when possible, as outlined in the PPS (2020).

Also considered in alternative route identification (and to be further considered during the EA, as warranted), as referenced in the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014), were the following screening criteria:

- Do they provide a viable solution to the problem or opportunity to be addressed?
- Are they proven technologies?
- Are they technically feasible?
- Are they consistent with other relevant planning objectives, policies and decisions (e.g., PPS)?
- Are they consistent with provincial government priority initiatives (e.g., waste diversion, energy efficiency, source water protection, reducing greenhouse gas emissions)?
- Could they affect any sensitive environmental features (e.g., provincially significant wetlands, prime agricultural area, endangered species habitat, floodplains, archaeological resources, built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes)?
- Are they practical, financially realistic and economically viable?
- Are they within the ability of the proponent to implement?
- Can they be implemented within the study area?
- Are they appropriate to the proponent doing the study?
- Are they able to meet the purpose of the EA Act?

The Project team also took into account several general routing considerations when identifying alternative routes organized on the basis of: natural environment, socio-economic, technical (including constructability and typical costs) and Indigenous considerations. These considerations were developed using input received from the Corridor Workshops and other engagement activities as well as technical expertise of the Project team. Natural environment routing considerations generally included those that minimize effects to natural environment features, such as avoidance of wetlands, waterbodies, wildlife and protected areas, to the extent possible. Socio-economic routing considerations included those that minimize effects to land use features, such as residences, camps, recreational properties, commercial and industrial developments, built-up areas, mines and other infrastructure, and constrained infrastructure ROWs. Technical routing considerations included those that minimize the overall length of the transmission facility, minimize crossing of existing transmission facilities which reduces overall system security, reduce the number of angles or corners which require larger and more specialized tower structures, and avoidance of rugged topography which may be unstable, challenging to access and result in higher cost. Indigenous routing considerations include those that would minimize potential effects on features that had been identified as important to Indigenous communities to date, such as cultural/spiritual areas and landscapes of importance. These considerations, among others, contributed to the identification of potential alternative routes.

Considering the above, alternative routes have been identified for the following study area sections and are described below:

Section 1 – City of Thunder Bay (Lakehead TS) to the Town of Atikokan (Mackenzie TS)

Section 2 – Town of Atikokan

Section 3 – North Atikokan to Wabigoon Lake

Section 4 – Wabigoon Lake to the City of Dryden (Dryden TS)

6.2.2.1

Section 1 – City of Thunder Bay (Lakehead TS) to the Town of Atikokan (Mackenzie TS)

The area between the City of Thunder Bay and Town of Atikokan is generally characterized by rugged topography, waterbodies and watercourses, wetlands, forested areas, protected areas (e.g., Kashabowie Provincial Park, Quetico Provincial Park) and sporadic residential and commercial development. Some of the more densely settled areas in the RSSA are located immediately west of the City of Thunder Bay.

There are also several existing, previously disturbed ROWs in this area that are all located in close proximity to each other, including an existing 230 kV transmission line, a 115 kV

transmission line, Highway 11/17, a small section of a natural gas pipeline (TransCanada/TC Energy) and a CNR rail line.

The following alternative routes, as illustrated in **Figures 6-3 to 6-5**, have been identified.

- *Alternative Route 1, 230 kV Transmission Line (Figure 6-3)*
 - This route starts at Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah and travels northwest along the existing 230 kV transmission line before terminating at Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan. Both sides of the existing 230 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.
- *Alternative Route 1A, TransCanada/TC Energy Pipeline (Figure 6-3)*
 - As an alternative to following the 230 kV transmission line directly out of Lakehead TS, this route follows the existing TC Energy (TransCanada) pipeline for a distance of approximately 35 km before joining the 230 kV transmission line and then continuing along it in a westerly direction. Both sides of the existing pipeline will be considered in the EA.
- *Alternative Route 1B, 115 kV Transmission Line (Figure 6-4)*
 - As an alternative to following the 230 kV transmission line directly out of Lakehead TS, this route follows the existing 115 kV line for a distance of approximately 40 km. Both sides of the existing 115 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.
- *Alternative Route 1C, 115 kV Transmission Line (Figure 6-5)*
 - At the west end of this section, this route runs to the north of Alternative Route 1 (which follows the 230 kV Transmission Line) to follow an existing 115 kV line starting south of Eva Lake and then extends into Mackenzie TS. Based on information collected to date, this route appears to come into proximity to a greater number of buildings and recreation properties than Alternative Route 1 but there may be opportunities to reduce this. Both sides of the existing 115 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.

Between Thunder Bay to Atikokan, particularly from Eva Lake to the Kaministiquia River, the siting model identified a single route that runs along the existing 230 kV transmission line. The section along the north side of Shebandowan Lake, just south of Kashabowie Provincial Park has been identified as a sensitive area. It is an area governed by CLUPA and the Shebandowan Lake Management Plan. The potential for other alternative routes around this area was reviewed; however, the presence of large waterbodies north and south of this area limits the feasibility of

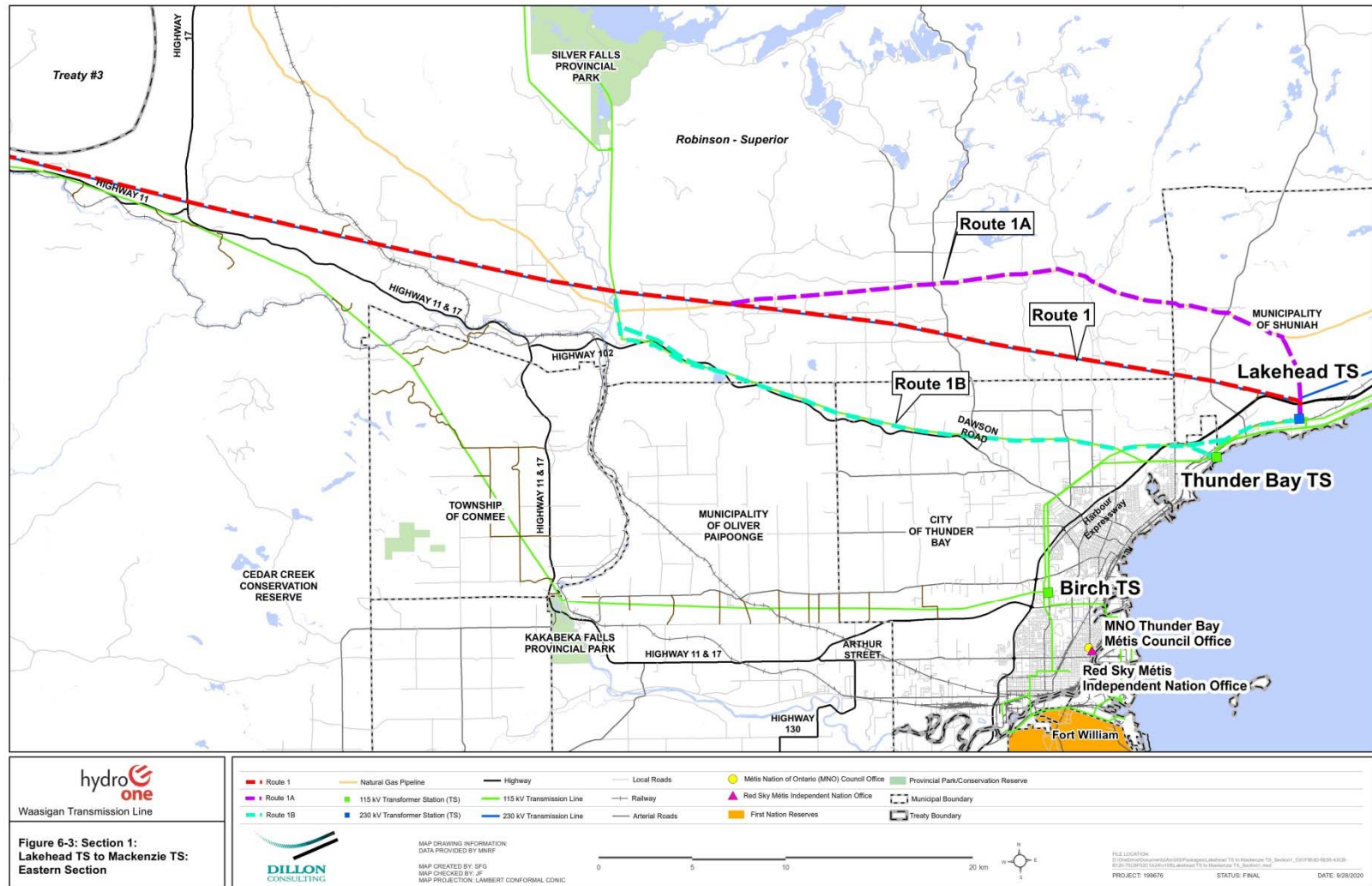


Figure 6-3: Section 1: Lakehead TS to Mackenzie TS – Eastern Section



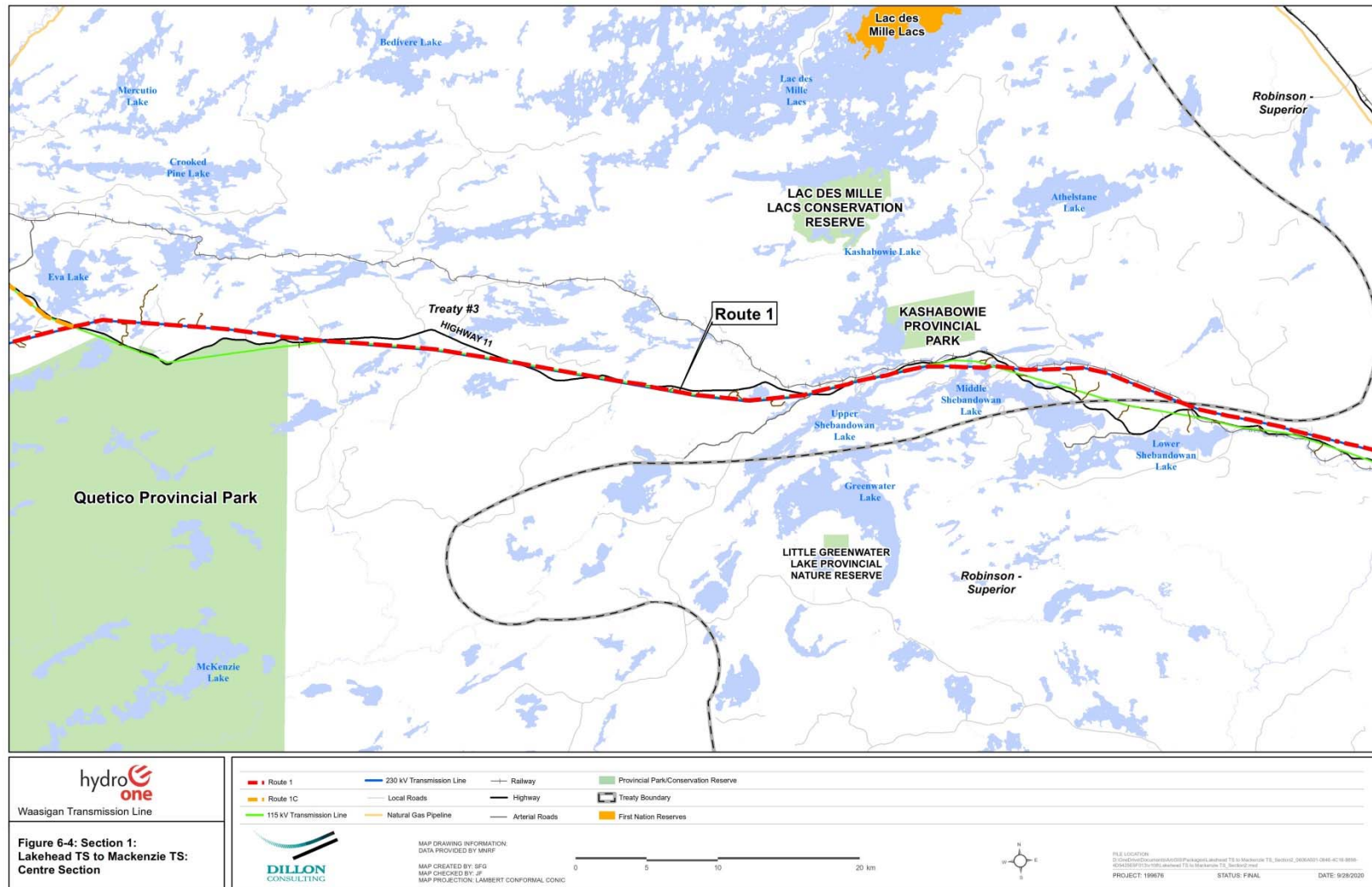


Figure 6-4: Section 1: Lakehead TS to Mackenzie TS – Centre Section



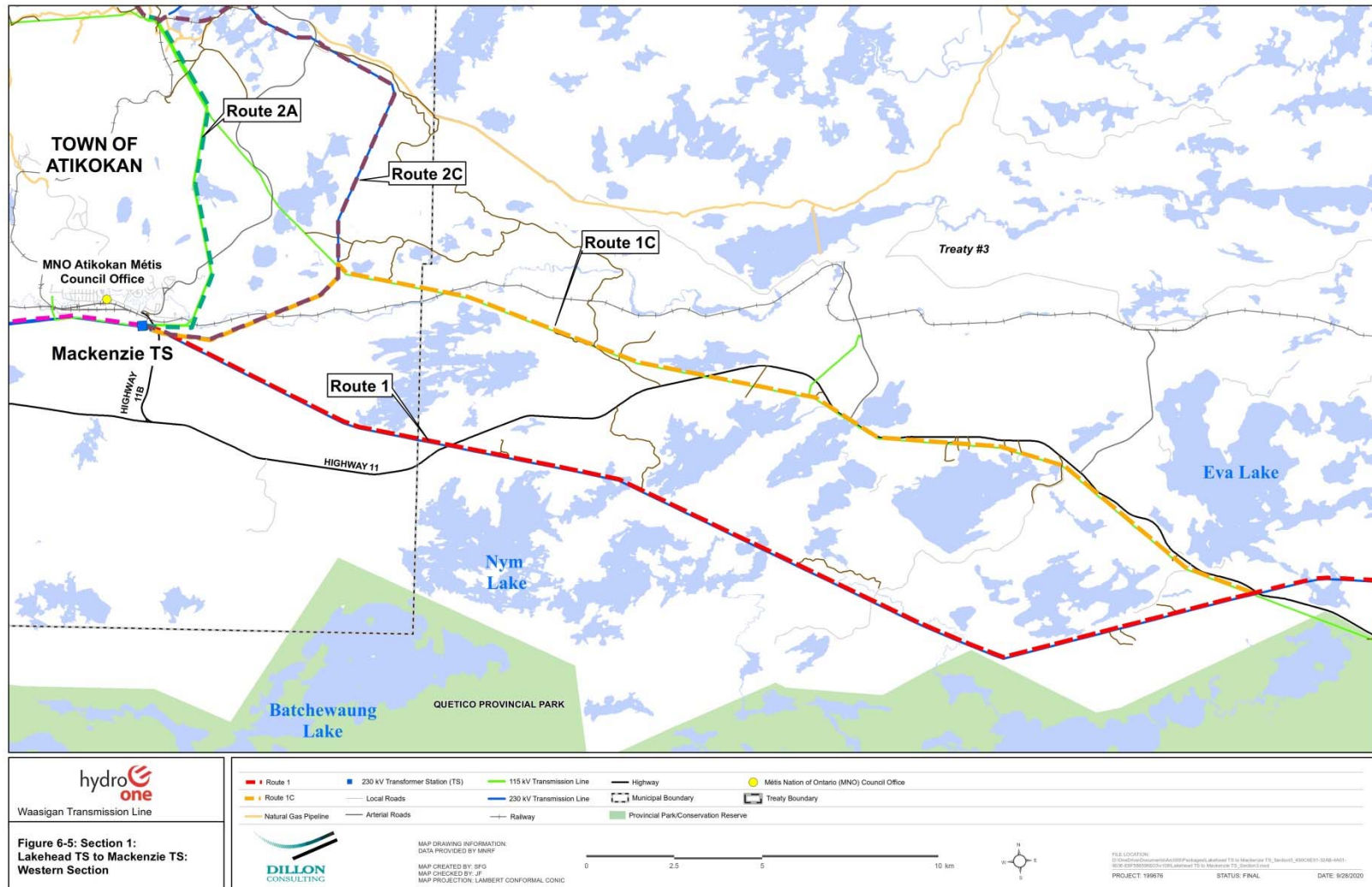


Figure 6-5: Section 1: Lakehead TS to Mackenzie TS – Western Section



alternatives routes. To the north is Kashabowie Lake and the larger Lac des Mille Lacs Lake, including the lands dedicated to the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. To the south is Greenwater Lake which is also a lake of considerable size. To avoid these large water bodies would require the development of a new “greenfield” route that would need to be located a considerable distance away from the existing 230 kV transmission line. This would add to the route length and increase potential effects, including the creation of new access into more remote lands. For these reasons, alternative routes in the Shebandowan Lake area were not identified.

From the Shebandowan Lake area to Eva Lake, there is a rail line located to the north of the existing 230 kV transmission line ROW which was also examined. Following rail lines tends to be more challenging due to their winding nature. To minimize the length of the route, straighter sections of greenfield route would be required which would be located away from the rail line and which would contribute to greater impact. Considering no major significant natural features have been identified along the existing 230 kV transmission line ROW, following the rail line was not explored further as an alternative route.

During the EA, Hydro One will consult with the MNRF, Indigenous communities, and local stakeholders, including local cottager associations and individual cottagers to gather feedback, identify concerns, and make effort to minimize, if not avoid, adverse potential effects.

6.2.2.2 **Section 2 – Town of Atikokan**

The Town of Atikokan includes a populated area located close to the south end of the town limits near the Mackenzie TS and Highway 11, a small municipal airport, as well as natural features, such as waterbodies and watercourses, and forested areas.

The Atikokan Generating Station is located along Highway 622 at the northeast limit of the town with a 230 kV transmission line connection south to Mackenzie TS, a 230 kV transmission line along the west end of the towns limit, as well as several 115 kV transmission lines located along the east end of the town limit and another that bisects it. A CNR rail line and a natural gas line cross through the centre of the town. The Atikokan pellet plant operated by BioPower Sustainable Energy Corporation is located at the west end of Atikokan.

The former Steep Rock mine property is also in the Study Area just north of the populated area of Atikokan near the CNR rail line. According to information provided by the Town of Atikokan, these mines were first opened in 1943 and supplied raw materials for everything from World War Two Hawker Hurricanes (made in Thunder Bay) to toasters and nails in the late 1970s. This



mine has been abandoned and is currently following a rehabilitation plan to address the potential for overflow impacts.

The alternative routes identified in Section 2 are discussed below and illustrated in **Figure 6-6**.

- *Alternative Route 2A, 115 kV Transmission Line*
 - This route starts at the south end of the Town of Atikokan at Mackenzie TS and travels north along an existing 115 kV transmission line to the north end of the town where it terminates. This route avoids the more heavily populated areas and abandoned mines in the area. Both sides of the existing 115 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.

- *Alternative Route 2B, 230 kV Transmission Line*
 - This route starts at the south end of the Town of Atikokan and travels west along the existing 230 kV transmission line and then north to the north end of the town where it terminates. This route avoids the more heavily populated areas and abandoned mines in the area. Both sides of the existing 230 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.

- *Alternative Route 2C, 230 kV Transmission Line (Atikokan Generating Station)*
 - This route follows the existing 230 kV transmission line ROW that extends to the Atikokan Generating Station and would require an approximate 500 m greenfield section to connect back with the existing main 230 kV transmission line ROW. Both sides of the existing 230 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.

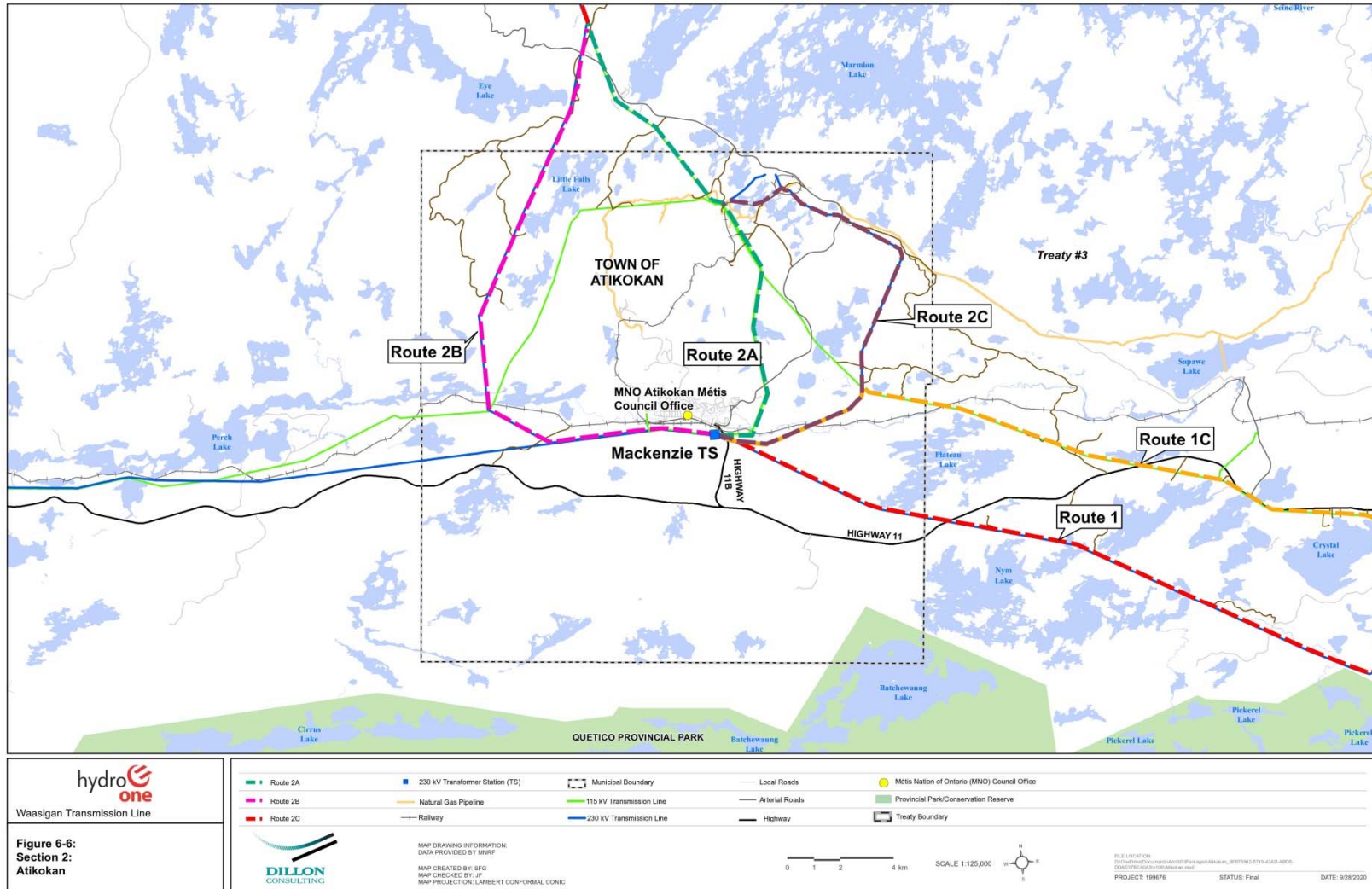


Figure 6-6: Section 2: Atikokan



6.2.2.3 Section 3 – North Atikokan to Wabigoon Lake

This section includes the area between the north end of the Town of Atikokan and Wabigoon Lake to the north. The area is characterized primarily by rugged topography, waterbodies and watercourses, wetlands, forested areas, protected areas (e.g., Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, Campus Lake Conservation Reserve, White Otter Enhanced Management Area, East Wabigoon River Conservation Reserve, etc.), and includes mines in various stages of development, areas with mining claims, and logging and tourism-based activities (e.g., outpost camps).

Existing, previously disturbed ROWs in this area that travel north from the Atikokan area to Wabigoon Lake include a 230 kV transmission line and a 115 kV transmission line. Non-transmission line ROWs, including Highway 622 and Snake Bay Road, are also present west of the 230 kV and 115 kV transmission lines that avoid some of the protected areas mentioned above, but still cross the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park. Farther north of this section, additional ROWs are present in close proximity to each other and the 230 kV transmission line, including Highway 17, a natural gas pipeline, and a CPR rail line.

The alternative routes identified in Section 3 are discussed below and illustrated in **Figure 6-7**. It is noted that for this section, some alternative routes were identified that are located outside of the composite corridor presented previously in **Figure 6-2**. The corridors represent the top three percent of all possible routes that the siting model generates. The corridors are intended to be used as a starting point to guide the Project team in route identification and selection. While the Highway 622/Snake Bay Road corridor did not show up in composite corridor map, it did present strongly from a natural heritage perspective and also provides an additional crossing location of the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park. These routes also avoid the crossing of the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the White Otter Enhanced Management Area. As such, to avoid potentially sensitive areas and to offer additional route alternatives for more detailed consideration in the EA, alternative routes along this road system were identified as described below.

- *Alternative Route 3A, 115/230 kV Transmission Line*
 - This route starts at the north end of the Town of Atikokan and travels in a northwestern direction along the existing 115/230 kV transmission line ROW to the Wabigoon Lake area where it terminates. The 115/230 kV transmission line ROW was identified as an existing, previously disturbed ROW that is direct and could take advantage of existing access roads. The route crosses the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the White Otter Enhanced Management Area. Both sides of the 115/230 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.

- *Alternative Route 3B, Highway 622/Snake Bay Road*
 - This route starts at the north of the Town of Atikokan and follows Highway 622 and Snake Bay Road until it terminates in the Wabigoon Lake area. This route provides an additional crossing alternative of the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, and avoids crossing the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and White Otter Enhanced Management Area; however, would require a crossing of the East Wabigoon Conservation Reserve.

- *Alternative Route 3C, Highway 622/230 kV Transmission Line*
 - This route starts in the vicinity of the intersection of Highway 622 and Snake Bay Road and follows Highway 622 until it terminates at the 230 kV transmission line. This route provides an additional crossing alternative of the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, and avoids crossing the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and White Otter Enhanced Management Area.

6.2.2.4 **Section 4 – Wabigoon Lake to the City of Dryden (Dryden TS)**

This section includes the area from north Wabigoon Lake to the City of Dryden. The area is naturally characterized primarily by rugged topography, large waterbodies (e.g., Wabigoon Lake, Thunder Lake), watercourses, wetlands, and forested areas.

There are several existing, previously disturbed ROWs in this area that are grouped in two distinct areas. The first is an existing side-by-side 230 kV and 115 kV transmission line ROW that travels northwest towards Thunder Lake and then west to the City of Dryden. The second area of infrastructure ROWs is located on the south side of Thunder Lake (between Thunder Lake and Wabigoon Lake) and contains Aaron Provincial Park, a CPR rail line, natural gas pipeline, and Highway 17; however, this area is fairly congested (both from an infrastructure and residential perspective), travels directly towards Aaron Provincial Park and the City of Dryden, and infrastructure is significantly less linear than the 230/115 kV transmission lines on the north side



of Thunder Lake. For these reasons, an alternative route was not identified for this second area located south of Thunder Lake.

The alternative route identified in Section 4 is discussed below and illustrated in **Figure 6-8**.

- *Alternative Route 4, 115/230 kV Transmission Line*
 - This route starts in the Wabigoon Lake area and travels northwest along the existing 115/230 kV transmission line ROW until it terminates at Dryden TS. This route was identified as an existing, previously disturbed ROW in this area and could take advantage of existing access roads. Both sides of the 115/230 kV transmission line ROW will be considered in the EA.

6.2.2.5 **Separating Circuits F25A and D26A**

As previously noted, the Project includes the separation of two existing 230 kV transmission circuits out of Mackenzie TS in Atikokan (circuits F25A and D26A). Approximately 2.5 km of these two circuits located west of Mackenzie TS currently share one set of structures.

Approximately 1 km of this double-circuit section of transmission line will need to be separated into two single-circuit sections (without sharing structures), as required by the NERC transmission planning standard. **Figure 6-9** illustrates the location and extent of the line to be separated. It is anticipated that the existing ROW will be widened to accommodate the new single-circuit line and support towers. The side of the ROW that is to be widened will be determined in the EA, taking into account natural and socio-economic features, as well as technical and Indigenous considerations.

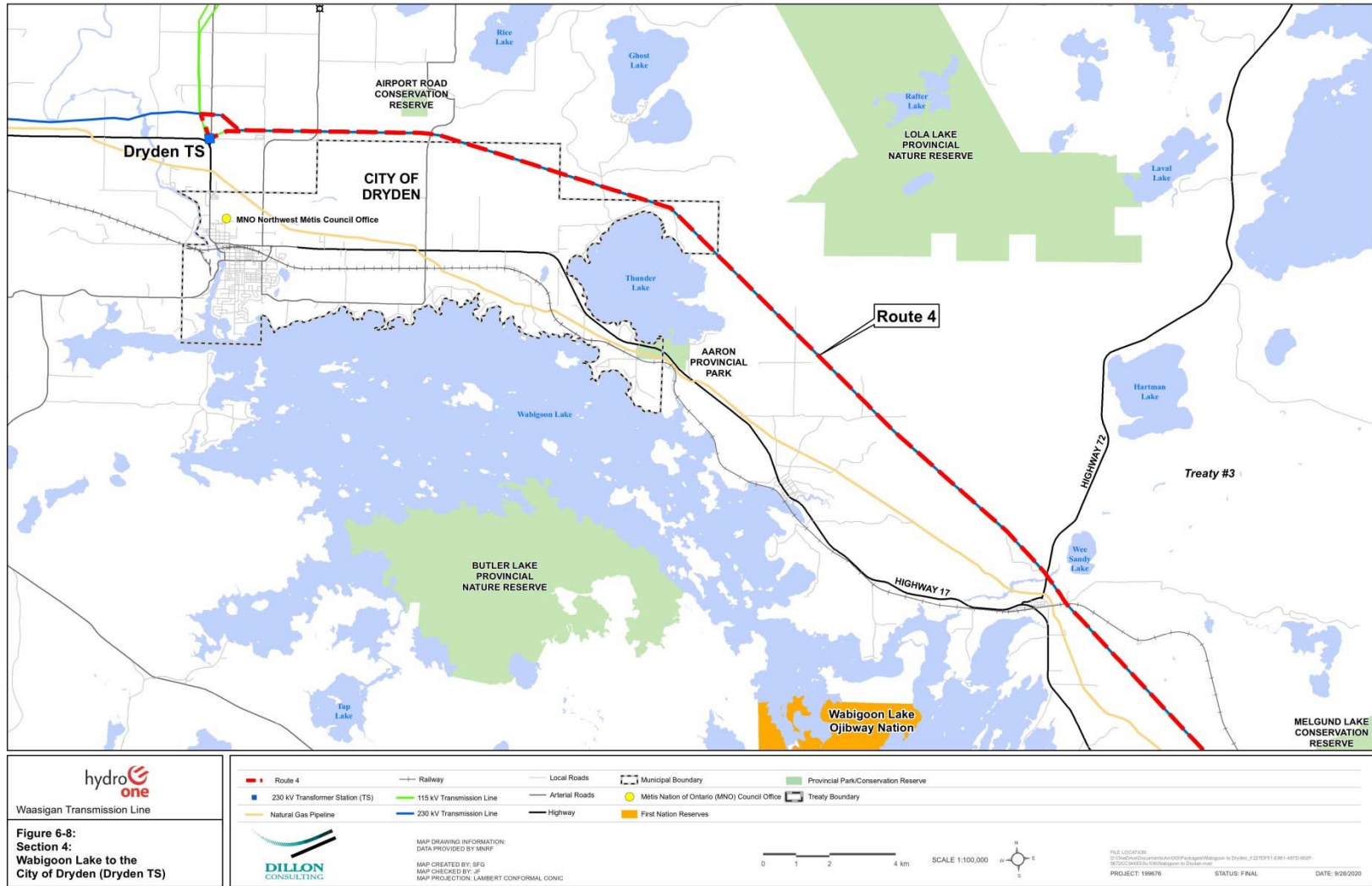
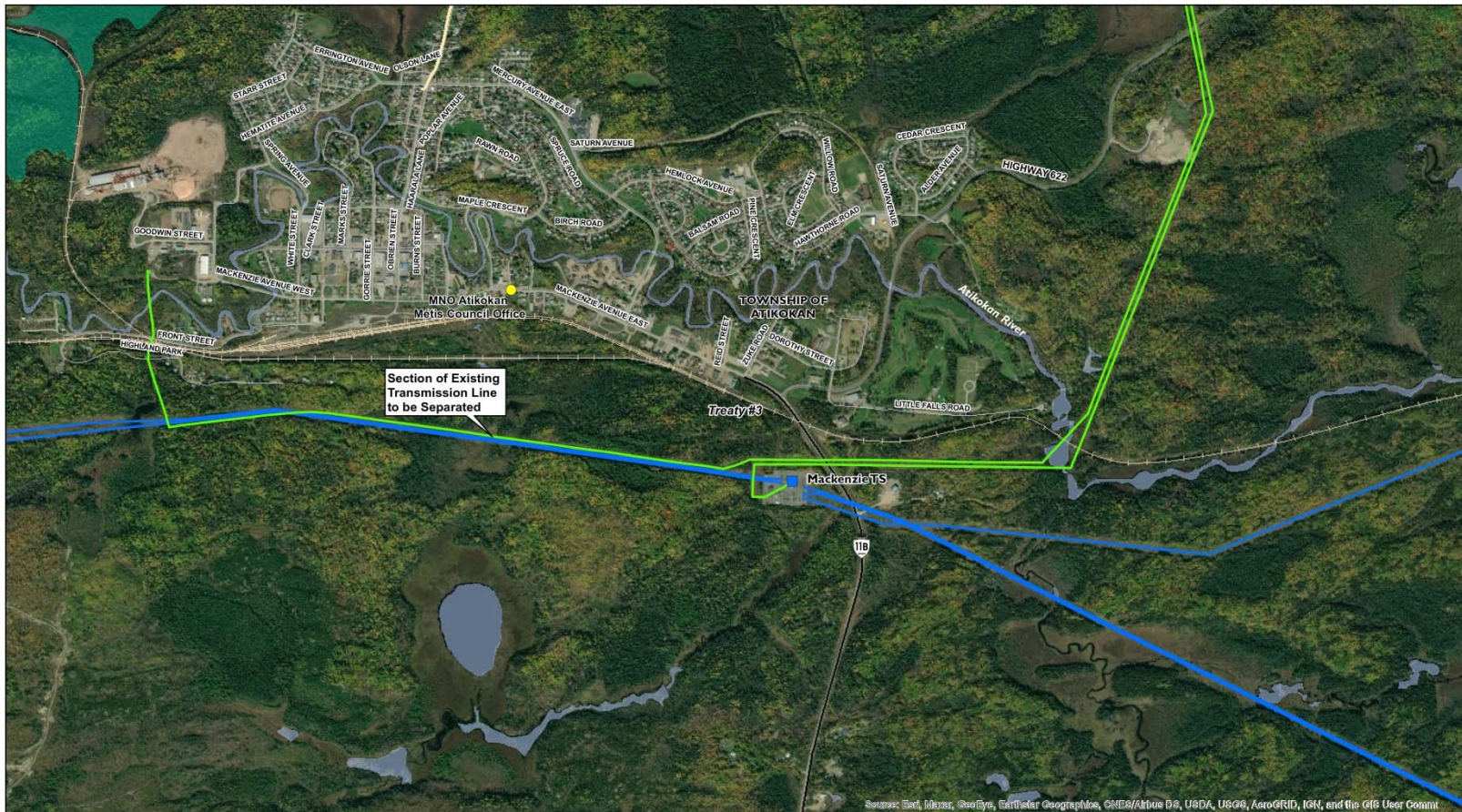


Figure 6-8: Section 4: Wabigoon Lake to the City of Dryden (Dryden TS)





Sources: Esri, DeLorme, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Comm

<p>hydro one Waasigan Transmission Line</p> <p>Mackenzie TS Circuit Separation</p> <p>Figure 6-9: Separating Circuits F25A and D26A</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>MAP DRAWING INFORMATION: DATA PROVIDED BY: HINM/ESRI/PIRAGIRY</p> <p>MAP CREATED BY: SFG MAP CHECKED BY: DM MAP PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC</p>										<p>0 0.125 0.25 0.5 km</p> <p>SCALE 1:10,000</p>	<p>FILE LOCATION: G:\a02019\04 - Waasigan Transmission Line\GIS\FIGURES\Maping\Separating Circuits F25A and D26A.mxd</p> <p>PROJECT: 199674 STATUS: FINAL DATE: 2020-09-28</p>

Figure 6-9: Separating Circuits F25A and D26A



6.3 ~~Consideration of Alternatives~~ **Alternative Route Evaluation in the EA**

The ~~alternative route evaluation~~ consideration of alternatives in the EA will consist of ~~two main stages: (1) selection of the following steps:~~

- ~~Alternative route evaluation to select a preferred route and, (2) detailed routing of the preferred route ROW.;~~
- First, each Development of a preliminary Project Footprint, including the ROW and supporting infrastructure (e.g., access roads); and
- Refinement of the Project Footprint based on engagement feedback, IK provided by Indigenous communities and field survey data.

A diagram showing the overall process for the consideration of alternatives, design milestones and associated engagement opportunities is shown on **Figure 6-10**.

The following sections describe each of the above three steps in detail.

6.3.1 **Alternative Route Evaluation in the EA**

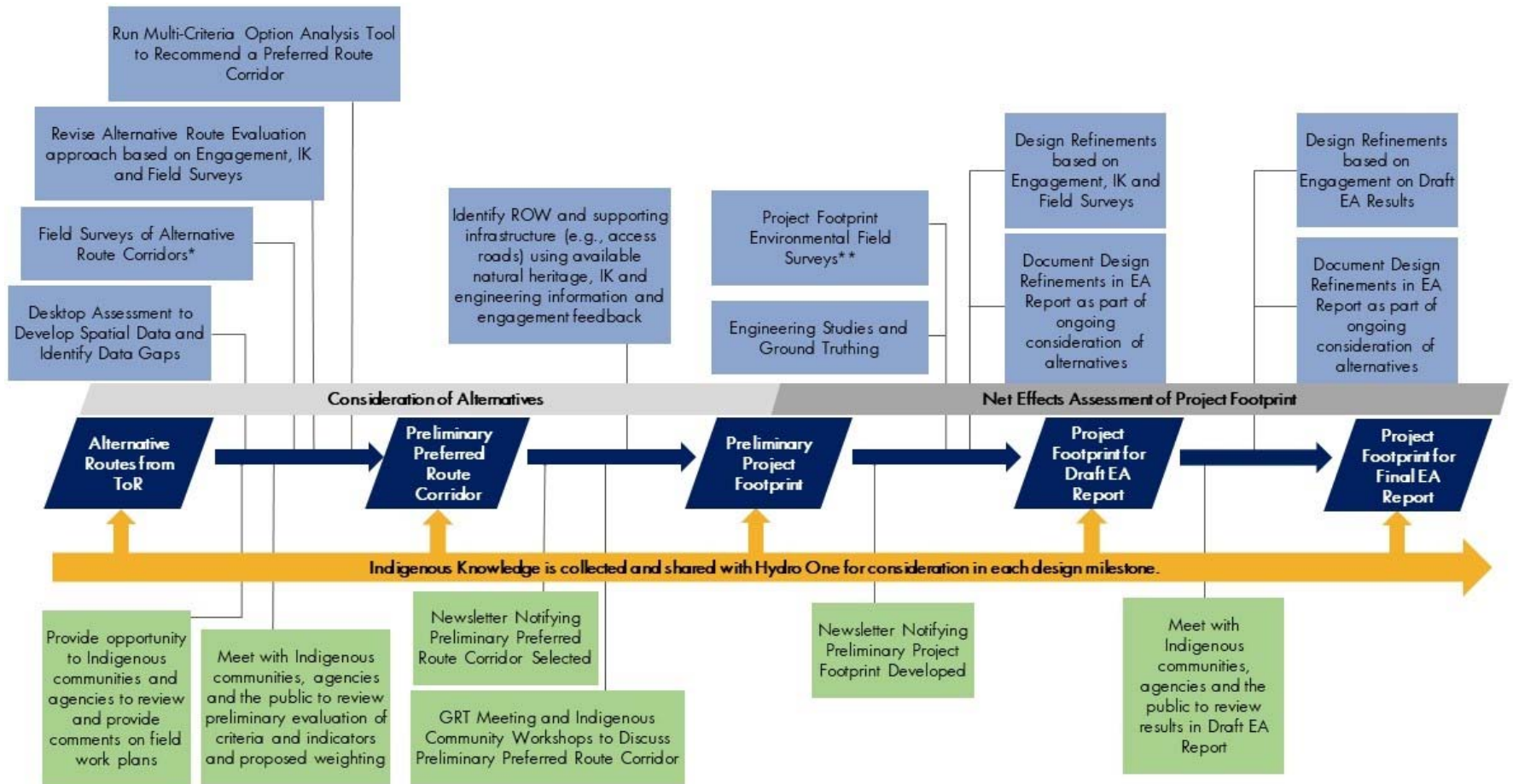
This ToR identifies alternative routes for the transmission line which are representative “centre lines”. A 150 m wide buffer will be applied to these routes to create alternative route will be buffered approximately 150 m in width. A corridors for comparison. Hydro One will use a multi-criteria option analysis (MCA) approach will be used to select the route that has more tool to evaluate the alternative route corridors taking into account natural environment, socio-economic, Indigenous and technical considerations. The multi-criteria option analysis tool allows for an objective, transparent and rigorous comparison of alternatives by identifying their respective advantages ~~than and~~ disadvantages ~~when compared to the other alternatives~~. The MCA approach was selected because of its versatility in evaluating alternatives based on a broad range of, including conflicting interests. This will enable Hydro One to make an informed decision criteria and stakeholder perspectives. The MCA on a preferred alternative route corridor that will be presented to stakeholders and Indigenous communities for review and input prior to proceeding with subsequent steps to establish the Project Footprint.

The evaluation approach will take into account the general routing principles as described in Table 2-7: General Routing Selection Considerations of **Appendix B**, as well as the draft evaluation criteria and indicators as provided in **Appendix C**. Spatial indicator data will be ~~developed~~ collected for each of the alternative ~~routes~~ route corridors relying on preliminary results

of the 2020 and 2021 field program and existing data, such as programs, existing datasets, (e.g., Forest Management Plans) and results of the completed and future field programs and IK shared by Indigenous communities. Additional details on the field surveys planned for the Project are provided in Section 4.2.

~~After a preferred route is selected, detailed routing of the preferred route ROW will be completed, taking into account existing technical, environmental, social and IK information, including the specific side of existing natural gas and transmission ROWs that the preferred route should follow. Opportunities to crossover to the other side of existing infrastructure to avoid specific features (e.g., terrain features, SAR habitat, culturally sensitive sites, etc.) will be examined. The potential locations of supporting infrastructure (e.g., access roads and construction camps) will also be identified for the preferred route at this stage to create a complete Project Footprint to be assessed in the EA.~~





* Field Surveys of Alternative Route Corridors include aerial reconnaissance (2020), bat hibernacula mine survey (2020), natural heritage ground truthing surveys and bat hibernacula visual assessment and bat hibernacula swarming acoustic monitoring.
 ** Field surveys of the Project Footprint will generally consist of spring, summer and fall floral and faunal investigations, as well as surveys at representative watercourse crossings (See Section 4.2 for more details).

Figure 6-10: Alternatives and Effects Assessment Process



Hydro One will engage Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations at multiple stages throughout this ~~process~~step, including for refinement of criteria and data sources. ~~As such, to support~~ the alternative route corridor evaluation. ~~As a result, the~~ evaluation criteria and indicators in **Appendix C** may include additions or deletions based on new information that is obtained by the Project team prior to selecting a preliminary preferred route corridor. The evaluation criteria will reflect applicable government legislation and policies.

The crossing of provincial parks and conservation reserves will be included as an indicator in the alternative route corridor evaluation to minimize, or avoid, crossing these areas. ~~Criteria~~In addition, criteria and indicators ~~will be included in~~for the net effects assessment of the preferred route for provincial parks and conservations reserves are included in **Appendix D**. These criteria and indicators will be confirmed in the EA with the input of Indigenous communities. Further, requirements of Sections 20 and 21 of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* will be considered in the EA stage for the preferred route if it crosses a provincial park or conservation reserve and the alternatives analysis in these areas will be presented as a separate appendix.

~~It is noted that during the ToR phase, MNO Regions 1 and 2 conducted an internal workshop on the route assessment criteria and submitted a report (January 2020) to Hydro One documenting the results of the workshop. This report has been considered in the development of the draft criteria and indicators.~~

In regard to the approach to the ~~alternatives~~alternative route corridor evaluation, it is reasonable to assume that the type and effectiveness of mitigation that can be applied to avoid or minimize effects will be the same for the alternative ~~routes~~route corridors being evaluated; however, the need for site-specific mitigation measures will be evaluated and applied to the preferred route, as required. While potential mitigation ~~to be implemented~~measures factored into all alternative route corridors will be described in the EA Report, a full net effects assessment, including identification of site-specific mitigation ~~is not proposed to, will~~ be completed ~~to support~~as part of the alternative impact assessment for the preferred route evaluation.

As such, the evaluation of the alternative ~~routes~~route corridors will be based on measurements of potential effects (e.g., area of habitat removed, number of watercourses crossed, number of buildings in proximity to the route, etc.) that consider available and collected data, ~~including~~ (e.g., Forest Management Plans), data from the 2020 field program, and data from future planned field surveys and IK- collection activities. SAR data developed using existing data, desktop analysis and field surveys to fill in data gaps by confirming the presence of candidate



values will also be considered in the process to select a preferred route. A full net effects assessment will be completed for the preferred route/recommended undertaking as described in **Section 7.0**.

SAR will be considered in the alternative route evaluation for the selection of a preferred route relying on the preliminary results of the field program and existing data including existing data bases and Forest Management Plans. Species-specific datasets will be developed for the preferred route and assessed as part of the net effects assessment of the preferred route in the EA (see **Section 7.0**). The species-specific datasets will also be supported by the species-specific field surveys planned for the preferred route. Alternatives, including route refinement, avoidance, and mitigation, will be considered where SAR or SAR habitat is identified for the preferred route.

The evaluation and net effects assessment criteria and indicators, routing principles, and mitigation (type and effectiveness) will be discussed with Indigenous communities throughout the EA process.

~~6.3.11.1.1~~ Further Refinement of the Project Footprint

~~During the EA stage, it is expected that some further local refinements to the Project Footprint may be required as new information becomes available to avoid sensitive natural and/or socio-economic features and for technical reasons (e.g., SAR habitat identified during field surveys, terrain issues identified during geotechnical surveys, site-specific landowner concerns, results of IK studies, etc.). Local route refinements requested by landowners or other stakeholders to avoid their property will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis as switching from one side of an existing transmission line to another is not necessarily always feasible. Crossovers reduce overall system security, require a larger area of land and will increase overall costs.~~

~~Refinement of the Project Footprint may be made on the basis of any field data that may be collected to support the alternative route evaluation and effects assessment. **Section 4.2** provides a commitment to prepare a field work plan with agency and Indigenous community input.~~

Some of the existing transmission lines and other infrastructure in the RSSA were constructed prior to the designation of features in the area, such as the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, Campus Lake Conservation Reserve, East Wabigoon River Conservation Reserve, and White Otter Enhanced Management Area between the City of Thunder Bay and City of Dryden. Although these park management plans and reserve management statements do not explicitly forbid new transmission lines, with the possible exception of the East Wabigoon River Conservation Reserve, alternative routes were identified to avoid these areas, if needed. The



assessment during the EA will determine if it is more environmentally, socially, economically and technically feasible for the Project to detour around these areas. This process will include consultation with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations during the EA. Criteria and indicators will be used for this evaluation with a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of each.

6.3.2 Development of the Preliminary Project Footprint

After a preferred route corridor is selected, detailed routing of the preliminary preferred route ROW will be completed, taking into account existing and collected natural environment, socio-economic, technical and IK information. This process will determine the specific side of existing linear infrastructure (e.g., natural gas, transmission line and road ROWs) that the preferred route ROW should follow, where applicable. Opportunities to cross over to the other side of existing infrastructure to avoid specific features (e.g., terrain features, SAR habitat, culturally sensitive sites, etc.) will be examined. The potential locations of supporting infrastructure (e.g., access roads and construction camps) will also be identified for the preliminary preferred route ROW at this stage to create a complete Project Footprint to be assessed in the EA (see **Section 7.0** for a description of the net effects assessment approach).

6.3.3 Further Refinement of the Project Footprint

After the identification of the preliminary Project Footprint, further local refinements to the Project Footprint may be required as new information becomes available (e.g., from field studies, IK studies) to avoid sensitive natural and/or socio-economic features and for technical reasons (e.g., SAR habitat identified during field surveys, terrain issues identified during geotechnical surveys, site-specific landowner concerns, results of IK studies, etc.). Local route refinements requested by landowners or other stakeholders to avoid their property will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Design refinements will also be considered for supporting infrastructure (e.g., modifications to access roads to avoid sensitive features).

Section 4.2 provides a commitment to prepare field work plans, with agency and Indigenous community input, for field work planned on the Project Footprint.



7.0 Identification of Project Effects

The purpose of this section is to describe the approach to be taken ~~on the preferred route~~ to identify potential Project-related effects, identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects, and the approach to evaluating Project net and cumulative effects.

7.1 Potential Effects Assessment

Once a comparative evaluation of the alternative routes is undertaken and a preferred route ROW is identified ~~as well as other required Project components~~, as described in **Section 6.0**, a net effects assessment of the Project, ~~including the preferred route~~, will be completed. This will further define the preliminary potential Project effects to the natural and socio-economic environment as described in **Section 4.3**.

The net effects assessment to be completed during the EA will be focused on the effects of the Waasigan Transmission Line project, not effects of future projects. The net effects assessment will assess the major project components and will identify both potential positive and negative effects to the natural and socio-economic environments potentially caused by the Project, and will identify mitigation measures to eliminate, or minimize, the negative effects. The assessment of effects will be clear, logical and traceable. Both short-term project construction activities and long-term operations and maintenance activities will be assessed. Activities associated with the construction and operation/maintenance of the Project are described in **Section 5.0**. Project components expected to be assessed in the net effects assessment include: the preferred transmission line route, transformer station upgrades, the separation of existing circuits connecting with the Mackenzie TS, and major infrastructure required for Project construction (e.g., access roads, watercourse crossings, etc.). The net effects assessment will address project-level effects and consider appropriate mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce or avoid adverse Project effects. The EA will also assess the potential for the ~~net~~ effects of other approved future reasonably foreseeable projects to combine cumulatively with the net effects of the Project.

A draft list of effects assessment criteria and indicators which will be used to complete the net effects assessment in the EA is provided in **Appendix D**. The net effects assessment will include the preferred transmission line ROW, as well as any other identified known lands required for other Project components on either a temporary or permanent basis. **Table 7-1** presents a list of the natural and socio-economic features that will be considered in the EA and was used to develop the criteria and indicators to be used for the net effects assessment. Both the list of features in **Table 7-1** and the draft effects assessment criteria and indicators included in



Appendix D will consider new information received and ongoing consultation and engagement inputs with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations.

It is noted that during the ToR phase, MNO Regions 1 and 2 conducted internal corridor workshop sessions and submitted a report to Hydro One on January 10, 2020 documenting the results of the workshop. This report along with other input provided by the MNO has been considered in the development of the draft criteria and indicators which include Métis-specific effects assessment criteria and indicators (see **Appendix D**).

Table 7-1: List of Key Natural and Socio-Economic Environment Considerations

Factor	Feature
Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiography, geology, surficial geology and soils • Surface water • Groundwater • Provincial parks, conservation reserves, ANSIs, and other protected areas • Fish and fish habitat • Vegetation and wetlands • Terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat • SAR and SAR habitat • Air quality and greenhouse gases • Acoustic environment
Socio-Economic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial and municipal policy • Community well-being • Economy, land and resource use • Aesthetics • Infrastructure and community services • Indigenous community rights/interests and use of land and resources for traditional purposes • Cultural heritage resources

The net effects assessment for the Project will generally follow the process outlined below during the EA and shown on **Figure 3-1 (Section 3.0)**:

- Review the Project’s characteristics, including construction, operation and maintenance activities;
- Collect field data during the seasonally appropriate timeframes (**Section 4.2**), to further inform the refinement of the preferred route and net effects assessment process;
- Consider the baseline environmental conditions that would be affected by Project activities;

- Identify the potential interactions between the Project and the environment, and describe potential effects to natural and socio-economic features considering the extent, duration, interrelationships and magnitude (considerations to be finalized during the EA) of the potential direct and indirect effects (adverse and positive). This step will include using prediction techniques, for example component specific evaluations, field study, and reviewing input received during consultation;
- Identify, develop and describe mitigation measures to eliminate, or minimize, potential effects. This work would be undertaken using utility best management practices, including Hydro One's environmental policies and operational statements of provincial and federal regulators;
- Determine the net effects that are likely to remain once prescribed mitigation measures are implemented;
- Determine the net effects that overlap temporally and spatially with effects from other past, present and reasonably foreseeable developments and activities which then result in cumulative effects;
- Determine the significance of net effects and cumulative effects;
- Identify follow-up, inspection, and monitoring programs that will be completed during and after construction to verify predication of the effects assessment and the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and,
- Identify the overall advantages and disadvantages against the "do nothing" alternative.

Desktop information and field data collected during the 2020 ~~initial~~ and 2021 field ~~program~~ programs will inform the alternative route evaluation process. More detailed field data collected during the subsequent programs to be conducted as part of the EA, during seasonally appropriate windows, will further inform the refinement of the preferred route and net effects assessment process.

Climate change adaptation (i.e., potential effects of climate on the Project) will be considered as part of the assessment.

7.2 Mitigation Measures

The EA will include both standard and site-specific mitigation measures based on industry best practices to avoid, or minimize, potential adverse Project-related effects on the natural and/or socio-economic environments. The EA will include mitigation plans for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e., SWH, PSW, ANSI, fish habitat and protected areas) for use during construction. Where warranted, site-specific mitigation plans will be developed for locations where overlapping natural heritage values occur.



Mitigation measures, as well as environmental management and monitoring plans to be developed during the EA, will be developed in consultation with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, as necessary, and will be provided in contract specifications to be adhered to by Hydro One staff and contractors.



8.0 Environmental Commitments and Monitoring

Hydro One is committed to environmental protection and responsible environmental management. The Project will be undertaken in compliance with current environmental legislation, best management practices, and corporate environmental procedures and programs. Both the natural and socio-economic environments will be considered when developing the monitoring framework.

8.1 Environmental Commitments

In accordance with Section 5.2.8 of the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014), the EA Report will include a list of environmental commitments made by Hydro One with respect to the following:

- Development and implementation of mitigation measures;
- Completion of additional field studies (if required), and receipt of regulatory approvals, prior to construction;
- Development and implementation of an environmental monitoring program that considers all phases of the Project; and,
- Continued consultation with Indigenous communities and interested parties.

A list of the main commitments made in this ToR is provided in **Appendix E. [The results of the TK/TLRU studies will inform the development of environmental commitments and monitoring programs.](#)**

Hydro One will also take the following into account when completing the EA and subsequent works:

- Identify, assess, and manage potentially significant environmental risks and integrate environmental considerations into decisions;
- Indigenous community consultation;
- Inform employees and contractors so that they understand their roles, responsibilities and Hydro One's environmental requirements and have the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to perform their duties;
- Promote continual improvement by setting environmental objectives and targets, monitoring performance and taking corrective and preventive actions, when required;



- Work cooperatively with governments, customers, suppliers, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders to develop programs that contribute to the achievement of Hydro One's environmental objectives and targets; and,
- Support the investigation and use of new methods of environmental protection that will help achieve Hydro One's business objectives.

Hydro One commits to preparing a document that records the environmental mitigation and commitments to Indigenous communities for implementation throughout the Project. This document will be passed on to a new proponent should the construction be carried out by a proponent other than Hydro One. Hydro One commits to sharing the document with Indigenous communities for their review.

8.2 Project Effects and Compliance Monitoring

In accordance with Section 5.2.8 of the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014), a monitoring framework will be developed during the EA and will consider all phases of the Project, for both project effects monitoring and EA compliance monitoring.

A construction and post-construction monitoring plan will be developed and included in the EA to ensure environmental [\(including natural environment and socio-economic\)](#) commitments are met. A commitment to complete an Environmental Protection Plan will also be included in the EA, pending availability of detail design information. The primary objective of the environmental monitoring program will be to confirm that the assumptions used in the assessment were correct and the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and, determine compliance with applicable environmental legislation, regulations, industry standards, Project permits and commitments made by Hydro One in both the ToR and EA.

Monitoring during the construction and operation/maintenance phase will focus on confirming that the assumptions used in the assessment were correct (e.g., potential effects), assessing the effectiveness of the mitigation measures implemented to reduce these effects and evaluating the need for any modified or new measures. The required duration of monitoring and/or follow-up programs will be established during the EA and will be based on environmental features and any conditions associated with approvals and/or permits required. In addition, the EA will address protocols and contingencies that will be followed in the event that construction timelines (and associated assumptions about the avoidance of effects) change, as well as a plan/protocol to address instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values are discovered in the



field during future stages of the Project (e.g., construction and operation) based on available information.

A compliance monitoring plan will also be developed during the EA and will be used to complete an assessment of whether the undertaking has been constructed and implemented in accordance with the commitments made in the EA and the conditions of EA approval. The EA will provide a strategy that sets out how and when the commitments made in the EA will be fulfilled and how Hydro One will report to the MECP about compliance.

Hydro One will also employ the services of an Environmental Inspector(s) during construction of the Project to assist with monitoring. The Environmental Inspector(s) will be familiar with transmission line construction techniques, best management practices, and applicable legislation. The inspector(s) will also be familiar with the commitments made in this ToR and the EA and will identify actual Project-related environmental effects, and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures. To further strengthen both the monitoring of Project-related effects and compliance monitoring, Hydro One will aim to:

- Integrate Indigenous community, public, government agency and stakeholder feedback and concerns received during the ToR and EA into the monitoring program and identify and manage potential environmental effects resulting from the Project;
- Implement a worker training program to ensure the construction team and contractor(s) are aware of applicable legislated requirements and Hydro One's corporate environmental policies, programs and practices; and,
- Establish and achieve Project environmental objectives and targets, and ensure corrective action is taken when required.

Hydro One will also employ Indigenous Environmental Monitors and/or Guardians during the EA and will collaborate with Indigenous communities in developing and implementing monitoring of Project-related effects and compliance monitoring for all project phases.



9.0 Consultation on the Terms of Reference

This section provides an overview of the consultation and engagement activities that were completed during the preparation of the ToR, up to September 11, 2020. A Record of Consultation was also prepared and provides additional detail related to the consultation and engagement activities completed during the preparation of the ToR, including records of Project-related communications. Consultation and engagement activities will continue following publication of this ToR and the input received from these activities will be documented as part of the EA.

Hydro One conducted two separate, but related, consultation and engagement programs as part of the ToR, including one for Indigenous communities and organizations, and another for stakeholders (e.g., government officials and agencies, and other interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and landowners). Further details on these programs, including the results, are provided below.

For an overview of the EA Consultation Plan, including the consultation and engagement activities planned for the EA, see **Section 10.0**.

9.1 Stakeholder Consultation

The following provides an overview of the stakeholder consultation completed as part of the ToR.

9.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

At the outset of the Project, Hydro One identified a preliminary list of stakeholders who might be affected by, or interested in, the Project. This preliminary list was based on the extent of the Study Area as previously shown in **Figure 1-1**. Stakeholders include:

- Any member of the public with an interest in the Project;
- Residents, or landowners located within the Study Area;
- Local municipalities, towns or townships located within the Study Area;
- Any elected representative or government agency with an interest in the Project; and,
- Any other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses, resource-based companies including mining and forestry operations, mining claim holders, non-government organizations, etc.) with a potential interest in the Project.



The stakeholder Contact Lists for municipalities, government agencies, and interest groups and other key stakeholders are provided in Record of Consultation Appendix A. These include any individual that Hydro One contacted or who contacted Hydro One throughout the ToR process.

9.1.1.1 Municipalities

The Study Area crosses eight incorporated communities. From west to east, these communities are:

- City of Dryden;
- Township of Ignace;
- Town of Atikokan;
- Township of O'Connor;
- Township of Conmee;
- Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge;
- City of Thunder Bay; and,
- Municipality of Shuniah.

The Study Area also crosses the District of Kenora and District of Rainy River; both districts are represented by local municipal associations, which are included on the stakeholder Contact List.

Elected officials and key staff in each of these communities, including, but not limited to, Mayors, Clerks, Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), and Economic Development Officers, were included on the municipal stakeholder distribution list. First responders, such as emergency medical services, local fire departments and police with jurisdiction in potentially affected communities, were also included on the project distribution list as recommended by the MECP.

9.1.1.2 Provincial and Federal Government Agencies

Relevant agencies were identified through the Government Review Team list provided by the MECP. Additional contacts were added to the list through attendance at agency meetings, requests to be added, and by attending and signing in at CICs.

9.1.1.3 Members of the Public

Members of the public consist of those who may reside in or near the Study Area, those who have potential to be affected by the Project, and those with an interest in the Project. Members of the public may ask to be added to the distribution list through the Project website, Hydro One's Community Relations phone line and e-mail, or by attending and signing in at CICs. New contacts will be added as the Project progresses through the EA process.



9.1.1.4 **Other Key Stakeholders**

Efforts have been made to identify stakeholders through web searches, stakeholder mapping exercises, review of OEB planning documentation regarding the Project, and by asking local municipal staff about active groups and individuals that should be included on the distribution list. Publication of notices in commonly read newspapers and social media advertisements throughout the Study Area also provided opportunity for stakeholders to identify themselves.

Key stakeholders identified to date include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Common Voice Northwest;
- Local Chambers of Commerce, including the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce;
- Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition;
- Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC);
- Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association (NWOPA);
- Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA);
- Lakehead University;
- Confederation College;
- Labour unions, including LiUNA and Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW);
- Non-government organizations representing a variety of interests, such as nature appreciation/education, hunting, fishing, trail users, recreational users (e.g., naturalist clubs, snowmobile clubs, gun clubs, etc.), camping and tourism organizations;
- Contacts managed by the MNRF, including rights, permits, and/or licence holders for Crown land dispositions, trap lines, bait fish blocks, and bear management areas;
- Railway authorities, including CPR and CNR;
- Mining and forestry rights holders and companies, and industry representatives;
- Vendors that may have services to offer during the EA and, if approved, construction and maintenance; and,
- Those who have expressed an interest in being kept informed about the Project.

9.2 **Stakeholder Consultation Activities**

This section describes consultation activities that have taken place during the development of the ToR with Project stakeholders, including the public, municipalities, agencies and other interested persons.

9.2.1 **Project Notifications**

The Project Notice of Commencement of ToR was combined with a notice of CICs for the first round of public engagement. The purpose of this notice was to inform interested stakeholders that the ToR preparation for the EA had started and that CICs were scheduled in communities within



the Study Area to provide additional Project information and receive feedback. A copy of the notice is provided in Record of Consultation Appendix B.

On April 24, 2019, notifications were sent to the stakeholder distribution list via Canada Post or, where possible, through email as an electronic attachment. For members of the public and those individuals within the Study Area, the Notice was published in four local newspapers:

- Dryden Observer/Red Lake Northern Sun³ - April 24, 2019 (English and French);
- Atikokan Progress - April 29, 2019;
- Thunder Bay Source - April 25, 2019; and,
- Thunder Bay Chronicle - April 27, 2019.

French language notifications were developed and made available on the Project website.

On June 29, 2020, notifications for the draft ToR release were sent to the Project distribution list via Canada Post or, where possible, through email as an electronic attachment. The purpose of the notices was to inform interested stakeholders that the draft ToR was being released for public review and indicate where the document could be accessed. For members of the public and those individuals within the Study Area, a notice was published in four local newspapers:

- Atikokan Progress – June 29, 2020;
- Thunder Bay Source – July 2, 2020;
- Thunder Bay Chronicle – July 4, 2020; and,
- Fort Francis Times – June 30, 2020.

On July 15 and 16, 2020, notifications for the Virtual Information Session (VIS) were sent to the Project distribution list through e-mail as an electronic attachment. The VIS notice informed stakeholders how to participate in the virtual event to learn more about the Project and the draft ToR, as well as ask live questions to members of the Project team. The VIS was held to protect the health and safety of Hydro One employees and community members in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. For members of the public and those individuals within the Study Area, the notice was published in five local newspapers:

- Wawatay News – July 17, 2020;
- Atikokan Progress – July 13, 2020;
- Thunder Bay Source – July 16, 2020;

³ The Dryden Observer/Red Lake Northern Sun ceased publication in May 2019.



- Thunder Bay Chronicle – July 18, 2020; and,
- Fort Francis Times – July 15, 2020.

9.2.2 Information Sheets

Project information sheets were produced to provide a high-level overview of the ToR and EA processes. These were available in print form at the first round of CICs and were also made available to download on the Project website. Copies of the information sheets are included in Record of Consultation Appendix C.

9.2.3 Project Website

Hydro One has a dedicated Project website: www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan. The website provides up-to-date Project information, Project updates and mapping, and contains information on how interested parties can contact the Project team to ask questions or submit comments. The Notice of Commencement of ToR, information sheets, CIC display panels, VIS presentation, Project maps, and contact information are available on the Project website. During the draft ToR review period, a survey/comment form was added to the Project website to solicit feedback on the draft ToR.

9.2.4 Community Relations Phone Line

The Hydro One Community Relations phone line, 1-877-345-6799, was advertised in all Project notices and on the Project website, and was available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to accept voicemail messages. The phone line was monitored during regular business hours throughout the duration of the ToR process. Project-related comments and inquires made via the phone line were documented and followed-up on by a Hydro One Project team member.

9.2.5 Project Email

The Hydro One Community Relations e-mail address, Community.Relations@HydroOne.com, was advertised in all Project notices and on the Project website, and was monitored throughout the duration of the ToR process. Messages and comments received through this e-mail address were reviewed regularly and forwarded to relevant Project team members for consideration. Project-related comments and inquires made via e-mail were documented and followed up on.

9.2.6 Social Media

Throughout the development of the ToR, Hydro One utilized social media outlets to increase awareness of the Project and Project activities. Specifically, Facebook advertisements were used during key milestones throughout the preparation of the ToR. Advertisements ran from May 7 to 15, 2019 for the May 2019 CICs to stakeholders in the Study Area. Additional advertisements



ran from July 6 to 10, 2020 and from July 20 to 29, 2020 for the draft ToR release and the VIS, respectively. All Facebook advertisements were monitored by Hydro One staff and comments were responded to, as necessary. All advertisements included a link to the Project website.

9.2.7 Radio Advertisements

Radio advertisements were utilized to help draw attention to key Project milestones including the release of the draft ToR and the VIS. Advertisements were aired on CKDR FM Dryden and CJUK FM Thunder Bay from July 3 to 7, 2020 and July 20 to 30, 2020, respectively, for the abovementioned events.

9.2.8 Community Information Centres and Workshops

9.2.8.1 Community Information Centres

In-person CICs were held in May 2019, at the outset of the ToR process. Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations were invited to attend. Copies of handout materials and the display panels used at the first round of CICs are included in Record of Consultation Appendix D and Appendix C, respectively. Representatives from the Project team were in attendance at the CICs to answer questions and discuss Project details.

CICs were held at five locations over a period of three days in communities within the Study Area, as shown in **Table 9-1**.

Table 9-1: Round 1 - Community Information Centres

Date	Locations	Number of Attendees
May 13, 2019	Thunder Bay, Ontario Valhalla Inn 1 Valhalla Inn Road 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EDT	61
May 14, 2019	Kakabeka Falls, Ontario Royal Canadian Legion Branch 225 4556 Trans-Canada Hwy. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EDT	29
May 14, 2019	Ignace, Ontario Royal Canadian Legion Branch 168 106 Front Street 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CDT	22
May 15, 2019	Atikokan, Ontario Royal Canadian Legion Branch 145 115 O'Brien Street 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST	20
May 15, 2019	Dryden, Ontario	21



	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 63 34 Queen Street 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. CDT	
Total Attendees		153

EDT=Eastern Daylight Time CDT=Central Daylight Time EST=Eastern Standard Time

The CICs were drop-in sessions with display panels and table maps introducing the Project and Study Area. The display panels covered the following:

- Welcome;
- Purpose of the CIC;
- Project overview;
- How the electricity system works;
- History of the Project;
- Hydro One and northwestern Ontario;
- Overview of the EA process;
- Development work timelines;
- Corridor and route selection;
- Working with Indigenous communities; and,
- Thank you.

During the first round of CICs, the majority of attendees were generally neutral or supportive of the Project. Many attendees expressed interest in learning more about the Project as their primary reason for attending the event. The following discussion topics were noted during conversations with attendees at the first round of CICs:

- Interest about where the power for the new transmission line would come from;
- The need for additional capacity due to recent closures of saw mills and reduced electricity consumption in the area;
- Inquiries about whether the new transmission line would eliminate the need for existing generating station in Atikokan;
- Desire for the new transmission line to be constructed within an existing transmission line ROW, instead of creating a new corridor;
- Interest in whether existing transmission lines could be upgraded to handle additional capacity instead of constructing a new transmission line; and,
- Several landowners were eager to know where the new transmission line would be located, if their properties would be affected, and whether there would be compensation for effects to properties.



Comment forms were available for all attendees, and a summary of these comment forms is provided in **Section 9.3**. Hydro One uploaded a copy of the CIC display panels to the Project website (www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan) following the CICs.

Hydro One planned to hold a second round of in-person CICs in late March 2020; however, they were deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue the conversation and collect feedback, Hydro One released a Project update in May 2020 by way of mailed postcard to residents within the Study area and e-mailed notice to the Project distribution list. It provided a Project update and notified readers that updated information had been added to the website, specifically a narrated Project update presentation and updated Project materials. A VIS was also held in July 2020 during the draft ToR review period.

9.2.8.2 **Corridor Workshop Sessions**

From June 24 to 26, 2019, Hydro One hosted three workshop sessions to gather input from government agencies, municipalities, organizations and Indigenous community representatives, to help develop and calibrate the siting model to be used to guide the identification of alternative routes for the Project.

An invitation package was prepared and distributed in May 2019 that provided a description of the Project, an outline of the workshop and its purpose, and a draft list of siting model criteria that would be considered during the workshop sessions. Representatives from a variety of organizations, agencies, municipalities, and Indigenous communities were invited to the June 2019 sessions. The list of those invited and who attended is available in **Appendix B**. The participants were very engaged throughout the workshops and provided meaningful input into the siting model. These sessions also resulted in the identification of existing datasets that agencies (i.e., ENDM, MNRF) have since made available to Hydro One for use in the routing process. Copies of information presented at the corridor workshops is included in Record of Consultation Appendix G.

In addition to the input received at the June 2019 workshops, Indigenous communities were offered the opportunity to have Hydro One conduct community-specific workshops, as documented in **Section 6.0** and **Appendix B** and further detailed in **Section 9.4.4** below. Input from these supplemental sessions was integrated with the June 2019 workshop inputs. The input gathered at the Corridor Workshop sessions was used to guide the development of route alternatives for the Project.



9.2.8.3 **Project Update – May 2020**

During the week of May 19, 2020, a Project update postcard was released to Indigenous communities, municipal officials, and members of the public within the Study Area. The postcard provided an overview of Hydro One's progress on the Project and recipients were encouraged to visit the Project website to view the narrated presentation and learn more (updated May 2020). The Project update materials were provided in presentation form with information panels and a voice-over narrative, and included updated maps and information sheets. A copy of the information posted on the Project website is available in Record of Consultation Appendix E and Appendix C, respectively.

9.2.8.4 **Virtual Information Session**

On July 30, 2020, Hydro One hosted a VIS, including a livestream presentation and telephone conference, to provide a Project overview, update on the ToR process, and to receive comments and answer questions. Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations were invited to attend. The VIS ran from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 to 7:30 p.m. CDT and was attended by approximately 2,000 participants for all or a portion of the event. A VIS summary report with details of the event is included in Record of Consultation Appendix F.

The livestream presentation for the event covered the following topics:

- Welcome;
- Rational for the VIS due to COVID-19 precautions;
- Purpose of the VIS;
- Project overview and update;
- Information on the draft ToR;
- Overview of the preliminary alternative routes;
- Working with Indigenous communities;
- How to provide feedback; and,
- Key milestones and next steps.

Following the presentation, a question and answer period commenced where pre-submitted questions were answered and participants had an opportunity to ask live questions. A panel of staff from Hydro One and the IESO were available to answer questions. Overall, the majority of attendees were generally neutral or supportive of the Project. The following key topics represent themes identified in the questions asked by participants throughout the VIS:

- Interest about where the power for the new transmission line would come from;
- Opportunities for local job creation and Indigenous community employment;



- Project timing for implementation and construction;
- How Indigenous communities will be consulted and involved during the EA phase of the Project;
- Where the draft ToR documents can be accessed;
- Economic benefits provided by the transmission line;
- Desire for the new transmission line to be constructed within an existing transmission line ROW, instead of creating a new corridor; and,
- Several landowners were eager to know where the new transmission line would be located, if their properties would be affected, and whether there would be compensation for effects to their properties.

Following the event, Hydro One uploaded a recording of the VIS to the Project website.

9.2.9 **Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government Agency Consultation**

Early contact was initiated with key government agencies, including municipalities, and provincial and federal government agencies with jurisdiction within the Study Area. The following sections provide an overview of consultation that occurred with municipal, provincial and federal government agencies during preparation of the ToR.

Section 9.3 provides a summary of input received from municipal, provincial and federal government agencies during preparation of the ToR. A detailed breakdown of all consultation activities and points of contact, including copies of consultation records, with municipal, provincial and federal government agencies during preparation of the ToR is available in Record of Consultation Appendices G, H, and I respectively.

9.2.9.1 **Municipal Consultation**

Community engagement and consultation is a priority for Hydro One. Throughout the ToR process, Hydro One engaged with elected representatives, municipal staff, and economic development staff and organizations to provide meaningful stakeholder input into the preparation of the ToR. Hydro One will continue to engage with municipalities throughout the EA to ensure local input is received for consideration during the EA, including through the planned upcoming Waasigan Community Roundtable. The purpose of the Community Roundtable is to ensure a continuous feedback loop between Hydro One and municipal officials and staff, industry, businesses, educational institutions, labour unions and Indigenous communities who are located and/or work within the Study Area. This initiative will enable community and industry leaders to act in an advisory capacity to Hydro One and ensure local values and interests are considered throughout the various stages of the Project. **Table 9-2** provides a high-level summary of key



consultation milestones completed with municipal contacts throughout the development of the ToR. Additional information, including a full detailed record of consultation with each municipality is included in Record of Consultation Appendix H with selected supporting information in Appendix H.1.

Table 9-2: Summary of Key Municipal Consultation Milestones

Date	Consultation Method	Purpose
March 2019	In-person presentation	Pre-consultation roadshow to all municipalities in the Study Area.
April 23 to 24, 2019	E-mail, community notice, newspaper and radio advertisements, and social media advertisements (for the CICs)	Notice of Commencement of ToR, Project information, and upcoming CICs.
April 24 to 26, 2019	In-person announcement	Project announced at NOMA Annual General Meeting in Thunder Bay – “Hydro One Investing in Northwestern Ontario.”
May 13 to 15, 2019	CICs	First round of CICs were held to introduce the Project and encourage participants to provide feedback to staff and fill out comment forms.
May 31, 2019	E-mail	Invitation to Workshops in June 2019 Corridor Workshops
June 24 to 26, 2019	Workshop	Corridor Workshop sessions were held in Thunder Bay to gather input on transmission line routing process.
September 2019 to January 2020	Meetings	Various meetings with municipal stakeholders including Council presentations, meetings with economic development boards and staff to discuss project details and provide updates and project information
March 19, 2020	E-mail	Notice of cancellation of CICs (March 30 to April 1) in light of public health situation sent to the Mayors and CAOs of the eight identified municipalities and the President of NOMA.
June 22, 2020	E-mail	Email to municipalities announcing that the draft ToR would be released for review on June 29, 2020.
June 29, 2020	E-mail	Email to municipalities announcing the release of the draft ToR, encouraging stakeholders to review and submit their feedback.
July 13 and 27, 2020	E-mail	E-mail to distribution list inviting municipal representatives to participate in the July 30, 2020 VIS.
July 30, 2020	VIS	Hydro One hosted a VIS for the Project.



Date	Consultation Method	Purpose
August 4, 2020	E-mail	Email sent to municipalities who had not provided comments on the draft ToR to remind them of the August 14, 2020 deadline.

9.2.9.2 **Provincial and Federal Agencies Consultation**

Consultation with provincial and federal agencies during preparation of the ToR focused on gathering baseline information and background data, and involving regulatory agencies in the ToR process. Frequent calls, generally monthly, have been held with the MECP Environmental Assessment Branch to provide updates on the progress of the ToR and engagement activities. During these meetings, advice was provided to Hydro One regarding the preparation and submission of the ToR. Monthly calls were also held with ENDM, MECP and MNRF staff to keep them informed of the status of Indigenous engagement on the Project. These calls/meetings are planned to continue into the EA phase of the Project.

Table 9-3 provides a high-level summary of key consultation milestones completed with provincial and federal agencies throughout the development of the ToR. Additional information, including a full detailed record of consultation with each provincial and federal agency is included in Record of Consultation Appendix I with selected supporting information in Appendix I.1.

Table 9-3: Summary of Key Provincial and Federal Agency Consultation Milestones

Date	Consultation Method	Purpose
March 18 and 19, 2019	E-mail	Notification of recommencement of project that was originally introduced in 2016.
March 29, 2019	Teleconference	Teleconference was held with provincial and federal agencies to introduce the Project.
April 23 and 24, 2019	E-mail	Notice of Commencement of ToR, project information, and upcoming first round of CICs.
May 31, 2019	E-mail	Invitations to Corridor Workshops sent to provincial and federal government agencies.
June 24 to 26, 2019	Workshop	Corridor Workshop sessions were held in Thunder Bay to gather input on transmission line routing process.
Monthly/Semi-Monthly from February 2019 to September 2020	Meeting	Monthly teleconference with MECP regarding the Project.



Date	Consultation Method	Purpose
Monthly/Semi-Monthly from February 2019 to September 2020	Meeting	ENDM/MECP/MNRF joint teleconference updating them on the Project and consultation activities.
June 29, 2020	E-mail	E-mail to stakeholders announcing the release of the draft ToR, encouraging stakeholders to review and submit their feedback.
July 13 and 27, 2020	E-mail	E-mail to distribution list inviting provincial and federal representatives to participate in the July 30, 2020 VIS.
July 30, 2020	VIS	Hydro One hosted a VIS for the Project.
August 4, 2020	E-mail	E-mail sent to agencies who had not provided comments on the draft ToR to remind them of the August 14, 2020 deadline.

9.2.10 Other Stakeholders Consultation

Throughout the preparation of the ToR, Hydro One engaged with community members, businesses and other interested stakeholders to inform them of the schedule and key consultation events (e.g., CICs) and to gather input into the preparation of the ToR, including background data and interest levels on the Project. Some stakeholders were also invited to participate in the June 2019 Corridor Workshops (e.g., CPR and CNR). Hydro One will continue to engage with community members, businesses and other interested stakeholders throughout the EA to ensure our Project benefits local communities.

Table 9-4 provides a high-level summary of key consultation milestones completed with other stakeholders throughout the development of the ToR. Additional information, including a full detailed record of consultation with each stakeholder is included in Record of Consultation Appendix J with selected supporting information in Appendix J.1.

Table 9-4: Summary of Key Other Stakeholder Consultation Milestones

Date	Consultation Method	Purpose
April 23 and 24, 2019	E-mail	Notice of Commencement of ToR, project information, and upcoming first round of CICs.
May 31, 2019	E-mail	Invitation to Corridor Workshop sessions sent to organizations (i.e., Union Gas Inc., CPR, Lakehead Roads Board, Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, TransCanada [TC Energy], Ontario Power Generation, Nuclear Waste Management Organization).



Date	Consultation Method	Purpose
June 24 to 26, 2019	Workshop	Corridor Workshop sessions were held in Thunder Bay to gather input on transmission line routing process.
November 4, 2019	Conference	Hydro One attended and held an informational booth for the Project at the Thunder Bay District Municipal League Conference.
June 29, 2020	Email	Email to stakeholders announcing the release of the draft ToR, encouraging stakeholders to review and submit their feedback.
July 13, 15 and 27, 2020	Email	Email inviting stakeholders to participate in the July 30, 2020 VIS.
July 30, 2020	VIS	Hydro One hosted a VIS for the Project.
August 4, 2020	Email	Email sent to stakeholders who had not provided comments on the draft ToR to remind them of the August 14 deadline.

9.3 Stakeholder Input Received Prior to the Draft ToR Release

This section provides an outline of stakeholder input received up to the release of the draft ToR. Comments received during the draft ToR review period are documented in **Section 9.5**. As previously described, up to the release of the draft ToR in June 2020, consultation with stakeholders during preparation of the ToR has included meetings, e-mails, phone calls, teleconferences, workshops, the holding of one round of CICs, and the release of Project notices and information, including maps, newspaper ads, information sheets and display panels. There were also frequent discussions with government agencies.

Table 9-5 provides a summary of comments received from municipalities, government agencies, members of the public, and other stakeholders up to the release of the draft ToR in June 2020. Responses or follow-up actions to received comments or questions are provided in italics, if applicable.

Table 9-5: Summary of Comments Received During the Draft ToR Preparation

Date	Stakeholder	Communication Method	Comment – Reply/Follow-up
Municipal Comments			
December 16, 2019	Thunder Bay CEDC	E-mail	Thunder Bay CEDC provided a suggestion for the Thunder Bay end of the new transmission line and planning. They highly recommended that the 230 kV connection goes into Birch TS versus Lakehead TS because it would give them more flexibility and capability on their industrial lands



Date	Stakeholder	Communication Method	Comment – Reply/Follow-up
			on the islands of the waterfront. <i>Thanked for their feedback; to be considered in the evaluation of alternatives in the EA.</i>
Provincial and Federal Agency Comments			
April 23, 2019	CNR	E-mail	CNR advised that transmission lines can cause induction in the railways and cause signal equipment (e.g., crossings, circuits, etc.) to fault. Therefore, ensuring adequate separation between the railway and the transmission line will require review. Setback limits were provided by CNR to Hydro One.
May 27, 2019	ECCC	E-mail	ECCC requested Project information and copies of presentation panels of public meetings. <i>Hydro One sent information requested in reply e-mail.</i>
June 12, 2019	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)	E-mail	Advised that CNSC does not play a role in Project. Declined invitation to workshops.
Other Stakeholder Comments			
April 23, 2019	Treasury Metals Inc.	Telephone	Treasury Metals Inc. explained that their Goliath Gold Project is located within the Study Area and provided Hydro One with their project's timeline. <i>Hydro One e-mailed Project information and added Treasury Metals Inc. to the Project distribution list.</i>
May 29, 2019	Environment North	E-mail	Environment North requested Project information and to be added to distribution list. <i>Hydro One provided Project details via e-mail and confirmed addition to distribution list.</i>
January 8, 2020	Lakehead University	Meeting	Hydro One met with representatives of Lakehead University to discuss opportunities for local community training and development
May 26, 2020	LiUNA	Letter	LiUNA provided a letter in support of the project noting the projects importance to create jobs for economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.
Public Comments			
May 7, 2019		Phone call	Member of the public requested to be added to distribution list.
May 13 to 15, 2019		CIC Comment Form	Positive responses indicating the Project Team provided useful and understandable information.



Date	Stakeholder	Communication Method	Comment – Reply/Follow-up
May 13 to 15, 2019		CIC Comment Form	Interested in route selection and looking forward to participating in future sessions.
May 13 to 15, 2019		CIC Comment Form	Recommend Project development remains well back from below crest of hill to mitigate impact due to microclimate, consisting of friable shallow soils, source water protection area for McIntyre and McVicar watersheds, variable wind and precipitation.
May 13 to 15, 2019		CIC Comment Form	Would like to see transmission lines buried underground, similar to the natural gas pipelines.
May 13 to 15, 2019		CIC Comment Form	Existing issues with trespassing on private property to gain access to Hydro One easements. Not supportive of a larger corridor, nor any increase to the size of the clearings.
May 26, 2020		E-mail	A property owner in Gorham emailed Hydro One to request further information on what impact the proposed transmission line would have on their safety and property value.
June 11, 2020		E-mail	Concern raised about proximity of the transmission line to the existing lake in the Lappe Area. The lake is used for water bomber refilling to fight forest fires and the line could have a negative impact on the ability to use the lake.
July 17, 2019		E-mail	A stakeholder noted that they would like higher voltage lines to be equipped with transfer stations to service cottage owners, the stakeholder also expressed that they believe the transmission line should be set back further from Highway 622 if the route isn't already taken.

9.4 Indigenous Engagement

This section describes the engagement activities undertaken with Indigenous communities, as well as the input that was received.

9.4.1 Indigenous Engagement Approach

The following sections identify the Indigenous communities that were engaged with and describes the key engagement activities undertaken with these communities during the preparation of the ToR.



9.4.1.1 Identification of Indigenous Communities

The Crown has a Duty to Consult, and where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous peoples whenever a Crown decision or activity could impact established or asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Procedural aspects of the Crown's Duty to Consult Indigenous peoples can be delegated by the Crown to the proponent (Hydro One). It is the responsibility of the Crown to determine whether the Duty to Consult has been triggered and if so, the appropriate depth of consultation to be undertaken. If the Crown has determined that consultation is required with respect to the Project, then the Crown will:

- Advise Hydro One in a timely manner of the Indigenous communities to be consulted;
- Notify the identified Indigenous communities it has delegated procedural aspects of consultation on the Project to Hydro One; and,
- Undertake any preliminary and ongoing assessment of the depth of consultation required for each identified Indigenous community.

ENDM delegated the procedural aspects of the Crown's Duty to Consult to Hydro One via a letter dated October 25, 2018 (Record of Consultation Appendix K). ENDM determined Hydro One's proposed project may have the potential to affect First Nation and Métis communities, nations and organizations, who hold or claim Aboriginal or Treaty Rights protected under Section 35 of Canada's *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The Crown listed the following Indigenous communities that should be consulted:

- Eagle Lake (Migisi Sahgaigan) First Nation;
- Fort William First Nation;
- Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation;
- Ojibway Nation of Saugeen;
- Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation;
- Lac La Croix First Nation;
- Lac Seul First Nation;
- Seine River First Nation;
- Wabigoon Lake First Nation (herein referred to as Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation);
- MNO Atikokan Métis Council;
- MNO Northwest Métis Council;
- MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council; and,
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

In addition, ENDM recommended Hydro One include Grand Council Treaty #3 and the MNO head office on correspondence.



A follow-up letter was received from ENDM, dated April 15, 2020 (Record of Consultation Appendix K), as an amendment to the original letter identifying two additional Indigenous communities that have, or may have, constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely affected by the Project. The Crown listed the following additional communities that should be consulted:

- Couchiching First Nation; and,
- Mitaanjigamiing First Nation.

Procedural aspects of consultation, roles and responsibilities of the Crown and Hydro One, and communication and coordination mechanisms are formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Crown (represented by ENDM) and Hydro One dated September 8, 2016.

Hydro One is committed to engaging and consulting with these identified Indigenous communities and to developing collaborative working relationships with each of these groups through the EA process, to the Project in-service date and beyond. A copy of the Indigenous communities contact list used for the development of the ToR is included in Record of Consultation Appendix K. Should additional Indigenous communities come forward and assert their rights with regards to the Project, Hydro One will engage them and immediately notify ENDM of the assertion in order to allow ENDM to make a determination if an amendment of the delegation is required.

The following additional Indigenous communities have expressed interest in the Project and will also be included in Project engagement:

- MNO Sunset Country Métis Council;
- MNO Kenora Métis Council;
- MNO Greenstone Métis Council; and,
- MNO North Superior Métis Council.

Further to the above, at the time of preparing the ToR, seven First Nation communities have organized an entity called the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP, formerly known as the Indigenous Transmission Limited Partnership [ITLP]). The GLP is a partnership of seven First Nations that was formed to facilitate discussions regarding engagement and participation related to the Project. The GLP is made up of the following First Nation communities:

- Eagle Lake First Nation;
- Fort William First Nation;



- Lac La Croix First Nation;
- Lac Seul First Nation;
- Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation;
- Seine River First Nation; and,
- Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.

It is anticipated that the GLP and its environmental consultants will coordinate and provide comments from member communities on the ToR. It is also anticipated that the GLP, to a significant extent, will coordinate members' participation in the EA.

9.4.2 Overview of Indigenous Community Engagement

The following sections describe the engagement activities that have taken place to date during the development of the ToR with Indigenous communities. A detailed breakdown of all consultation activities and points of contact, including copies of consultation records, with Indigenous communities during preparation of the ToR is available in Record of Consultation Appendix L with supporting documents included in Record of Consultation Appendix L-1.

The key initiatives and activities that have been undertaken by Hydro One during this period has included:

- Informing communities of the Project, the EA, and how they can be involved with the Project;
- Identifying the methods and means by which Indigenous communities may choose to participate and be consulted;
- Requesting for existing Consultation Protocols and/or seeking to establish the same;
- Working with individual communities to establish Capacity Funding Agreements and the provision of capacity funding to support their participation;
- Inviting communities to Corridor Workshop sessions held in June 2019;
- Offering community-specific Corridor Workshop sessions and CICs;
- Accommodating request for independent Corridor Workshop sessions and other technical workshops;
- Holding calls and/or meetings with communities and/or their consultants to confirm their interests and how they would like to be involved;
- Providing draft ToR documentation and a Plain Language ToR Guide; and,
- Providing communities with notices and information shared with the public, such as advanced notice of and invitations to public CICs.



9.4.2.1 **Pre-Notice of Commencement Engagement**

In November 2018, Hydro One sent letters to all ENDM-identified Indigenous communities that provided an overview of the IESO's instructions to Hydro One to begin development work on the Project.

9.4.2.2 **Project Notifications and Updates**

On April 10, 2019, Hydro One issued a formal Notice of Commencement of ToR to Indigenous communities included in the Crown delegation letter (**Section 9.4.1.1**). The Notice also included details of the first round of CICs. While Indigenous communities were invited to attend the CICs, a covering letter accompanying the Notice extended a request to meet with their leadership and offered to host CICs within their communities, if interested. The covering letter noted that additional outreach would be occurring throughout the ToR and EA. The Notice of Commencement of ToR and CICs was sent to all identified Indigenous communities.

Mitaanjigamiing First Nation and Couchiching First Nation expressed interest and requested that Hydro One engage with them on the Project. Formal communications of assertion were received from Mitaanjigamiing First Nation on October 18, 2019 and Couchiching First Nation on December 9, 2019, and. Hydro One notified ENDM of the assertions and requested that ENDM provide a formal response regarding consultation on the Project. ENDM provided their response on April 15, 2020, indicating that these two communities have, or may have, constitutionally protected Aboriginal or Treaty Rights that may be adversely affected by the Project. Hydro One offered to meet with each community and provide a presentation on the Project.

In addition to the above notifications, Project information and invitations to participate in engagement activities to support the development of the ToR were sent to each Indigenous community included on the Crown delegation letters or those that have asserted interest in the Project, and will continue throughout the ToR review period.

9.4.2.3 **Capacity Funding Agreements**

Hydro One has offered Indigenous communities a Capacity Funding Agreement to support their engagement on the Project. The Capacity Funding Agreements are meant to address the following aspects with communities:

- Outline an agreed-upon method of consultation and engagement, taking into account community protocols and practices;
- Outline a jointly agreed-upon work plan and budget for each community to be meaningfully consulted on the project, including adequate capacity and resourcing to participate;
- Identify a Community Engagement Coordinator or similar position; and,



- Outline a process for the sharing of information regarding the project and associated studies and regulatory processes.

Hydro One recognizes that each community may wish to amend aspects of the agreement to reflect community consultation protocols that may already be established. Indigenous communities were requested to review the agreements and share revisions with Hydro One.

9.4.3 Community Meetings and Events

Requests to hold meetings with leadership and staff of Indigenous communities were offered throughout the development of the ToR. Throughout development of the ToR, Hydro One has connected or reached out through over 1,500 points of contact with Indigenous communities. These points of contact have included letters, e-mails and phone conversations to determine the interest of individual Indigenous communities regarding the Project and to request in-person meetings with their representatives, Hydro One and their consultants. Meetings held with Indigenous communities during development of the ToR were focused on receiving Indigenous community input on:

- Their general interest and concerns regarding the Project;
- Determining how they would like to be engaged; and,
- The siting model through Corridor Workshop sessions.

Hydro One and the GLP meet on a monthly basis through a variety of committees to review administrative, engagement and procedural matters pertaining to the Project. Planning and coordination of member communities' participation in engagement activities, the ToR and future EA activities have been a large focus of the meetings between the GLP and Hydro One.

Hydro One will hold additional meetings and events with Indigenous communities after the submission of the ToR and into the EA planning process. Additional input received will be incorporated in the future EA phase of the Project.

9.4.4 Corridor Workshops Sessions

As described in **Section 6.0** and **Appendix B**, Hydro One used the EPRI-GTC Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology to guide the identification of alternative transmission line routes. The methodology requires input for the purposes of calibrating the siting model for this Project. External input on the model was received through workshops held in Thunder Bay over three days in June 2019. Government agencies, organizations, and Indigenous communities were invited to these workshops. All Indigenous communities originally identified by ENDM were



invited to the workshops and follow-up calls were made. Details regarding the inputs received from these workshops are described in **Section 6.0** and in **Appendix B**.

Two First Nation community representatives attended the workshop sessions as observers, namely Eagle Lake First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. A representative from Red Sky Métis Independent Nation attended the sessions as an observer. A representative from the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch attended a partial session as an observer. A representative of Grand Council Treaty #3 attended and participated in the workshop sessions. Attendees noted that they would like Hydro One to continue to communicate its progress and plans and indicated interest in sharing IK for the Project.

In addition to the June 2019 workshops, Hydro One offered to hold supplementary “model calibration” sessions in each interested Indigenous community.

In August 2019, MNO Region 1 and MNO Region 2 each held their own workshops to provide input into the siting model, which were supported by Hydro One. Hydro One Project team representatives did not attend at the request of MNO. In September 2019, MNO Region 1 and MNO Region 2 provided Hydro One with summary reports from their workshops.

Hydro One prepared a report that described how the information received from the MNO was incorporated into the siting model which was sent to the MNO in advance of a teleconference call held on May 28, 2020.

At the request of MNO Region 1 and MNO Region 2, a second set of workshops was held between the two Regions and their consultant in November 2019 to provide input on the effects assessment and criteria for the Project. A report on these workshops was provided to Hydro One in January 2020. The inputs from this report were considered in the development of the preliminary criteria included in the ToR.

In December 2019, Hydro One held a Corridor Workshop with representatives from Mitaanjigamiing First Nation Chief and Council, and held a second Corridor Workshop and CIC with the larger Mitaanjigamiing First Nation community in January 2020. See Record of Consultation Appendix G for materials presented and **Appendix B** for a summary of the workshop inputs received. Input from these meetings/workshop has been incorporated into the siting model.

Attempts to schedule Corridor Workshop sessions with additional communities occurred through much of the ToR preparation period. Eight workshops were scheduled to be held in late



March/early April 2020, prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency; however, following the provincial emergency declaration, all Indigenous community events were postponed. Since March 2020, the Project team has been working to advance consultation with Indigenous communities through virtual formats and continues to explore options to continue Project dialogue and gather input from Indigenous communities.

During the draft ToR review period, Hydro One held two additional Corridor Workshops; one with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation on June 4, 2020, and one with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on June 25, 2020. Both events were held using a virtual workshop platform.

9.4.5 Summary of Indigenous Engagement Activities

Table 9-6 presents a summary of the engagement activities held with each of the Indigenous communities during ToR preparation. Input received from Indigenous communities is described in **Section 9.4.6** and **9.5**.

Table 9-6: Summary of Indigenous Engagement Activities During Preparation of the ToR

Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Fort William First Nation (GLP Member)	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Fort William First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>In spring 2019, Hydro One held early discussions with Fort William First Nation to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. Additional correspondence was sent in the summer of 2019. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community. In September and November 2019, Hydro One participated in meetings with members of the GLP, including Fort William First Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor Workshops in the communities.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
	<p>Between January and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Fort William First Nation regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop and CIC. The workshop, scheduled for mid-March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequent discussions followed in April 2020 regarding the finalization of the Capacity Funding Agreement. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. On April 15, 2020, Hydro One received a signed Capacity Funding Agreement.</p>
<p>Fort William First Nation (GLP Member (cont'd))</p>	<p>On June 8, 2020, Fort William First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made by Hydro One to discuss the document, EA process or the Project should the community have questions. Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020, to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Fort William First Nation. Hydro One notified Fort William First Nation on June 29, 2020 that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Fort William First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 14, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Fort William First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Eagle Lake First Nation (GLP Member)</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Eagle Lake First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One held early discussions with Eagle Lake First Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. Further correspondence was sent in summer 2019. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community. In September and November 2019, Hydro One participated in meetings with members of the GLP, including Eagle Lake First Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Eagle Lake First Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)</p>	<p>Workshops in the communities. In December 2019, Hydro One sent additional correspondence regarding the holding of a workshop in the community.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Eagle Lake First Nation regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop and CIC. The workshop and CIC, scheduled for mid-March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. On May 7, 2020, Hydro One received a signed Capacity Funding Agreement from Chief Gardner. Eagle Lake First Nation’s consultant, Shared Value Solutions (SVS), e-mailed Hydro One to inquire about the Project schedule, which Hydro One shared with them. Between May and July 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Eagle Lake First Nation regarding the Capacity Funding Agreement.</p> <p>On June 8, 2020, Eagle Lake First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made by Hydro One to hold teleconference calls should the community have questions regarding the ToR. Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020 to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Eagle Lake First Nation. Hydro One forwarded the e-mail sent to Chief Gardner with the draft ToR to Eagle Lake First Nation Lands and Resources on June 25, 2020. Hydro One notified Eagle Lake First Nation on June 29, 2020 that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Eagle Lake First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Eagle Lake First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities. On August 21, 2020, Hydro One received a signed Capacity Funding Agreement.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation (GLP Member)</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One held early discussions with Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. A CIC was held in the community on July 8, 2019. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community. In September and November 2019, Hydro One participated in meetings with members of the GLP, including Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor Workshops in the communities. In December 2019, Hydro One sent additional correspondence regarding the holding of a workshop in the community.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, Hydro One e-mailed Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation regarding scheduling of a Corridor Workshop and CIC. The workshop, scheduled for April 7, 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. On April 16, 2020, Hydro One received a signed Capacity Funding Agreement. Between May and June 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation regarding the Capacity Funding Agreement and next steps.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)</p>	<p>On June 8, 2020, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made to hold teleconference calls should the community have questions regarding the ToR. Hydro One followed up on June 24, 2020, to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation. Hydro One notified Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation on June 29, 2020, that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>
<p>Ojibway Nation of Saugeen</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Ojibway Nation of Saugeen to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One contacted Ojibway Nation of Saugeen in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. Additional correspondence</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (cont'd)</p>	<p>was sent in summer 2019 via e-mail and fax. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community. In September 2019, Hydro One discussed via phone call scheduling a meeting regarding the Project and the Capacity Funding Agreement.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, Hydro One e-mailed the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop and CIC, and the potential to meet in person to discuss the Project. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. In late April 2020, Hydro One received a request for information regarding the Project and First Nation partnerships. Hydro One responded, providing the requested information.</p> <p>On May 20, 2020, Hydro One shared a Project update via e-mail. On May 20, 2020, Hydro One shared Project information in a letter sent via e-mail. On June 8, 2020, Ojibway Nation of the Saugeen was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. Hydro One followed up on June 24, 2020 by e-mail to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Ojibway Nation of the Saugeen. Hydro One notified Ojibway Nation of the Saugeen by e-mail on June 29, 2020 that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided to Ojibway Nation of Saugeen the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Ojibway Nation of Saugeen regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Saugeen indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One met with Chief Whitecloud of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on April 12, 2019, and shared Project information and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. A CIC was held in the community on July 15, 2019. In August 2019, Hydro One met with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation’s Band Manager and advisors to share Project information and answer questions related to procurement, environmental assessments, traditional knowledge and opportunities for employment. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community.</p> <p>In January 2020, Hydro One shared information regarding the Project. Hydro One met with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on February 6, 2020 to discuss the Project. Between February and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop. Hydro One met with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on March 2, 2020 to discuss the Capacity Funding Agreement and Corridor Workshop. The workshop, scheduled for mid-March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequent discussions followed regarding the Capacity Funding Agreement, which was revised by Lacs des Mille Lacs First Nation and shared with Hydro One in March 2020. Negotiations regarding the Capacity Funding Agreement were settled on March 26, 2020, and finalized on March 28, 2020. On March 30, 2020, Hydro One received a signed Capacity Funding Agreement. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. On April 28, 2020, Hydro One held a teleconference with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation to provide Project updates.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation (cont'd)</p>	<p>Hydro One shared a letter by e-mail with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on May 20, 2020, providing a Project update. During June 2020, e-mail correspondence between Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation and Hydro One included coordination of a virtual Corridor Workshop.</p> <p>On May 20, 2020, Hydro One shared a Project update via e-mail. On June 8, 2020, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. A follow-up e-mail was sent on June 24, 2020, to confirm the receipt of the documents. LDML confirmed via e-mail that the draft ToR was received.</p> <p>On June 25, 2020, Hydro One hosted a virtual Corridor Workshop with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation representatives. Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation representatives indicated that they were not prepared to provide feedback at the workshop and would provide it at a later date. Hydro One e-mailed Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on June 26, 2020, to request availability to discuss next steps from the Corridor Workshop.</p> <p>Hydro One informed Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on June 29, 2020, that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website. On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation with the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols.</p> <p>On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities. On September 1, 2020, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation e-mailed requesting that Hydro One to consider Sapawe Road as a potential alternative route. A follow-up call was held with Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation on September 3, 2020 to provide rationale for not including a route along Sapawe Road</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
	<p>as an alternative. An explanation was also provided via e-mail on September 4, 2020.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Lac Seul First Nation (GLP Member)</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Lac Seul First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One held early discussions with Lac Seul First Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. Additional correspondence was sent in summer 2019. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community. In November 2019, Hydro One participated in a meeting with members of the GLP, including Lac Seul First Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor Workshops in the communities.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Lac Seul First Nation regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop. The workshop, scheduled for late March 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. Subsequent discussions followed in April 2020 regarding the finalization of the Capacity Funding Agreement. Lac Seul First Nation e-mailed Hydro One and shared the signed final Capacity Funding Agreement on April 7, 2020.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Lac Seul First Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)</p>	<p>On June 8, 2020, Lac Seul First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made to discuss the document, EA process or the project should the community have questions. Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020, to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Lac Seul First Nation. Hydro One notified Lac Seul First Nation on June 29, 2020, that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Lac Seul First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Lac Seul First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>
<p>Lac La Croix First Nation (GLP Member)</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Lac La Croix First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Lac La Croix First Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)</p>	<p>Hydro One held early discussions with Lac La Croix First Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. A CIC was held on July 10, 2019. Hydro One met with Chief and Council on August 13, 2019, to discuss the Capacity Funding Agreement. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop with the community. In November 2019, Hydro One participated in a meeting with members of the GLP, including Lac La Croix First Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor Workshops in the communities.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Lac La Croix First Nation regarding the scheduling of a community workshop. Hydro One met with Lac La Croix First Nation on February 21, 2020, to discuss the Project and answer questions the community had. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. Hydro One received the signed Capacity Funding Agreement from Lac La Croix by e-mail on May 14th.</p> <p>On June 8, 2020, Lac La Croix First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made to discuss the document, EA process or the Project should the community have questions. Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020, to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Lac La Croix First Nation. Hydro One notified Lac La Croix First Nation on June 29, 2020, that the Draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Lac La Croix First Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)	<p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Lac La Croix First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Lac La Croix First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>
Seine River First Nation (GLP Member)	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Seine River First Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One held early discussions with Seine River First Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. On June 3, 2019, Hydro One held a meeting with Seine River First Nation Chief and Council to discuss the Project and draft Capacity Funding Agreement. Hydro One held CICs with Seine River First Nation on July 29 and August 21, 2019, to share Project information with community members. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop with the community. In September and November 2019, Hydro One participated in meetings with members of the GLP, including Seine River First Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor Workshops in the communities.</p> <p>In January 2020, Hydro One contacted Seine River First Nation regarding opportunities to schedule a Corridor Workshop. On April 6,</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Seine River First Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)	<p>2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. On April 17, 2020, Chief Boshkaykin of Seine River First Nation shared the signed Capacity Funding Agreement with Hydro One.</p> <p>On June 8, 2020, Seine River First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made to discuss the document, EA process or the project should the community have questions.</p> <p>Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020, to confirm the Draft ToR was delivered to Seine River First Nation. Hydro One notified Seine River First Nation on June 29, 2020, that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of Virtual CIC planned for July 30, 2020, via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Seine River First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Seine River First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (GLP Member)	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One held early discussions with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, Hydro One invited community representatives to the</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
	<p>Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation attended the workshop sessions as observers.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (GLP Member) (cont'd)</p>	<p>Additional correspondence was sent in summer 2019. On September 11, 2019, Hydro One sent an e-mail providing a general Project update and information, and a request to schedule a Corridor Workshop and CIC with the community. In September 2019, Hydro One participated in a meeting with members of the GLP, including Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, to provide a Project update, answer questions about the Capacity Funding Agreement and discuss the holding of Corridor Workshops in the communities.</p> <p>Between February and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop. The workshop, scheduled for early April 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A Capacity Funding Agreement was finalized in March 2020. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. On March 6, 2020, Hydro One received a signed Capacity Funding Agreement.</p> <p>On June 8, 2020, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made to discuss the document, EA process or the Project should the community have questions. Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020, to confirm the draft ToR was delivered to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. Hydro One notified Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation on June 29, 2020, that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Couchiching First Nation</p>	<p>Hydro One met with Couchiching First Nation on October 18, 2019 at the request of Chief Perrault. On December 4, 2019, Hydro One met with Chief Perrault regarding next steps for the Project and agreed to begin planning for a Corridor Workshop in 2020. On December 9, 2019, Hydro One received an e-mail from Couchiching First Nation asserting their interest in the Project.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, Hydro One corresponded with Couchiching First Nation regarding the Capacity Funding Agreement and scheduling of a Corridor Workshop and CIC. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. In May 2020, Hydro One contacted Couchiching First Nation by e-mail regarding the delegation of consultation and shared an updated copy of the Capacity Funding Agreement.</p> <p>On May 20, 2020, Hydro One shared a Project update via e-mail and requested their availability to discuss the Capacity Funding Agreement. On June 8, 2020, Couchiching First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. A follow-up e-mail to confirm the delivery of the draft ToR was sent on June 24, 2020. Hydro One thanked Couchiching First Nation by e-mail on June 24, 2020, for confirming the receipt of the draft ToR and requested confirmation of whether Couchiching First Nation had the opportunity to review the Capacity Funding Agreement.</p> <p>Hydro One informed Couchiching First Nation by e-mail on June 29, 2020 that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website. On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached.</p> <p>On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Couchiching First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Couchiching First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
	<p>would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Mitaanjigamiing First Nation</p>	<p>Hydro One met with Mitaanjigamiing First Nation Chief and Council on October 17, 2019 and provided a Project overview. Hydro One received a letter of interest and assertion on October 18, 2019. On October 22, 2019, Hydro One met with Chief and Council of Mitaanjigamiing First Nation to discuss the Project.</p> <p>Hydro One began planning a Corridor Workshop with Mitaanjigamiing First Nation in November 2019, which was held on December 10, 2019. Hydro One and Mitaanjigamiing First Nation agreed on holding a second corridor workshop which took place on January 22, 2020 and included members of the larger community.</p> <p>Between January and February 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Mitaanjigamiing First Nation regarding the Capacity Funding Agreement. A Capacity Funding Agreement was signed with Mitaanjigamiing First Nation on February 3, 2020. In late March 2020, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation e-mailed Hydro One to advise they were closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities during COVID-19.</p> <p>On May 20, 2020, Hydro One shared a Project update via e-mail. On June 8, 2020, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. A follow-up e-mail to confirm the delivery of these documents was made on June 24, 2020. Mitaanjigamiing First Nation confirmed receipt of the draft ToR by e-mail on the same day.</p> <p>Hydro One informed Mitaanjigamiing First Nation by e-mail on June 29, 2020 that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website. On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. Hydro One acknowledged Mitaanjigamiing First Nation’s e-mail response to the VIS e-mail on July 14, 2020.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Mitaanjigamiing First Nation (cont'd)</p>	<p>On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Mitaanjigamiing First Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols.</p> <p>On July 31, 2020, Trevor Boshey of Mitaanjigamiing First Nation e-mailed Hydro One to request a recording of the presentation from the July 30, 2020 VIS as he would like to show the presentation to the Chief and Council and other community members interested in the Project. Hydro One provided a copy of the audio recording, the presentation and provided the Project website link via e-mail on July 31, 2020.</p> <p>On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Mitaanjigamiing First Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities. On September 4, 2020, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation e-mailed Hydro One and stated that they would consult with their Chief and Council and consultation committee to see if they have any comments about ToR, and requested copies of Codes of Practice and MOU mentioned in the ToR. Hydro One provided the requested Codes of Practice.</p>
<p>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Red Sky Métis Independent Nation to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019.</p> <p>Hydro One held early discussions with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation in spring 2019 to present the Project and the draft Capacity Funding Agreement. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. In June 2019, an e-mail was sent inviting community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June in Thunder Bay. Hydro One met with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation in July 2019 to discuss the Capacity Funding Agreement. Hydro One received the signed Capacity Funding Agreement on August 8, 2019.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (cont'd)</p>	<p>Hydro One contacted Red Sky Métis Independent Nation in September 2019 to provide an update and discuss hosting a CIC and Corridor Workshop in the community. Hydro One met with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation in November 2019, to discuss hosting a workshop in the community. Red Sky Métis Independent Nation stated they would like to defer the workshop until January 2020.</p> <p>Between January and March 2020, correspondence was exchanged between Hydro One and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation regarding the scheduling of a Corridor Workshop. Red Sky Métis Independent Nation met with Hydro One on March 11, 2020, where they advised they would select March 24, 2020, as the tentative date for the workshop. The workshop was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. Red Sky Métis Independent Nation and Hydro One have agreed to look into alternative delivery methods for the Corridor Workshop. Ongoing communication between Hydro One and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation occurred throughout May 2020. A virtual Corridor Workshop was held on June 4, 2020.</p> <p>On May 20, 2020, Hydro One shared a Project update via e-mail. On June 8, 2020, Red Sky Métis Independent Nation was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. A follow-up e-mail to confirm the delivery of these documents was made on June 24, 2020. Red Sky Métis Independent Nation confirmed receipt of the draft ToR by e-mail on the same day.</p> <p>Hydro One informed Red Sky Métis Independent Nation by e-mail on June 29, 2020 that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website. On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail with the Notice attached. Hydro One acknowledged Red Sky Métis Independent Nation's e-mail response to the VIS e-mail on July 14, 2020.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (cont'd)	<p>On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to Red Sky Métis Independent Nation indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities. On September 4, 2020, Hydro One received an e-mail from Red Sky Metis Independent Nation stating that they did not have any comments on the draft ToR.</p>
Grand Council Treaty #3	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to Grand Council Treaty #3 to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement activities continued from January through to March 2019. A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs.</p> <p>Hydro One contacted Grand Council Treaty #3 in June 2019, to invite community representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in late June. The Territorial Planning Unit (TPU) Director attended and participated in the June workshops. On June 20, 2019, Hydro One met with Grand Council Treaty #3 communities to present information about the Project.</p> <p>On February 3, 2020, Hydro One met with the TPU Staff and Environmental Chiefs to provide Project information, discuss an MOU, a Capacity Funding Agreement, and next steps regarding meetings and consultation at the TPU/Environmental Chief Meeting to be held in Kenora. Hydro One remained in contact with Grand Council Treaty #3 between April and May 2020 regarding their questions and comments about the Capacity Funding Agreement. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. A Capacity Funding Agreement was signed with Grand Council Treaty #3 on June 2, 2020.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Grand Council Treaty #3 (cont'd)	<p>On June 8, 2020, Grand Council Treaty #3 was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and multiple copies of the Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. On June 15, 2020, Hydro One advised the Environmental Chiefs that the draft ToR would be provided at their June 22, 2020 meeting and on June 29, 2020, Hydro One advised Grand Council Treaty #3 that the draft ToR would be released to the public for review and posted on the Project website.</p> <p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One reached out to Grand Council Treaty #3 to inquire about the opportunity to schedule a meeting with the Environmental Chiefs. Grand Council Treaty #3 responding indicating a meeting request would be discussed in the near future between the Chiefs. Also on July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided a Notice of a planned VIS for the Project, planned for July 30, 2020. On July 29, 2020, Grand Council Treaty #3 informed Hydro One that they were internally discussing dates to arrange for a virtual meeting with the Project team. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One sent Grand Council Treaty #3 a shared letter via e-mail regarding engagement during COVID-19 and notification that in-person meetings could take place following appropriate health and safety protocols.</p> <p>On August 10, 2020 Grand Council Treaty #3 e-mailed Hydro One requesting an extension to the draft ToR review period. On August 17, 2020, Hydro One responded indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020. On September 10, 2020, Grand Council Treaty #3 provided comments to Hydro One on the draft ToR.</p>
Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership	<p>Seven First Nation communities have formed a partnership known as the GLP (formerly ITLP). The First Nations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eagle Lake First Nation; 2. Fort William First Nation; 3. Lac La Croix First Nation; 4. Lac Seul First Nation; 5. Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation; 6. Seine River First Nation; and, 7. Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (cont'd)</p>	<p>On January 17, 2020, Hydro One received a letter from the GLP communities to advise Hydro One not to proceed with corridor workshops until the GLP has been able to further organize. In February 2020, Hydro One received a proposed draft initial engagement agreement from OKT Law.</p> <p>Hydro One has corresponded with the GLP regarding the Capacity Funding Agreements and Project activities regularly. Regular meetings are held between Hydro One, Maawandoon and Pinchin Ltd. (GLP's environmental consultants) regarding the ToR, EA and IK. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding opportunities for continued engagement. On April 21, 2020, the GLP sent Hydro One a letter requesting that engagement activities be paused for the remainder of April and the month of May in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, hiring of Community Engagement Coordinators and working with the GLP consultants could continue. On May 27, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to the GLP providing an update on the draft ToR release and next steps, and to offer alternative engagement opportunities in response to COVID-19-related restrictions on holding in-person meetings.</p> <p>On June 7, 2020, the GLP sent a letter expressing that they did not support the proposed virtual engagement methods that would replace or supplement in-person meetings, and proposed that the start of the draft ToR review period be delayed. Hydro One responded to the GLP with a letter acknowledging their concerns with respect to consultation and engagement, and acknowledged that the review of the draft ToR may require additional time which would be accommodated. On June 8, 2020, GLP was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent a hard copy of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with a USB flash drive containing electronic copies of the documents. An offer was also made to discuss the document, EA process or the Project should GLP have questions. Hydro One followed up by e-mail on June 24, 2020, to confirm the draft ToR was delivered. Hydro One notified GLP on June 29, 2020, that the draft ToR would be released to the public and posted on the Project website.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (cont'd)</p>	<p>On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020, via e-mail with the Notice attached. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter via e-mail with GLP regarding engagement during COVID-19 and in-person meetings that could take place while following appropriate health and safety protocols. On August 6, 2020, GLP sent Hydro One a letter requesting the comment period for the draft ToR be extended to September 7, 2020. On August 14, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter to GLP indicating the draft ToR review period would be extended until September 7, 2020 for Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Comments on the draft ToR were received from GLP on September 7, 2020.</p>
<p>Métis Nation of Ontario Treaty #3, Rainy Lake/Rainy River & Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul (MNO Region 1) and MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territory (MNO Region 2)</p>	<p>In late 2018, Hydro One reached out to MNO to notify them that the Project was starting and requested an opportunity to meet with them ahead of the official Project start date. Hydro One attempted to schedule a meeting with MNO Region 1, but due to schedule conflicts a meeting did not occur during the Pre-Notice of Commencement engagement phase. Hydro One met with the MNO Region 2 Consultation Committee (CC) in February 2019. Hydro One also met with the MNO's Lands and Resource branch staff on April 08, 2019 to seek information about MNO's consultation protocols and provided an overview of the project and the siting process.</p> <p>A formal Notice of Commencement was provided on April 10, 2019, which included details of the Project and planned June 2019 CICs. Hydro One met with MNO Region 1 CC in Fort Frances in April 2019 and with MNO Region 2 CC in Thunder Bay in June 2019 to provide project overview, expected timelines and information about the siting process.</p> <p>In May 2019, Hydro One shared a draft Capacity Funding Agreement to the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch (in the absence of a Capacity Funding Agreement, Hydro One provided capacity funding on a case-by-case basis for all engagement undertaken until the time a Capacity Funding Agreement was executed with the MNO).</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Métis Nation of Ontario Treaty #3, Rainy Lake/Rainy River & Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul (MNO Region 1) and MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territory (MNO Region 2) (cont'd)</p>	<p>In June 2019, an e-mail was sent inviting representatives to the Corridor Workshops held in Thunder Bay in June. Hydro One agreed to the MNO hosting their own workshop sessions in three different locations (Atikokan on August 13, 2019, Dryden on August 14, 2019, and Thunder Bay on August 15, 2019). Hydro One presented Project information at the beginning of these sessions. The workshop portion of the session was facilitated by MNO and their consultant; Hydro One did not participate in the workshops at the request of MNO.</p> <p>In September 2019, MNO provided <i>MNO 101</i> training session to Hydro One staff. In October 2019, Hydro One was notified that MNO would not be prepared to participate in CICs by the end of 2019. In November 2019, MNO, with their consultant, undertook Valued Component Workshop sessions in Atikokan, Dryden and Thunder Bay. The purpose of this workshop was to provide input on the assessment criteria to be considered in the EA. Hydro One did not attend the workshop at MNO's request. In fall 2019, Hydro One and MNO continued to discuss the Capacity Funding Agreement, CICs, and a consultation work plan.</p> <p>In December 2019, Hydro One executed Information Sharing Agreements (ISA) with the MNO Region 1 CC and MNO Region 2 CC. Following the execution of the ISAs in December 2019, MNO shared the reports from MNO Region 1 and Region 2 corridor workshop sessions held in August 2019. On January 10, 2020, MNO sent Hydro One reports that described the results of the workshops that they held in November 2019.</p> <p>On February 10, 2020, Hydro One held a meeting with MNO Regional Councillors and legal counsel. CICs were scheduled for the week of April 20, 2020 in Thunder Bay, Dryden and Atikokan; however, these community engagement sessions were deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hydro One offered to undertake web-based, remote community sessions; however, MNO declined. On April 6, 2020, Hydro One sent a letter via e-mail regarding continued community engagement opportunities. In mid-April 2020, Hydro One undertook web-based Project update meetings with the MNO Region 1 CC and MNO Region 2 CC.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
<p>Métis Nation of Ontario Treaty #3, Rainy Lake/Rainy River & Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul (MNO Region 1) and MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territory (MNO Region 2) (cont'd)</p>	<p>Discussions pertaining to the establishment of a Capacity Funding Agreement continued through early 2020 and on April 28, 2020, Hydro One executed a Capacity Funding Agreement with the MNO.</p> <p>In May 2020, Hydro One sent MNO a report that described how the MNO transmission siting model inputs were considered and incorporated. A follow-up teleconference was then held with MNO and their consultant. On May 19, 2020, Hydro One shared a Project update via e-mail and inquired whether MNO would consider revisiting the offer for a virtual community meeting.</p> <p>On June 8, 2020, MNO was sent an e-mail with a link to the draft ToR, a checklist and Plain Language ToR Guide for review and comment. Hydro One also sent hard copies of the ToR and Record of Consultation, and Plain Language ToR Guide by mail with USB flash drives containing electronic copies of the documents. On June 9, 2020, MNO confirmed receipt of the draft ToR via e-mail.</p> <p>An e-mail was sent to the Regional Councillors on July 2, 2020, informing them of the notice of public release of the draft ToR. The notice was attached to the e-mail and Hydro One provided more information about the posting of the draft ToR on the Project website. On July 6, 2020, Hydro One provided the Notice of VIS planned for July 30, 2020 via e-mail to the Regional Councillors with the Notice attached. Hydro One re-sent the e-mail on July 7, 2020. MNO sent out a Project summary to MNO members in Regions 1 and 2 in July 2020. The update included the link to the Project website, as well as contact information for MNO Lands, Resources and Consultations staff for interested MNO members to follow-up with comments and inquiries. During July 2020, Hydro One and MNO corresponded about the availability to discuss the draft ToR.</p> <p>Hydro One had a meeting on July 22, 2020 with MNO Region 1 CC and Region 2 CC representatives and their consultant, MNP LLP, via Webex to discuss the draft ToR. A copy of the presentation was shared on the same day by e-mail. On July 30, 2020, Hydro One shared a letter by e-mail with the Regional Councillors of proposed on-going community engagement for the Project and protocols for in-person engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>



Indigenous Community	Summary of Engagement
Métis Nation of Ontario Treaty #3, Rainy Lake/Rainy River & Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul (MNO Region 1) and MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michipicoten Traditional Territory (MNO Region 2) (cont'd)	On August 10 a tele-meeting was held with MNO Regions 1 and 2. The focus of this meeting was for MNO and their consultants to provide a high-level summary of their comments on the draft ToR. MNO submitted their written comments on the draft ToR on August 13, 2020, which included a letter from their consultant dated August 10, 2020.

9.4.6 Summary of Indigenous Community Input Received prior to Draft ToR

As previously described, up to the release of the draft ToR in June 2020, Hydro One provided Indigenous communities many opportunities to learn about the Project and to be involved in the ToR development process. This section provides a summary of the input received up to the release of the draft ToR. It is noted that additional comments were received on the draft ToR, which are described in **Section 9.5**.

Through participation in the Corridor Workshops, some communities provided input on the types of features that are of value and importance to them which have been incorporated into the route siting model. Some communities and/or community members have expressed the need to avoid effects to specific types of lands/features which are considered to be of value. The MNO (Regions 1 and 2) also conducted their own internal workshops on the effects assessment criteria and submitted their report to Hydro One. This input was considered in the development of draft net effects criteria that are included in **Section 7.0**.

In addition to the inputs received on the siting model, meetings and discussions with Indigenous communities have provided opportunities to receive input. As previously described, Hydro One has held community meetings with several Indigenous communities to share information and provide updates on the Project. Community meetings have included presentations by Hydro One with opportunities for questions, answers and discussion throughout. Display boards and table maps were setup to introduce the Study Area (i.e., the RSSA).

Feedback has been gathered on multiple topics ranging from inquiries about Project timelines to sharing ideas about economic opportunities that could arise from the Project. **Table 9-7** provides a summary of the comments and questions received at community meetings to date.



Table 9-7: Summary of Comments Received at Indigenous Community Information Centres

Traditional Land and Resource Use
A community expressed that there are trap lines, medicines and berries that continue to be harvested within the study area.
Natural Environment
Some community members expressed the importance of water and shared concerns about impacts to the natural environment.
Socio-Economic
Some communities stated that they have experienced ongoing electricity capacity issues and loss of electricity from storms.
Community Impacts and Benefits
Interest in training and internship opportunities associated with the Project. Would like youth in their communities to be involved.
Communities expressed interest in learning more about opportunities that may be available for procurement from their community.
A community member asked how community members that own forestry blocks in the study area will be consulted.
Comments were made on previous annual compensation agreements made with other Projects, and interest was expressed to have similar agreements for this Project.
Community members expressed interest in how the Project may impact the existing cost of electricity bills.
Communities expressed interest in opportunities for contracts, funding, and employment.
Project Routing
Community members asked about the design of the new transmission line, and whether it would look similar to the existing lines.
Future Opportunities
Community members commented on the number of potential opportunities that could come from upgrades to being connected to the grid (e.g., renewable generation).



Community Engagement
Community members posed questions about the Terms of Reference development process, how the engagement process works and whether only individual community input is permitted or if multiple communities are allowed to work together.
First Nation community members inquired about Treaty Rights and how other groups, such as the Métis, fit into the Project.
Community members advised that it would be helpful to provide materials in local languages.

9.5 Draft Terms of Reference Release

Hydro One released the draft ToR for review from June 29 to August 14, 2020. Based on requests received, the review period was extended for Indigenous communities to September 7, 2020. The draft ToR was made available for download on the Project website and hard copies were provided to Indigenous communities and municipalities within the Study Area, as well as provincial and federal agencies and other interested stakeholders upon request. Due to ongoing public health concerns related to COVID-19, hard copies of the draft ToR were not provided for public review; however, USB flash drives containing the draft ToR and supporting documents were made available at the following locations throughout the Study Area for interested persons to access:

Atikokan Public Library
 214 Burns Street, Atikokan
 807-597-4406

Dryden Public Library
 36 Van Horne Avenue, Dryden
 807-223-1475

Oliver Paipoonge Public Library – Murillo Branch
 4569 Oliver Road, Murillo
 807-935-2729

Oliver Paipoonge Public Library – Rosslyn Branch
 3405 Rosslyn Road, Rosslyn
 807-939-2312

Ignace Public Library
 36 Main Street, Ignace
 807-934-2280



Shuniah Municipal Office
420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay
807-683-4545

The purpose of the draft ToR review period was to receive comments from Indigenous communities, government agencies and officials, and other interested persons on the ToR document. In addition to the release of the draft ToR, a Plain Language ToR Guide was also prepared and released. During the draft ToR review period, comments were received from:

Municipalities and Agencies

- City of Thunder Bay
- ECCC
- ENDM
- MECP
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- MHSTCI
- MNRF

Indigenous Communities

- GLP
- Red Sky Independent Métis Nation
- Grand Council Treaty #3
- MNO

Other Stakeholders

- Members of the public
- Treasury Metals

A full breakdown of comments received and responses provided can be found in Record of Consultation Appendix M-1 for municipalities and agencies, and Record of Consultation Appendix M-2 for Indigenous communities. Other stakeholder comments and responses on the draft ToR are provided in **Table 9-8**. A summary of the comments received on the draft ToR is provided below.

Municipalities and Agencies

The following provides a summary of key comments provided by agencies:



- Expectations regarding the Project details to be outlined in the EA including defining the location of all Project components, including access roads;
- Clarification on describing permanent and temporary Project facilities in the ToR and EA;
- The need for a tree clearing plan to be included in the EA;
- Expectations on EA field study plans prior to implementation;
- Question regarding ability to use existing ROW/structures;
- The need to describe net effects in the EA at the Project site level;
- Suggestions of other information sources, such as various management plans and Forest Management Plans, to be considered during the EA;
- The need to consider in the EA the effects of new access that may be created;
- Clarification on the need for land to upgrade existing transformer stations;
- Clarification on the rationale for identification of a single corridor/route in the section between the Kaministiquia River and Eva Lake, in particular around Shebandowan Lake;
- Use of land in the vicinity of the former Steep Rock Mine;
- Expectations on monitoring plans to be included in the EA;
- Noting of other permits or approvals that may be required for the Project and which should be referenced in the ToR;
- SAR studies to be conducted in the EA and support for potential permitting;
- The need to consider SAR habitat in the EA as well as the species themselves;
- Clarification in the ToR on information that will be considered in the route evaluation;
- Alternatives be considered to avoid impacts on provincial parks, enhanced management areas and conservation reserves; and,
- The need to consider in the EA mine hazard areas.

Indigenous Communities

The following provides a summary of some of the key comments made by First Nations, GLP and Grand Council Treaty #3:

- Request to include commitment in the ToR to engage with Indigenous communities throughout the life of the Project, including the involvement of Indigenous monitors; this is to include archaeological surveys and the desire to involve youth;
- Clarification in the ToR on the definition of the Project and Hydro One's role as the proponent;
- Request that the ToR be more clear on the types of field studies that will be undertaken;
- Noting the desire for contract opportunities during Project implementation;
- Noting that potential effects to the socio-economic environment can be influenced by effects to the natural environment;
- Comments on assessment criteria for consideration during the EA;



- The need for Indigenous communities to be involved in the finalization of the effects assessment criteria; and,
- The need for the EA to assess potential health risks.

The following provides a summary of some of the key comments made by the MNO:

- Request for clarity on the commitment that the EA will assess potential impacts on Section 35 rights and interests of the MNO and the need to include in the EA a description of these rights and interests;
- Comments on effects assessment criteria reflecting the interests of the MNO as provided in their submitted Corridor Workshop report;
- Expressing that Crown land is of key importance to Métis harvesters;
- The need to engage with the MNO to determine the potential for impacts on their rights and interests;
- The need for capacity funding to participate in the Project; and,
- The need to assess the effects of land used for temporary reasons during the Project life.

Other Stakeholders

A number of comments and questions were submitted by the public during the draft ToR review period. Most of these comments were submitted by land and residence owners that live along existing infrastructure corridors that the alternative routes run along and expressed concerns about impacts to their properties and the local natural environment from the development of a new transmission line. A summary of comments, questions and responses received from other stakeholders on the draft ToR are provided in **Table 9-8**. It is also noted that many concerns were received from landowners in the Lappe area to the west of Thunder Bay regarding the alternative route that follows an existing pipeline corridor.



Table 9-8: Other Stakeholder Comments, Questions and Responses on the Draft ToR

Comment Theme	Summary of Public Comment	Response
Need for the Project	Why is this project required? What is the main reason for it?	<p>Northwestern Ontario’s active mining and forestry operations are a driver of electricity growth in the region, and bulk system upgrades will be required to meet future electricity needs. As the forestry and mining sectors expand, and the communities that support them grow, increased electricity capacity is required. Once constructed, the Project will draw power from available generation resources throughout the province along with local generation resources to support future economic growth in those sub-regions. At times, it will also allow power export to the rest of the province when there is a surplus in local generation.</p> <p>Hydro One wants to be ready to support the continued growth of the region, which is why we are investing in the development work for the Project now; this includes completing an EA under the EA Act.</p>
Impacts to Property	Concerns regarding location of the new transmission line and impacts to property, adjacent buildings and property values.	A preferred route has not yet been selected. Impacts on property will be considered in the route evaluation process. All interested stakeholders, including property owners, will have the opportunity to provide input to the route selection process during the EA. Once a preferred route is identified, Hydro One will work with directly impacted land owners who may have a proposed structure or section of the corridor on their property.
Cost of Project	Question regarding the cost of the Project, who will pay for it and the potential for increased electricity rates.	Electricity rates are set by the IESO for the province. At this time, it is too early to know the cost to customers as Hydro One has been asked by the IESO to complete the development portion of this project only. Through the development activities undertaken by Hydro One, a cost estimation will be developed. Factors that will influence this include the preferred route, engineering design and schedule. Once the IESO determines an in-service date, the Ontario Energy Board will review and approve the construction cost through the Leave to Construct (Section 92 of the OEB Act) approval process.



Comment Theme	Summary of Public Comment	Response
Environmental Effects/ Impacts on wildlife	Concerns regarding impacts to the environment including waterways particularly during construction.	The alternative routes identified give consideration to potential effects on sensitive natural features. The protection of natural features has been identified as a priority by Indigenous communities, members of the public, and project stakeholders to date. During the EA, Hydro One will endeavor to select a preferred route with the least overall effects to the environment, including those to wildlife. Potential effects of the new transmission line and other required project components will be assessed, and mitigation measures will be identified to avoid or minimize any negative effects to the environment.
EMF	Concerns of potential EMF effects from my property/home being close to the transmission line.	A number of reputable scientific organizations around the world have concluded that scientific research does not demonstrate that electric and magnetic fields cause or contribute to adverse health effects. Hydro One looks to Health Canada to provide guidelines on exposure to EMF, and Hydro One designs its transmission lines to respect EMF exposure guidelines as established by international experts and organizations. Further resources can be found at: www.hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety/corporate-health-and-safety/electric-and-magnetic-fields . Hydro One will consider EMF during the EA as part of the preferred route effects assessment and during the design of the transmission line. Members of the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft EA during its review and comment period.
Temporary Access	Concerns with effects from construction access roads on private property.	New or improved access roads may be required to construct the project. If private property is required for access, a real estate coordinator would reach out to all impacted landowners in advance
Public Engagement	Indicated support for virtual engagement, such as the VIS, that was held in July.	Hydro One appreciated the feedback regarding the VIS and support for possible future virtual engagement. Similar virtual events will be planned during the EA phase should COVID-19 related meeting restrictions continue.
Atikokan Generating Station	What will the Atikokan Generating Station's role be during this?	The Atikokan Generating Station will be ending its contract in 2024. There are ongoing discussions with regards to provincial capacity needs and various forums that play in terms of resource adequacy needs with competitive approaches. Hydro One will monitor the discussions on the needs in the area and required timing of the line construction.



Comment Theme	Summary of Public Comment	Response
Project Construction/ Employment	Will the project be constructed by Hydro One? Will the people be hired locally?	<p>Hydro One is currently undertaking development work for this line, which will include developing preliminary project execution plans. By tapping into local resources, including employees and locally sourced equipment, Hydro One is committed to addressing the future infrastructure needs of northern Ontario, while supporting local economic growth.</p> <p>Hydro One is in the process of delivering a training program to interested Indigenous communities that is intended to develop local Indigenous communities' skills and capacity in northwestern Ontario in support of the EA.</p> <p>In addition, Hydro One is looking at broader local training and labour opportunities for other stages of the project for both Indigenous communities and the public. It is a priority for Hydro One to support the local labour market by building capacity in the region, not just creating a job.</p>
Visual Impacts	Concerned with visual effects of the transmission line from nearby lakes.	As part of the EA, the potential for visual impacts will be considered including in the selection of the preferred route.



10.0 Environmental Assessment Consultation Plan

This section describes Hydro One’s proposed EA consultation plan. Several documents were considered in developing this consultation plan, including Section 5.1 of the EA Act, the Code of Practice for Consultation in Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Process (MECP 2014b) and Code of Practice on Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP 2014a). In addition, this plan was informed by input received to date as part of the ToR development from Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations.

While this plan lays out a proposed framework for engagement and consultation during the EA, it is to be considered a “living document” and thus subject to change based on ongoing consultation efforts and feedback, as well as future consultation efforts to be completed as part of the EA. Feedback and comment on this consultation plan is encouraged as it will be incorporated into the EA.

It is also acknowledged that there may be a need to further tailor and update this plan to meet individual Indigenous community needs, including how communities wish to be engaged. It is anticipated that ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities will result in additional guidance and information on this and will be incorporated herein.

The term “engagement” is used in this plan to represent activities Hydro One will undertake to inform and receive input from Indigenous communities. These activities may contribute to the consultation activities that the Crown may undertake to fulfill its “Duty to Consult” obligations. Activities undertaken with participating Indigenous communities that Hydro One has already carried out, and will continue to be carrying out, to fulfill the requirements of the provincial EA process will adhere to the MECP’s expectations for Indigenous community consultation as described in the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014). These activities have included, and will continue to include, relationship-building activities that extend beyond the procedural requirements of consultation, as described in the Code of Practice, and are therefore called “engagement” activities.



Given the unique interests of the various persons to be engaged during the EA, this plan includes, 1) a Stakeholder Consultation Plan (e.g., government officials and agencies, and other interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and landowners) (**Section 10.2**), and, 2) an Indigenous Community Engagement Plan (**Section 10.4**). The Indigenous Community Engagement Plan includes the engagement of both First Nations and Métis nations and communities. For information related to the collection of IK, please refer to **Section 4.2.3.6**.

10.1 Purpose of the Environmental Assessment Consultation Plan

Hydro One is fully committed to working and consulting with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, in a manner that is open and honest, clear, accessible (e.g., provide information in an easy to understand format) and mutually respectful throughout the Project.

Under the EA Act, consultation is required as part of an EA. The purpose of consultation, as noted in the MECP's Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (MECP, 2014b), is to:

- Provide information to the public;
- Identify persons and Indigenous communities who may be affected by, or have an interest in, the undertaking;
- Ensure that government agencies and ministries are notified and consulted early in the EA process;
- Identify concerns that might arise from the undertaking;
- Create an opportunity to develop proponent commitments in response to local input;
- Focus on and address real public concerns rather than regulatory procedures and administration;
- Provide appropriate information to the ministry to enable a fair and balanced decision; and,
- Expedite decision-making.

Based on the above, the purpose of this consultation plan is to provide the framework for how consultation with government officials and agencies, and other interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and landowners, will take place and how Indigenous communities will be engaged with during the EA. Specifically, the plan covers the following:

- Methods that will be used to consult with government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and landowners, and Indigenous communities during the EA;



- How input is expected to be obtained;
- General timing of key consultation milestones;
- Identification of a strategy for documentation and issues resolution; and,
- Identification of a strategy for monitoring the effectiveness of the consultation program during the EA and making changes to it as new information becomes available.

10.2 Stakeholder Consultation Plan

Community engagement and consultation is of utmost importance to Hydro One. Hydro One will be transparent, proactive, and engage in two-way communication with potentially affected individuals and/or organizations and welcomes collaborative consultation relationships. This EA Stakeholder Consultation Plan focuses on consultation activities related to potentially interested and/or affected government officials and agencies, and other interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and landowners, with the objectives to:

- Create an understanding and general awareness of the Project, and provide ongoing online and in-person opportunities for interested parties to learn about the Project and provide meaningful input;
- Gather input and respond to inquiries or concerns, and provide full and fair consideration and documentation of the input received during the consultation process and incorporation of such input, where feasible, into Project decision-making;
- Learn about community interests and perspectives; and,
- Better understand how the Project may affect stakeholders so that potential effects can be addressed and minimized, as feasible.

This EA Stakeholder Consultation Plan was designed to align, and integrate, with consultation activities and the main steps of the EA process (**Table 10-1**). Hydro One acknowledges there may be a need to refine this based on any comments and/or feedback received during the EA process. More detail is provided in **Section 10.3.11**.



Table 10-1: Overview of the EA Regulatory Process and High-Level Consultation Activities

Regulatory Process*	Consultation Activities
EA Initiated – 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Commencement of EA published, mailed, and posted to website.
EA Prepared – 2021 to 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing meetings with government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. • Notice of CIC Round #1 published, mailed and posted to website (potentially combined with the Notice of Commencement of EA). • CIC Round #1 – Present methods for the evaluation of alternative routes, planned field studies, and proposed study areas and criteria and indicators. • Notice of CIC Round #2 published, mailed and posted to website. • CIC Round #2 – Present results of field studies, route selection evaluation and results, preferred route, effects assessment and mitigation measures for the preferred route, preliminary construction activities and commitments and monitoring.
Draft EA Report Review – 2022/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Submission of Draft EA Report (review) published, mailed, and posted to website. • Draft EA Report distributed for review, including viewing locations and posted on website.
Final EA Report Submission and Review – 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of intent to submit Final EA Report to the MECP and submission of the EA Summary Form. • Notice of Submission of Final EA Report (review) published, mailed and posted to website. • Final EA Report distributed for review, including viewing locations and posted on website. • Minimum seven-week public comment period.
MECP EA Report Review – 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECP review taking into account any comments received during the comment period. • Hydro One to respond to any comments on the EA Report as submitted by MECP.
Notice of Completion and Inspection of Ministry Review – 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Completion published, mailed, and posted on website. • Five-week MECP inspection and public comment and hearing request period. Additional MECP inspection to be held, as required.
Final MECP Evaluation and Minister’s Decision and Lieutenant Governor in Council Approval and Decision Notification – 2023/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of approval issued and posted on the MECP website. • Thirteen-week MECP decision period.

* Timelines provided are approximate, subject to change and will be further reviewed with MECP at the onset of the EA. The last three steps in this table would typically be led by MECP; however, Hydro One will assist with some aspects, such as notice circulations to the Project Contact List.





10.2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Hydro One has identified stakeholders who may have an interest in the Project as part of the development of the ToR, and will continue to consult with them in a manner that is respectful of their needs and anticipated level of interest. The following stakeholders are anticipated to be consulted as part of the EA process:

- Any member of the public with an interest in the Project;
- Residents, or landowners, potentially affected along the alternative routes to be considered in the EA;
- Local municipalities that the alternatives routes may pass through;
- Any government official (e.g., elected representatives) or agency with an interest in the Project; and,
- Any other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses, such as mining and forestry operators, mining claim holders, non-government organizations, baitfish operations, bear management operations, tourism establishments, recreational users, etc.) with a potential interest in the Project.

A Project Contact List has also been developed as part of the work being undertaken for the ToR phase and this list will form the basis for consultation outreach made during the EA and will be updated on an ongoing basis.

The specific engagement and consultation activities related to these stakeholders are described in **Section 10.3**.

10.2.1.1 Government Officials and Agencies

Government officials and agencies anticipated to be included in consultation as part of the EA are expected to be similar if not the same as those included as part of the ToR, including the Government Review Team and local municipalities. The Government Review Team will be provided the opportunity to provide comment and advice during the EA for topics that fall within their mandated areas of responsibility.

If additional government agencies or officials come forward during the EA, they will be added to the Project Contact List.

Government agencies, including the Government Review Team, will be included in applicable project-related circulations, including statutory notices. It is anticipated that agencies with a regulatory role or Project interest will review and provide comment on the draft and/or final EA Report. As well, meetings and conference calls may be held during the EA to discuss any issues or



concerns that may arise and to provide ongoing guidance on regulatory requirements and expectations. As an example, it is expected that meetings with the MNRF and the MECP will be held on the natural environment field study program to receive their input in advance of the field program being implemented.

10.2.1.2 **Interested Persons, Organizations and Other Stakeholders**

A list of interested persons (e.g., members of the public, landowners), organizations and other stakeholders was developed during the ToR phase and will be updated during the EA. Key stakeholders will include those who have potential to be directly affected by the Project, such as landowners.

Members of the public may request to be included in consultation through the various communication tools, such as the Project website, Hydro One's Community Relations phone line and e-mail, or by attending and signing into public CIC events. These individuals will be added to the Project Contact List on an ongoing basis during the EA and remaining portion of the ToR phase, as requested.

Other stakeholders may include interested individuals and/or groups with potential commercial interests related to trapping, baitfish operations, bear management operations, outfitting, forestry, or mineral tenure, or recreational users like hunters, campers or snowmobilers. Several of these individuals/organizations have been contacted as part of the ToR and consultation will be ongoing throughout the EA.

The Project Contact List that was developed during the ToR phase will continue to be updated throughout the EA and will be the main tool for documenting those with an interest in the Project.

10.3 **Anticipated Consultation and Engagement Activities**

The following activities are proposed to facilitate a two-way exchange of information throughout the EA with government officials and agencies, and other interested persons and organizations, including members of the public and landowners.

The key consultation related milestones anticipated as part of the EA that will guide overall engagement efforts include the following:

- Notice of Commencement of the EA;
- Notice of EA CIC Round #1 (potentially combined with the Notice of Commencement of the EA);



- EA CIC Round #1 (present planned field studies, methods for the evaluation of alternatives, proposed study areas, and criteria and indicators);
- Ongoing discussions with and presentations to interested municipal councils;
- Ongoing meetings, discussions and newsletters related to comparative route evaluation and effects assessment, including possible workshops to support alternative route evaluation;
- Notice of EA CIC Round #2;
- EA CIC Round #2 (present results of field studies, effects assessment, mitigation measures, monitoring program);
- Notice of Submission of Draft EA Report (submission of Draft EA Report for review and comment); and,
- Notice of Submission of Final/Proposed EA Report (submission of Final EA Report for review and comment).

Depending on the public health situation, virtual components will be considered for all public consultation activities.

The following sections provide a description of the main consultation tools and activities to be completed as part of the EA. A more detailed breakdown is provided in **Section 10.3.11**.

10.3.1 Statutory Project Notices

Statutory public notices will be published in local newspapers that cover the alternative routes during the EA. Notices will comply with the requirements in the MECP's Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (2014a).

A total of five notices are anticipated as part of the EA, including a Notice of Commencement of the EA, Notice of EA CIC Round #1 (potentially combined with Notice of Commencement of the EA); Notice of EA CIC Round #2; Notice of Submission of Draft EA Review; and, Notice of Submission of Proposed EA.

The newspapers to be used for advertising the notice include:

- Atikokan Progress;
- Fort Frances Times;
- Wawatay News;
- Thunder Bay Chronicle; and,
- Thunder Bay Source.



Other local print, radio and/or electronic media, including use of social media, may be identified and used during the EA. Notices will also be distributed via Canada Post to residents and businesses in the Study Area, and/or e-mailed to the Project Contact List, including directly affected landowners, once determined. French language materials will also be available, if requested.

10.3.2 Project Website

A dedicated website, www.HydroOne.ca/Waasigan, was created during the development of the ToR and will continue to be used during the EA. The website provides the most up-to-date information and mapping, and details on opportunities for review and comment.

Similar to the ToR phase, applicable Project-related notices, updates, newsletters/information sheets, maps, CIC display panels, and Project contact information will be uploaded in a timely manner. Usage of the website will be tracked to monitor its effectiveness.

10.3.3 Project E-mail

Hydro One's Community Relations e-mail (Community.Relations@HydroOne.com) was used during the development of the ToR and will continue to be used during the EA. Messages and comments received will continue to be reviewed regularly and forwarded to relevant members of the Project team for appropriate action. Project-related comments and inquires made through e-mail will be documented in the Record of Consultation.

10.3.4 Community Relations Project Phone Line

Hydro One's Community Relations toll-free phone line, 1-877-345-6799, was advertised throughout the development of the ToR. This number will remain active during the EA. The phone line will continue to be monitored during regular business hours throughout the EA and any Project-related comments and inquires made to the phone line will be forwarded to the relevant individuals within Hydro One for appropriate action and documented accordingly.

10.3.5 Information Sheets and Newsletters

Project information sheets and newsletters will be created at key decision points and will provide information about the EA process. Information sheets will be available in print form at CICs and available to download on the Project website. Information sheets and newsletters may also be distributed to the Project Contact List and residents within the Project area, and are generally expected to align with the issuance of the statutory notices.



10.3.6 Presentations and Meetings

Hydro One met with municipal staff and elected officials of all applicable municipalities, as well as government agencies, as part of the development of the ToR and intends to continue during the EA. Information received will be incorporated into Project planning, as relevant.

During the EA phase, Hydro One will offer to present to all applicable municipal Councils, including the City of Thunder Bay, Municipality of Shuniah, Township of Conmee, Township of O'Connor, Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge, Town of Atikokan, Township of Ignace, and the City of Dryden. These presentations will provide updates on the Project and provide the opportunity for municipalities to provide feedback.

In addition, Hydro One is committed to engaging with relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the following who were met with as part of the ToR phase: Confederation College, Lakehead University, Ontario Mining Association, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission and Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association board.

Hydro One is planning to establish a Community Roundtable for the Project to ensure a continuous feedback loop between Hydro One and municipal officials and staff, industry, businesses, educational institutions, and Indigenous communities throughout all stages of the Project. Members of the Community Roundtable will act in an advisory capacity to Hydro One to ensure that local developments, knowledge, interests and values are considered throughout the various stages of the project.

Hydro One will also consider requests for meetings and/or presentations from other stakeholders, including affected landowners or those with interests related to mining and/or mineral exploration, forestry operations, trappers, outfitters, recreationalists and others.

10.3.7 Land Agents

Hydro One will make available a team of land agents that will provide personal, one-window contact with directly affected landowners and tenants. Hydro One will aim to be as responsive as possible to landowner and tenant needs. Land agents will be familiar with the Project and overall approval process so that they can respond to specific questions. It is expected that these land agents will continue to work with affected landowners post-EA (as applicable), during the Leave to Construct process, construction, and reclamation phases of the Project. French speaking individuals will also be made available, as needed.



10.3.8 Community Information Centres

Two rounds of in-person CICs (or VISs depending on the circumstances) are expected to be held during the EA in the same locations as those held as part of the development of the ToR, including in the City of Thunder Bay, Kakabeka Falls (Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge), Township of Ignace, Town of Atikokan, and the City of Dryden. The CICs are expected to be advertised through the same means and methods as completed as part of the ToR, including notice publications in local newspapers, direct mail and unaddressed Canada Post Admail, and e-mail invitations.

The purpose of the CICs will be to provide a forum for anyone interested in the Project to learn more about it, provide feedback and ask questions of the Project team. The format will depend largely on the public health situation at that time. Information presented will be made available on the Project website in a timely manner.

Anticipated discussion topics for each round of CICs are expected to be as follows:

- EA CIC Round #1 – Present the planned field studies, study areas, methods for the evaluation of alternatives, including proposed criteria and indicators; and,
- EA CIC Round #2 – Present the results of the assessment, including identification of the preferred route, results of the field studies, effects and related recommended mitigation, and monitoring commitments.

The number and location of venues for the CICs to be held during the EA may be revisited based on the level of participation and feedback received.

CIC attendees will have the opportunity to submit comment forms either in-person or directly to Hydro One via e-mail or mail. Verbal comments received at the CICs will be documented and attendees will be encouraged to submit written feedback, such as completing comment forms.

10.3.9 Review of Draft and Final EA Report

The draft and final EA reports will be made available for review and notice will be advertised and distributed to those on the Project Contact List. The documents will be made available for review on the Project website and, depending on the public health situation at that time, USB flash drives and/or hard copies may be available for review at selected public locations. Report copies will also be provided to applicable members of the Government Review Team. Comments on the reports are anticipated to be accepted via phone, e-mail, and mail.



Comments received on the draft EA Report will be incorporated into the final EA Report (as applicable) that will be prepared for submission to the MECP and a Notice of Submission will be advertised and distributed to those on the Project Contact List. A formal review period of the final EA Report will commence at that time providing a second review period and opportunity to submit comments to the MECP. Copies will be made available in a similar manner as the draft review process.

10.3.10 Record of Consultation

Similar to the ToR phase, a Record of Consultation will be developed to document consultation efforts during the EA. The Record of Consultation will document the same type of information as completed during the ToR and will be submitted as a supporting document to the EA Report. The Record of Consultation will document all consultation events, including CICs, meetings and conference calls, incoming and outgoing communication, and will provide an overview of the comments received, Project team responses and, if applicable, how the comment was considered in the EA.

Hydro One will develop an issues resolution strategy for the EA. Consultation and engagement with the various stakeholders is expected to be ongoing throughout the EA and into the Project implementation phase. All communications and issues will be documented and tracked in the Project consultation software tracker. All comments and input received from government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, will be documented in a summary table and included in the EA document as part of the Record of Consultation. The summary table will provide a response to each issue and how the issue was addressed. Where resolution of issues has not been possible, this will be noted along with a record of all attempts to resolve the issue. The Project consultation software will continue to be used throughout the EA to document all Project communications. The EA will also include a consultation summary and a detailed record of comments received, and how Hydro One proposes to reasonably address any issues raised, how the relevant community/individual proposes to address it, the extent to which Hydro One and such community/individual agree on how to address the issue, and any measures taken to date to address the issue.

10.3.11 Summary of Stakeholder Consultation Activities

Table 10-2 provides an outline of the anticipated consultation activities, milestones and general timing for the public and stakeholders. We note that these activities, and in particular the estimated timing, is subject to change based on new information received, and Hydro One and provincial priorities.



Table 10-2: Stakeholder Consultation – Anticipated Milestones, Activities, Input and Timing

EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Consultation Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Notice of Commencement of EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise that the EA has started Provide introductory information on the Project, and EA process May provide invitation to CICs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Commencement of EA Post notice to website Distribute notice to contact list E-mail notifications Discussions with government officials and agencies and interested persons and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General questions about the Project, EA process and approach to consultation and engagement Level of interest in providing comment and in participating in the engagement and consultation process 	Winter/Spring Summer 2021
Baseline Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request input on study area and baseline data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with government officials and agencies and interested persons and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input related to: baseline studies to be completed and available data that can be integrated into the EA Key values, resources, and species of importance 	2020-2022
Approach to the Evaluation of Alternatives, including Confirmation of Study Areas, and Criteria/Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information related to the evaluation and receive feedback on the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA CIC Round #1 Publish Notice of CIC (may be combined with Notice of Commencement of EA) Post notice to website Circulate notice and letters to Contact List Newsletters and e-mail notifications Discussions with government officials and agencies and interested persons and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and information related to the approach to the evaluation of alternative routes, study areas and criteria/indicators for confirmation 	Winter/Spring Summer/Fall 2021



EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Consultation Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Alternatives Evaluation and Identification of Preferred Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information related to the evaluation and receive input on the Preferred Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post notice to website Circulate notice and letters to Contact List Newsletters and e-mail notifications Routing workshops with government officials and agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and information related to the identification and selection of the Preferred Route 	Spring Summer- Fall 2021
Results of baseline field studies, Effects Assessment, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information related to the results of the field studies, effects assessment process, mitigation measures and monitoring program for the Preferred Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA CIC Round #2 Publish Notice of CIC Discussions with government officials and agencies and interested persons and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and information related to the effects assessment, proposed mitigation measures and monitoring program 	Fall 2021 – Fall 2022
Review of Draft EA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity to review the draft EA Report prior to it being finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Draft EA Report Post notice and report to website Circulate notice and letters to Contact List Newsletters and e-mail notifications Make draft EA Report available on Project website and, if possible, at public review locations Make follow-up calls to recipients of draft EA Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive input and comment on draft EA Report 	Winter 2022 –2023



EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Consultation Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Review of Final EA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity to review the final EA Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Submission of EA Post notice and report to website Circulate notice and letters to Contact List Newsletters and e-mail notifications Make final EA Report available at public review locations Ministry review and inspection Final Ministry evaluation and decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input and comment on final EA Report submitted to MECP 	2023/2024

10.4 Indigenous Community Engagement Plan

The following sections describe the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan to be followed during the EA. As previously noted, the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan includes the engagement of both First Nations and Métis nations and communities. Hydro One will provide engagement opportunities for, and work with, potentially affected Indigenous communities as identified by the Crown or that have otherwise asserted their rights or expressed interest in the Project (or effects of the Project).

This engagement plan will be updated as necessary throughout the EA, and as new information becomes available, including input from Indigenous communities as the plan is implemented. Engagement activities during the EA will comply with the COVID-19 protocols and restrictions of each community. [Further, Hydro One is actively working with Indigenous communities to develop alternative methods for engagement throughout the EA process. Hydro One commits to continue to work with each Indigenous community throughout the EA to understand and adapt to community-specific COVID-19 limitations.](#)

The term “engagement” is used in this plan to represent activities that Hydro One will undertake to inform and receive input from Indigenous communities. These activities may contribute to the consultation activities that the Crown may undertake to fulfill its “Duty to Consult” obligations. Activities undertaken with participating Indigenous communities that Hydro One has already carried out, and will continue to carry out, to fulfill the requirements of the provincial EA process



will adhere to the MECP's expectations for Indigenous community consultation as described in the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014). These activities have included, and will continue to include, relationship-building activities that extend beyond the procedural requirements of consultation, as described in the Code of Practice, and are therefore called "engagement" activities.

Based on the above, this plan outlines how Hydro One intends to carry out its consultation responsibilities as described in the MOU with the ENDM through the delegation of procedural aspects of consultation. In addition, this plan is also intended to accommodate consultation requirements as required by legislation or policy, including those contained in the EA Act, the applicable policies and Codes of Practice issued by MECP and Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy. Hydro One will advise the appropriate Crown representatives and agencies of the results of engagement with Indigenous communities during the EA and will work cooperatively with all involved to reach appropriate solutions.

Hydro One intends to engage with identified and interested Indigenous communities (**Section 10.4.1**) during the EA in a manner that is respectful, transparent, and provides opportunities for meaningful input. It is the intent of Hydro One to provide a sufficient amount of information that will allow communities to identify any potential concerns and/or issues, and to work with them to develop measures to avoid, eliminate or mitigate any adverse effects upon their interests and rights.

This plan establishes a process that will be continually enhanced and updated as more information becomes available during the remaining ToR phase and future EA. Hydro One will work with Indigenous communities during the EA to collectively identify and consider any potential concerns and/or issues raised by any of the communities. The intent of Hydro One is to provide Indigenous communities with an opportunity to provide meaningful input into the EA. Hydro One will engage Indigenous communities and organizations at a level consistent with their anticipated level of interest in the Project and potential for effects. Hydro One anticipates a fluid and collaborative process requiring both parties to engage in honesty and in good faith with a view to achieving an optimal outcome for both sides.

Hydro One understands and recognizes that the amount and type of engagement may vary by Indigenous community and is likely to evolve during the EA through ongoing meetings and discussion that will provide further insight into how each community would like to be engaged and consulted during the EA (e.g., Indigenous community-specific engagement plans). As such, this plan is to be considered a "living document" and any guidance or comment on its contents



provided by Indigenous communities at any point during the remaining portion of the ToR phase or future EA will be considered and incorporated, as applicable.

Hydro One's guiding principles for engaging the identified Indigenous communities include the following:

- *Working with and Understanding the Indigenous Communities* - Hydro One will collaborate with Indigenous communities to better understand their rights and asserted rights as well as their concerns for the people affected by work in the areas where Hydro One may operate. Hydro One will show respect for traditional ways and land, cultural heritage resources, the environment, and traditional knowledge.
- *Commitment to Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy* - Hydro One will follow internal policies with respect to working with Indigenous communities. Hydro One's Indigenous Relations Policy is available for review online at (**Appendix F**):
<https://www.hydroone.com/abouthydroone/indigenousrelations/Documents/Hydro%20One%20Indigenous%20Relations%20Policy.pdf>
- *Open, Transparent and Respectful Communication* - Hydro One will act and encourage open dialogue and communication on Project events and details, and be attentive and responsive to Indigenous community concerns.

10.4.1 Indigenous Communities to be Engaged

The Crown has a Duty to Consult, and where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous communities whenever a Crown decision or activity could impact established or asserted Indigenous and treaty rights. Procedural aspects of the Crown's Duty to Consult Indigenous communities can be delegated by the Crown to proponents including Hydro One. If the Crown has determined that consultation is required with respect to the Project, then the Crown will:

- Advise Hydro One in a timely manner of the Indigenous communities to be consulted and the depth of necessary consultation with respect to each community;
- Notify the identified Indigenous communities it has delegated procedural aspects of consultation on the Project to Hydro One; and,
- Undertake any preliminary and ongoing assessment of the depth of consultation required for each identified Indigenous community.

The ENDM delegated the procedural aspects of the Crown's Duty to Consult to Hydro One via a letter dated October 25, 2018 (and follow-up letter dated April 15, 2020) (letters included in the Record of Consultation). A follow-up letter was received from the ENDM, dated April 15, 2020, as an amendment to the original letter identifying two additional Indigenous communities that



have, or may have, constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely affected by the Project. ENDM determined Hydro One's proposed Waasigan Transmission Line may have the potential to affect First Nation and Métis nations/communities who hold or claim protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. Procedural aspects of consultation, roles and responsibilities of the Crown and Hydro One, and communication and coordination mechanisms are formalized through a MOU between the Crown (represented by ENDM) and Hydro One dated September 8, 2016.

The list of communities identified in these two letters includes the following:

- Eagle Lake First Nation;
- Fort William First Nation;
- Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation;
- Ojibway Nation of the Saugeen;
- Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation;
- Lac La Croix First Nation;
- Lac Seul First Nation;
- Seine River First Nation;
- Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation
- MNO Atikokan Métis Council;
- MNO Northwest Métis Council;
- MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council;
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation;
- Mitaanjigamiing First Nation; and,
- Couchiching First Nation.

In addition, the Crown (ENDM) also requested that Hydro One copy Grand Council Treaty #3 and the MNO head office on correspondence.

Also, while not listed in the October 25, 2018 letter, other Indigenous communities asserted their rights on the Project and will also be included as part of engagement for the Project:

- MNO Sunset Country Métis Council;
- MNO Kenora Métis Council;
- MNO Greenstone Métis Council; and,
- MNO North Superior Métis Council.



Hydro One is committed to engaging and consulting with these identified Indigenous communities and to developing collaborative working relationships with each of these groups through the EA process and until the Project in-service date and beyond. Should additional Indigenous communities come forward and assert their rights with regards to the Project, Hydro One will engage them and also notify ENDM of the assertion.

Further to the above and as previously noted, at the time of preparing this ToR, some First Nation communities organized a commercial entity called the GLP. The GLP is a partnership of seven First Nations which was formed to facilitate discussions around engagement and participation related to the Project. At the time of the release of this ToR, the GLP is made up of the following First Nations communities: Eagle Lake First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Seine River First Nation, and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.

10.4.2 Proposed Approach to Indigenous Engagement

A project of this type may operate for a long period of time and thus it is Hydro One's intention to engage Indigenous communities based on foundations of respect, cooperation and open communication on a long-term basis with the intent of building mutually beneficial relationships.

Hydro One is currently engaging with the Indigenous communities identified above as part of the ToR preparation and will continue to do so during the EA, as per the level of interest expressed. Communities will be provided with information, and will be engaged in a direct dialogue, in order to allow both Hydro One and each Indigenous community to understand the potential effects (if any) of the Project on any Aboriginal and Treaty rights or interests. The results of the engagement activities and feedback received will be documented in the EA Record of Consultation as described in **Section 10.4.5**.

As engagement is completed as part of the ToR and future EA, Hydro One expects that some Indigenous communities will take greater interest in the Project than others, and seek more engagement, or potentially accommodation, and this is typically dependent on several factors, including those described below:

- *Proximity to the Project* - this can be especially true of long linear projects which are expected to have minimal, if any, potential effects to air, water or migratory species beyond the very narrow Project Footprint.
- *Rights Claims of Indigenous Community* - Hydro One would expect those Indigenous communities with outstanding claims related to the Project area to seek deeper engagement.



- *Expressed Interest of the Indigenous Community* - this may be expressed in meetings or in writing by an Indigenous community during the consultation process, or it may be a factor taken into account in an Indigenous community's consultation protocol or similar type of document.
- *Work Completed as Part of the EA* - during the EA, further information will be gained about Indigenous rights, interests and traditional uses in the Project area, as well as the potential effects of the Project.

Hydro One's process for Indigenous engagement is designed to provide information on the Project to the Indigenous communities in a timely manner. Hydro One will respond to and address issues, concerns and questions raised by the Indigenous communities in a clear and transparent manner throughout the completion of the regulatory approval processes (e.g., the EA process). The engagement process with Indigenous communities will focus on the following objectives:

- To provide opportunities for information sharing between Hydro One and potentially affected Indigenous communities as identified by the Crown, or others that have asserted their rights, including information about the Project and associated review and regulatory processes;
- To identify the potential adverse effects of the Project upon Section 35 rights;
- To identify the potential adverse effects of the Project upon other interests, including social, environmental, economic, health and culture; and,
- To work with potentially affected Indigenous communities as identified by the Crown, or other that have asserted their rights, to identify measures to mitigate or avoid those potential adverse effects.

Hydro One understands that there may be additional factors affecting engagement and will engage in good faith with Indigenous communities to better understand Indigenous views on the Project as well as the appropriate mitigation and/or accommodation. It will be the Crown's responsibility to assess the adequacy of engagement on rights-based impacts, as well as any necessary accommodation, and the MECP will determine the adequacy of engagement in accordance with the EA Act.

Per the EA Code of Practice Section 4.3.7 Consultation Summary, the Record of Consultation for the EA will include a detailed table documenting key issues raised and how they have been or will be addressed. A synopsis summary or summaries of these key issues raised will also be included in the main body of the EA Report, cross-referenced with relevant sections of the detailed Record of Consultation, in order for the reader to be able to see how any input they provided has



been incorporated or addressed in the EA (including references to specific section/page numbers where relevant information can be found in the EA).

Community-Specific Engagement Plans

Hydro One acknowledges the importance of conducting engagement through a process that is in alignment with the values, culture and protocols of Indigenous communities, and is prepared to work and adapt, and make necessary revisions to this plan to ensure that it is respectful of any specific engagement protocols and/or other requirements.

Hydro One also understands that some Indigenous communities have internal consultation protocols and procedures in place. Hydro One will work with the Indigenous communities to follow their individual internal protocols and procedures to the extent reasonably possible, provide capacity funding as appropriate and will respect the confidentiality aspects of any information provided to Hydro One. In addition to the tailored engagement approach for Indigenous communities, all public consultation processes and activities outlined in **Section 10.3** will be available to Indigenous communities.

A tailored engagement plan for an individual Indigenous community may include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- How Indigenous communities will be notified and engaged; this includes a description of the engagement activities planned (e.g., notifications, information sharing opportunities, open houses, individual meetings with the Indigenous community, etc.);
- Milestones during the EA process when rounds of engagement with Indigenous communities will occur;
- How Hydro One will provide opportunities for Indigenous participants to communicate with Hydro One about any issues or concerns about the Project during the period of engagement;
- Methods that will be used to engage with Indigenous communities; and,
- Identify the decisions that Indigenous communities can provide input to (e.g., routing, potential effects assessment, mitigation measures, etc.) and what role Indigenous communities play when the proponent makes decisions.

In an effort of consulting in good faith and respect, Hydro One will also undertake the following activities, among others:

- Hiring of Community Engagement Coordinators for each interested Indigenous community to assist in the organization, facilitation and documentation of engagement activities, events and inputs;
- Conduct training activities related to the EA (see further details below);



- Work with the Community Engagement Coordinators in the making of arrangements for engagement activities that encourage the participation of youth, elders, and other interested Indigenous community members, including the IK collection program;
- Schedule meetings outside of traditional cultural windows/period;
- Use local vendors and caterers when meeting on Indigenous lands;
- Facilitate and make arrangements for Indigenous community involvement in any EA studies (e.g., fieldwork, archaeology, etc.); and,
- Translate requested consultation materials into a form acceptable to Indigenous communities (e.g., reports, meeting materials, letters, notices, etc.).

Hydro One will respect each Indigenous community's interests and understands that this may change during the course of the EA and, as such, will provide all identified Indigenous communities with statutory notices, such as the Notice of Commencement of EA and Notice of CICs, as well as ongoing updates and opportunities for providing comments on routing and reports produced as part of the EA.

10.4.3 **Indigenous Community Engagement and Capacity Building Activities**

The following provides an overview of the key engagement and capacity building activities that Hydro One plans to use to engage Indigenous communities during the EA. Engagement activities during the EA will comply with the COVID-19 protocols and restrictions of each community.

EA Notifications and Announcements

Indigenous communities will be sent the same Project notifications as identified in **Section 10.3.1** of the EA Stakeholder Consultation Plan and will include all relevant information, including the name of the proponent, description and location map of the Project, a statement that the Project is subject to the requirements of the EA Act, an invitation to participate in the Project (depending on the nature of the notice), contact information for comments submission, a summary of any additional opportunities to be informed, and dates, times and locations for any events.

A dedicated website, www.HydroOne.ca/Waasigan, was created during the development of the ToR and will continue to be used during the EA. The website provides ongoing updates and information on the Project and details opportunities for review and comment.

Similar to the ToR phase, applicable Project-related notices, updates, newsletters/information sheets, maps, CIC display panels, and project contact information will be uploaded in a timely manner. Usage of the website will be tracked to monitor its effectiveness.



Hydro One's Community Relations e-mail (Community.Relations@HydroOne.com) was used during the development of the ToR and will continue to be used during the EA. Messages and comments received will continue to be reviewed regularly and forwarded to relevant members of the Project team for appropriate action. Project-related comments and inquires made through e-mail will be documented in the Record of Consultation.

Hydro One's Community Relations toll-free phone line, 1-877-345-6799, was advertised throughout the development of the ToR. This number will remain active during the EA. The phone line will continue to be monitored during regular business hours throughout the EA and any Project-related comments and inquires made to the line will be forwarded to the relevant individuals within Hydro One for appropriate action and documented accordingly.

Hydro One will also prepare and release information sheets and newsletters that will be posted to the website and distributed to the Indigenous communities.

Meetings

Hydro One is open to holding targeted meetings with Indigenous community leadership, elders and youth, and applicable staff (e.g., Community Engagement Coordinators) to discuss any specific issues of concern, and to facilitate discussion and understanding of whether, and if so, to what extent, the Project may potentially affect them. The information shared by the Indigenous communities will be collected and incorporated, where appropriate, in the planning for the Project, and any required regulatory processes. Measures related to information/data sensitivity will be taken, as appropriate. Meetings will be documented and included in the Record of Consultation, with the exception of any sensitive information or data.

Community Information Centres and Routing Workshops

Indigenous communities will be made aware of, and invited to, all public CICs to be held during the EA (**Section 10.3.8**) similar to what was done as part of the development of the ToR. These events allow anyone to ask questions, request additional information or express concerns.

In addition to the public meetings, Hydro One will also seek to hold CICs and workshops (as applicable) in each identified Indigenous community. These meetings will likely also include Indigenous youth and elders. The intent will be to hold these meetings and/or workshops as a forum tailored to each individual Indigenous community's needs with the following information to be provided on large poster boards in easily understandable language (information to vary depending on the stage of the Project at the time):

- Introduction to Hydro One and its consultants;



- Overview of the Project, including study area, criteria and indicators and alternatives;
- Alternatives assessment and evaluation;
- Outline of the EA regulatory process;
- Outline of the transmission development process, including the Leave to Construct process;
- Effects assessment, mitigation, monitoring;
- Next steps; and,
- How to provide input, such as a question or a comment.

Training and Skills Development Program

Hydro One recognizes the importance of providing Indigenous communities with the appropriate tools, training and information to help them better understand the EA process and how input is collected and used as part of the Project. To this effect, Hydro One has created and will make available a training and skills development program during the EA for use by communities and it includes the following:

- *Module 1: Environmental Assessment Preparation and Review*
 - Information on the EA process; and,
 - Comprehensive training on the EA and ToR processes, tools for meaningful participation, permitting requirements and planned studies.
- *Module 2: General Natural Environment, Field Studies and Monitoring*
 - Train individuals who are interested in participating in field studies during the EA, as well as a knowledge-building exercise for Indigenous participants; and,
 - Technical overview of the natural environmental components being considered for the Project, including hands-on practical field exercises.

Table 10-3 provides the anticipated Indigenous community engagement activities, milestones and general timing for the EA. We note that these activities, and in particular the estimated timing, is subject to change based on inputs received, the potential development of Indigenous community-specific engagement plans, and Hydro One and provincial priorities and funding availability.



Table 10-3: Indigenous Community Engagement – Anticipated Milestones, Activities, Input and Timing

EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Potential Engagement Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Notice of Commencement of EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise that the EA has started Provide introductory information on the Project and EA process May provide invitation to CICs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Commencement of EA Post notice to website Distribute notice to Indigenous communities Discussions with interested Chiefs and Councils, Métis leadership, staff (e.g., Community Engagement Coordinators) and/or Indigenous communities (e.g., youth and elders) Training and skills development program for Indigenous communities (e.g., EA preparation and review) Ongoing communication and engagement activities, such as newsletters to provide periodic updates on the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General questions about the Project, EA process and approach to consultation and engagement Information related to how Indigenous communities would like to be consulted Level of interest in providing comment and in participating in the engagement and consultation process Aboriginal or treaty rights potentially adversely affected by the Project Existing Indigenous community consultation protocols Interest in capacity building opportunities and/or benefits 	Winter/Spring Summer 2021
Baseline Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request input on study area and baseline data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with interested Chiefs and Councils, Métis leadership, staff (e.g., Community Engagement Coordinators) and/or Indigenous communities (e.g., Youth and Elders) Presentation and review of proposed data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input related to: baseline studies to be completed and available data that can be integrated into the EA Approaches to meaningfully integrating IK into the EA 	2020-2022



EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Potential Engagement Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Baseline Data Collection (cont'd)		collection activities and work programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement with IK collection program (Section 4.2.3.6) • Training and skills development program for knowledge building and fieldwork monitoring participation • Ongoing communication and engagement activities, such as newsletters to provide updates on the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key values, resources, and species of importance 	
Approach to the Evaluation of Alternatives, including Confirmation of Alternative Routes, Study Areas, and Criteria/ Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information related to the route evaluation and receive feedback on the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA CIC Round #1 • Publish Notice of CIC (may be combined with Notice of Commencement of EA) • Post notice to website • Circulate notice and letters to Contact List • Newsletters and e-mail notifications • Meetings with interested Chiefs and Councils, Métis leadership, staff (e.g., Community Engagement Coordinators) and/or community meetings • Route evaluation criteria workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of the alternative routes presented in the ToR • Input on the approach to the evaluation of alternative routes, study areas and evaluation criteria/ indicators and their relative importance • Identification of community-specific interests and values • Input on Aboriginal or treaty rights potentially affected (for consideration in evaluation criteria) 	Winter/Spring Summer/Fall 2021



EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Potential Engagement Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Alternatives Evaluation and Identification of Preferred Route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information related to the evaluation and receive input on the Preferred Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA CIC Round #2 Publish Notice of CIC Post notice to website Circulate notice and letters to Contact List Newsletters and e-mail notifications Meetings/routing workshop with interested Chiefs and Councils, Métis leadership, staff (e.g., Community Engagement Coordinators) and/or community meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input on draft evaluation results and selection of the preferred route Input on other project components (e.g., construction access roads) Review of how IK has been integrated and considered 	Spring-Summer/Fall 2021
Effects Assessment, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information related to the effects assessment process, mitigation measures and monitoring program for the Preferred Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing communication and engagement activities, such as newsletters to provide updates on the Project Community information meetings/workshops with interested Chiefs and Councils, Métis leadership, staff (e.g., Community Engagement Coordinators) and/or groups (e.g., youth and elders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on the draft effects assessment, proposed mitigation measures and monitoring program Review of how IK has been integrated and considered 	Fall 2021 - Fall 2022
Review of Draft EA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity to review the Draft EA Report prior to it being finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Draft EA Report Post notice and report to website Circulate notice and letters to Contact List Newsletters and e-mail notifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive input and comment on Draft EA Report and its recommendations 	Winter 2022 – 2023



EA Milestone	Purpose of Engagement	Potential Engagement Activities	Type of Input Anticipated	Anticipated Timing
Review of Draft EA Report (cont'd)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide copies of the Draft EA Report to First Nation Band Offices, Métis Offices • Prepare and circulate plain language summary of the Draft EA Report • Make follow-up calls to recipients of Draft EA Report 		
Review of Final EA Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an opportunity to review the Final EA Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Notice of Submission of EA • Post notice and report to website • Circulate notice and letters to Contact List • Newsletters and e-mail notifications • Provide copies of the Final EA Report to First Nation Band Offices, Métis Offices • Make follow-up calls to recipients of Final EA Report • Prepare plain language summary of the Final EA Report • Discussion on any other element of the OEB Section 92 application process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input and comment on Final EA Report submitted to MECP 	2023/2024

10.4.4

Consultation and Capacity Funding Agreements for Indigenous Communities

Hydro One will offer Capacity Funding Agreements to Indigenous communities to support their engagement on the Project. The Capacity Funding Agreement is meant to address the following aspects with Indigenous communities:



- Provide capacity funding to Indigenous communities to facilitate effective consultation by Hydro One, including consultation and engagement on the EA;
- Outline an agreed-upon method of consultation and engagement, taking into account community protocols and practices;
- Outline a jointly agreed-upon work plan and budget for each Indigenous community to be meaningfully consulted, including adequate capacity and resourcing to participate;
- Identify a Community Engagement Coordinator or similar position; and,
- Outline a process for the sharing of information regarding the project and associated studies and regulatory processes.

Hydro One recognizes that each Indigenous community may wish to amend aspects of the agreement to reflect community consultation protocols that may already be established. Indigenous communities were provided draft agreements and requested to review the document and share revisions with Hydro One.

Copies of Indigenous correspondence are provided in the Record of Consultation.

10.4.5 Record of Consultation

The Record of Consultation described in **Section 10.3.10** also includes a record of communications with Indigenous communities.

Hydro One will maintain a comprehensive communications record and issues-tracking database to document all Indigenous engagement activities. The database will be used to:

- Document Indigenous concerns and follow-up actions and responses;
- Document and track mitigation measures developed by Hydro One to prevent, mitigate or otherwise address potential effects of the Project upon Section 35 rights;
- Maintain a current record of staff and community representatives; and,
- Maintain a record of all communications (including phone calls and e-mails) and information provided to each Indigenous community as well as consultation events/activities with each community.

The communications record will include the following information relating to each engagement and consultation event or activity:

- Date on which the communication, event or activity occurred;
- Method of communication (e.g. letter, e-mail, phone call, face-to-face conversation);
- Identification of initiator and recipient of communication or in the case of a meeting, organizer and participants attending at the meeting;



- Copy of or link to communication in the case of written communication as well as copy of/or link to any other relevant documentation provided or generated as part of the communication, including all regulatory information provided, notices for community meetings, draft versions of all materials prepared for EA, summary of any resources and/or funding offered, requested/provided to the Indigenous community by Hydro One;
- Summary of communication or in the case of a meeting, meeting notes; and,
- Identification of issues raised or discussed and any follow-up action or undertaking.

The Record of Consultation will be maintained for all applicable phases of the Project from planning to implementation, as applicable, and will also be used to fulfill the delegated Duty to Consult requirements and to support permit approvals in accordance with the direction provided by the permitting agency.

Hydro One will develop an issues resolution strategy for the EA. Engagement with Indigenous communities is expected to be ongoing throughout the EA and into the Project implementation phase. All communications and issues will be documented and tracked in the Project consultation software tracker. All comments and input received from Indigenous communities will be documented in a summary table and included in the EA document as part of the Record of Consultation. The summary table will provide a response to each issue and how the issue was addressed. Where resolution of issues has not been possible, this will be noted along with a record of all attempts to resolve the issue. The Project consultation software will continue to be used throughout the EA to document all Project communications. The EA will also include a consultation summary and a detailed record of comments received, and how Hydro One proposes to reasonably address any issues raised, how the relevant community/individual proposes to address it, the extent to which Hydro One and the community/individual agree on how to address the issue, and any measures taken to date to address the issue. Such issues will include any potential effects on established or asserted Indigenous or treaty rights, as well as materials and documentation distributed to stakeholders.

10.5 Monitoring and Follow-Up

Hydro One will monitor consultation efforts and periodically reflect on the consultation tools being used to ensure they are effective, working as planned and may adjust them accordingly during the EA.

Hydro One will measure the effectiveness of the engagement programs by reflecting on the number and type of comments received through the various tools that are being made available (e.g., Project e-mail, website, phone line, etc.), attendance at CICs/VISs and other community



meetings, the number of individuals and groups requesting to be added to the Project Contact List, and based on feedback received from Indigenous communities and stakeholders.

Following review of these activities, Hydro One will make a determination on the effectiveness of the consultation programs and will make any adjustments, as needed.

10.6 **Summary of Communications and Engagement Activities**

Hydro One will use several engagement and consultation tools during the EA to share information in an efficient and effective way, and to make the process of providing input more convenient while fostering positive relations with stakeholders. The EA will provide an overview of the input that was received and how it was considered.

Hydro One's approach to engagement and consultation during the EA will be flexible and adaptable as the Project is expected to evolve and some communities may wish to be consulted in specific ways. It is also anticipated that some individuals and/or groups (e.g., those that may be directly affected) may require more consultation than others. Hydro One will monitor engagement and consultation efforts and reflect on the tools being used to ensure that they are effective, working as planned and may adjust them accordingly during the EA.

Table 10-4 provides an overview of the planned engagement and consultation activities noted in this consultation plan.



Table 10-4: Anticipated Stakeholder and Consultation Activity Interaction

Activity	Government Officials and Agencies	Interested Persons and Organizations	Landowners	Indigenous Communities
Statutory Project Notices	✓	✓	✓	✓
Project Website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Project E-mail Address	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Relations Phone Line	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Sheets and Newsletters	✓	✓	✓	✓
Presentations and Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Land Agents			✓	
Community Information Centres	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review of the Draft and Final EA Report	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chief and Council, Métis leadership and/or Community Meetings				✓
Community Member Discussions/ Meetings/Workshops				✓
Indigenous Youth and Elder Meetings				✓
Community Engagement Coordinators				✓
Community Involvement in Field Studies (monitoring) to Support the EA				✓
Involvement in IK Collection Program				✓



11.0 Other Permits, Approvals and Authorizations

In addition to the EA Act, the Project is also subject to other approvals further described in this section. These should be considered preliminary and will be further refined and confirmed with applicable agencies during the EA.

Hydro One will identify all necessary approvals that may be required during Project planning and construction. Where appropriate, Hydro One will initiate permit applications concurrent with the EA process. Based on Project timelines, it may be necessary to initiate some permit and approval activities or applications during the EA process, including any required consultation activities with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Some permits and approvals typically rely on more detailed engineering and design information than is available during the EA process; in this event, Hydro One will carry out required studies necessary to support those approvals following the completion of the EA. While permit and approval activities or applications may be initiated during the EA, Hydro One understands that regulators cannot issue permits that would authorize the Project to proceed until Project approval is received under the EA Act. Required permits or authorizations will be obtained prior to construction, as needed.

11.1 Other Provincial Approvals

This section provides an overview of any other provincial approvals that may be required for the Project.

11.1.1 Other Provincial Environmental Assessment Processes

The Project may also be subject to the MNRF's Class EA for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects (2002) for the disposition of rights to Crown resources for sections of the Project that traverse public lands, the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (2015) for crossings of provincial parks and/or conservation reserves, and the Ministry of Infrastructure's Public Work Class EA (2012) for any public lands transactions under the jurisdiction of IO. Hydro One intends to meet the requirements set out in these Class EAs, as applicable, through the EA process. Given that the Province of Ontario is currently in the midst of reviewing and changing these Class EA processes at the time of preparation of this ToR, Hydro One will further consult with the applicable agencies prior to the commencement of the EA to



determine their applicability to the Project (and once changes to the Class EAs have been formalized).

Discussions with MECP, MNRF and IO have also commenced and will continue throughout the Project, including the applicability of the above-noted Class EAs given the introduction of the *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* (Bill 108) which exempts specified categories of undertakings/activities from Class EAs and the EA Act, as well as any undertakings in respect of government property that consists of a disposition of any interest in land (IO, 2019). Hydro One will consult with the applicable agencies to confirm how their Class EA requirements will be met in the EA, in light of the changes noted above.

11.1.2 **Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998**

The Project requires OEB “Leave to Construct” approval under Section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) prior to the start of construction activities. The OEB regulates Ontario’s electricity and natural gas industries and is responsible for ensuring construction and operation of proposed transmission facilities are in the public interest. The OEB’s role is to review a transmission project’s effect on consumers with respect to prices, reliability and quality of electricity service. The OEB reviews applicable material, makes the information available to the public, and provides an opportunity for interested parties, including Indigenous communities, to provide input. The OEB operates as an adjudicative tribunal and carries out its functions through oral, or written, public hearings. It is anticipated that Hydro One will potentially file three applications with the OEB related to the Project, including the following:

- Early Access to Land (subsection 98 (1.1) of the OEB Act – Early access allows Hydro One employees and representatives to access private properties affected by the proposed Project in order to undertake a limited number of activities (including biological and archaeological field studies, data collection, legal surveys and soil testing) while the Section 92 application (the Leave to Construct application) is under consideration by the OEB. This early access is required to gather seasonal data for the EA and other approvals and to bring the Project in-service by the required commissioning date.
- Leave to Construct – The Project is subject to “Leave to Construct” approval under Section 92 of the OEB Act. The OEB’s review of Hydro One’s application for Leave to Construct approval is performed with consideration of price, reliability, the quality of electrical service, and in doing so examines technical aspects and consumer protection.
- Expropriations – Hydro One’s primary intent is to negotiate easement rights with landowners. In some cases, it may be necessary to purchase entire properties where current uses are incompatible with a transmission line ROW, e.g., a permanent structure or residence under a transmission line. Expropriations, if required, need to be approved by the OEB under Section 99 of the OEB Act.



11.1.3 **Ontario Expropriations Act, 1990**

Hydro One's goal is to secure voluntary property settlements with affected property owners in a timely manner, to the extent practicable, for the portion of properties to be utilized for the Project. Hydro One's offers will be based upon appraisal reports prepared by external, independent Accredited Appraisal Institute of Canada appraisers retained by Hydro One.

Hydro One's primary intent is to negotiate easement rights with landowners. In some cases, it may be necessary to purchase entire properties where current uses are incompatible with a transmission line, such as a permanent structure or residence under a transmission line.

The project-specific land acquisition compensation principles for this Project are founded upon Hydro One's past experience pertaining to land acquisition matters for new transmission projects. Hydro One's central consideration has been the need for property owners to have flexibility and choice, while balancing Hydro One's desire to achieve timely acquisition of property interests and its obligation to ensure expenditures are fair and reasonable to ratepayers.

Should voluntary property settlements meet an impasse, Chapter E.26 under the Ontario *Expropriations Act, 1990*, outlines the conditions and restrictions under which a claim for expropriation can be submitted, and the rights of residents facing the claim. The expropriation plan must be approved and registered under both the OEB Act and the *Expropriations Act, 1990* prior to commencement of Project construction. Expropriations would also need to be approved by the OEB under Section 99 of the OEB Act.

11.1.4 **Ontario Endangered Species Act, 2007**

The Project, depending on the preferred route selected, has the potential to affect SAR and their habitat. In June 2008, the ESA came into effect in Ontario. The purpose of the ESA is to identify SAR based on the best available scientific information, protect SAR and their habitats, promote the recovery of SAR, and promote stewardship activities to assist in the protection and recovery of SAR in Ontario. There are two applicable regulations under the ESA: the SARO (Ontario Regulation 230/08); and, the General Regulation (Ontario Regulation 242/08). These regulations serve to identify which species and habitats receive protection as well as provide direction on the current implementation of the ESA.

As of April 1, 2019, the administration of SAR under the ESA in Ontario was transferred from MNRF to MECP. Consultation for SAR information and permitting requirements under the ESA are now being carried out with MECP. Bill 108, which included several changes to provincial Acts,



including the ESA, received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019. A permit under the ESA may be required for potential effects to SAR and their habitats.

11.1.5

Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations

Depending on the Project routing and design, other permits, approvals, or authorizations under provincial legislation may be required (**Table 11-1**). Final determination will be made during the detailed design phase and, as such, this list is subject to change as Project design is further refined and government agency input is received and considered. A final list will be provided in the EA.

Table 11-1: Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations

Agency	Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations*
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit to Take Water as per the <i>Ontario Water Resources Act, 1990</i>, if greater than 50,000 litres per day of dewatering is required for construction purposes (if water is taken from a natural source). • Environmental Compliance Approvals per the <i>Environmental Protection Act, 1990</i>, for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation of waste from the site; ▪ Stormwater management; ▪ Temporary on-site sewage and water treatment facilities; and ▪ Electrical transformers (noise). • Generator Registration per Ontario Regulation 347 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act, 1990</i>, for hazardous wastes that could potentially be generated during construction. • Permit to allow for the application of pesticides under the <i>Pesticides Act, 1990</i>, for vegetation maintenance during operation and maintenance. • Approval to work within, or cross, provincial parks per the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006</i>. • Amendment to management direction for applicable provincial parks and conservation reserves. • Ontario Regulation 319/07 Section 2 (2) of the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006</i>, will be required to provide access within provincial parks and conservation reserves for the inventorying, monitoring, or researching of values (e.g., life-science, earth-science, cultural). • Work Permits issued under the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006</i> will be required for the clearing of land (cutting of trees), the construction of access



Agency	Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations*
	<p>roads, including associated water crossings, construction of the transmission line, or any other feature within the boundaries of the provincial park or conservation reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Permits will be required to provide Occupational Authority for the transmission line ROW and roads, including roads infrastructure such as bridges and culverts, outside the transmission line ROW that are still within the protected area boundary.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Authorizations from Ontario Parks (under Ontario Regulation 347/07 Section 2 (2) and/or under Ontario Regulation 319/07 Section 2 (2) of the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006</i>) will be required to provide access within provincial parks and conservation reserves for the inventorying, monitoring, or researching of values (e.g., life-science, earth-science, cultural).
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidated Work Permit as per the <i>Public Lands Act, 1990</i>, for work planned on shore land and within water bodies (on both Crown and private lands), including work and burn authorization for clearing and burning of cleared vegetation. Burning authorizations could take the form of an approved prescribed burning plan (as part of a Forest Management Plan) or through Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Services as per the <i>Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1990</i>. Not all land use occupational authority provides right, title or interest (for example Land Use Permits). Temporary accommodation camps, laydown areas or other Project requirements that cannot meet the requirements as set in Ontario Regulation 161/17: Occupation of Public Lands under section 21.1 of the <i>Public Lands Act, 1990</i>, generally requires land use occupation authority. Work permit controls, at all times of the year, for clearing within 300 m of a forest or woodland from the MNRF Forest Management Branch under the <i>Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1990</i>. Licence to Collect Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collection Permit under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997</i>, to allow for the taking and transferring of fish or wildlife. <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997</i>, authorization should the Project affect nesting areas, beavers or black bears. Forest Resource Licence to harvest timber on Crown lands as per the <i>Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994</i>. Crown Lease or Land Use Permit for effect on use of Crown land under authority of appropriate tenure. Engagement in a MOU or a road maintenance agreement, with the Crown for road responsibility and maintenance for roads required for the Project or agreements with existing MOU holders on Crown roads.



Agency	Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit under the <i>Aggregate Resources Act, 1990</i>, for the extraction of aggregate on Crown land. • Travel permits for the use of restricted roads. • Amendments to CLUPA policies for general use areas. • <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, 1990</i>, permits requirements for water crossings on private land. • <i>Public Lands Act, 1990</i>, permits for water crossings on Crown land and Work Permits for construction of roads and trails.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing trees on Crown land or Crown trees on private lands may require approval under the <i>Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994</i>. Potential authorizations include a Forest Resource License, Permit to Remove, B-License (for trees reserved to the Crown on patent land). Additional documentation may also be required as part of the permitting process for tree clearing, e.g., Renewal Agreement and Overlapping Agreement (with Sustainable Forest Licensees). Where the area proposed for clearing is already licensed to another party under a Forest Resource License or SFL and is allocated for harvest in accordance with an approved Forest Management Plan, the SFL (or Forest Resource License) holder should be offered the opportunity to harvest the forest resources (trees). • Burn permits (i.e., submission of prescribed burn plan as a revision to the applicable Annual Work Schedule for approved Forest Management Plans). • Road Maintenance Agreements (with appropriate SFL holder for use of roads covered by a Forest Management Plan that are under custodianship of an SFL holder).
Ministry of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use and Building Permit for construction within, or adjacent to, provincial highways as per the <i>Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, 1990</i>. • Entrance Permit for proposed entrances onto provincial highways as per the <i>Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, 1990</i>. • An Encroachment Permit is required to place, alter or erect any power line, pole line, or other transmission line within 400 m of any limit of a controlled access highway (e.g., Highway 11/17) as per the <i>Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, 1990</i> and 45 m for other highways.



Agency	Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations*
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological and built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes clearance under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i>. • MHSTCI reviews archaeological assessments for compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2010) and the terms of conditions of the archaeologist’s licensing requirements. Once an archaeological assessment has been accepted by MHSTCI, it is entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. • For technical reports related to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, MHSTCI has a review and advisory role under EAs.
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with safety regulations as per the <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990</i>, including the filing of a notice of Project prior to construction.
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to health regulations as per the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990</i>.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of lands from prospecting, etc. under the <i>Mining Act, 1990</i>. • Permanent withdrawal of staking rights under the <i>Mining Act, 1990</i>. • Rehabilitated mine hazard features must be protected; disturbance requires Minister consent, under the <i>Mining Act, 1990</i>. • Legislation regarding the responsibility for the rehabilitation of mine hazards is included in the <i>Mining Act, 1990</i>, and the requirements for rehabilitation are included in Ontario Regulation 240/00.

*This list is preliminary and meant to provide an overview of potential applicable legislation, permits, approvals and/or authorizations that may be required for the Project and will be further refined and updated during the EA as new information becomes available.

Additional information related to potential MECP permits, approvals and/or authorizations is provided below:

- *Environmental Protection Act, 1990* – Air and Noise Environmental Compliance Approval:
 - May be required for any off-grid diesel generators, possibly aggregate crushers. These approvals are subject to a one-year service standard from application date. It is also possible that generators can be approved through an EASR.
- *Ontario Water Resources Act, 1990* – Sewage Works Approval: Required for any work camp with sewage effluent over 10,000 litres/day requires a section 53 approval from the MECP. If contractors are retained to handle this aspect, they must have an acceptable Environmental Compliance Approval. These approvals are subject to a one-year service



standard from application date. Other similar projects have had issues with this aspect, it is critical to plan and line up equipment and approvals as soon as possible.

- *Environmental Protection Act, 1990* – Hazardous Waste Information Network Registration/Waste Management System Environmental Compliance Approval: If transporting/handling waste, a waste management system approval is required (in some situations can be approved through an EASR). Hazardous Waste Information Network registration for subject (hazardous and liquid wastes) may also be required.
- *Ontario Water Resources Act, 1990* – Permit to Take Water: Required in instances where over 50,000 litres of water are taken per day.

11.2 Other Federal Approvals

This section provides an overview of any federal approvals that may be required for the Project.

11.2.1 *Impact Assessment Act, 2019*

An electricity project subject to the Ontario EA Act may also be subject to the new federal *Impact Assessment Act, 2019* (IAA) that came into effect on August 28, 2019. The federal IAA creates the new Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and repeals the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. To support the federal IAA, regulations were developed, including the Physical Activities Regulations (SOR/2019-285) which sets out the types of projects that may be subject to a federal impact assessment (known as designated projects).

Based on a review of the Physical Activities Regulations and current Project details, it has been determined that the Project is not considered a “designated project,” and does not meet the requirements or threshold as stipulated in the regulation designating physical activities. In the event that the Project is modified and meets the criteria at a future date, thereby becoming a “designated project” under the IAA, Hydro One will notify the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. The federal IAA does not apply to this Project.

11.2.2 *Species at Risk Act, 2002*

The federal SARA, protects SAR and their habitat on federal lands, First Nation reserve lands (where a land management act does not exist) and protects aquatic species within waterbodies. The purpose of the SARA is to prevent wildlife species from disappearing, provide for the recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity, and to manage species of special concern to prevent these species from becoming endangered or threatened (Government of Canada, 2016). Section 32 of the SARA prohibits the killing, harming, harassing, possession, collection, etc. of SAR listed under Schedule 1 of the SARA. In addition, Section 33 of the SARA prohibits the damage or destruction of the residence



(e.g., a species habitat) of a SAR listed under Schedule 1 of the SARA. Administered by ECCC for terrestrial species, and DFO for aquatic species, a permit under the SARA may be required for potential effects to species and habitat (listed under Schedule 1) on federal lands, First Nation reserve lands, and/or within waterbodies.

11.2.3 Other Relevant Federal Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations

Based on current information, other permits, approvals, and/or authorizations under federal legislation may be required (**Table 11-2**). Similar to other provincial approvals that may be required, this list is subject to change as design is refined and new information is received and considered. A final list of federal permits and approvals that are necessary for the Project to proceed will be included in the EA.



Table 11-2: Other Relevant Federal Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations

Agency	Other Relevant Federal Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations*
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit to affect migratory birds per the <i>Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994</i>.
Transport Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of work as per the <i>Railway Safety Act, 1985</i>, for the crossing of federally-regulated rail lines. • Adherence to Canadian Aviation Regulations lighting and marking requirements should the Project affect air navigation (Aeronautical Obstruction Clearance for Height Hazards) per the <i>Aeronautics Act, 1985</i>. • Approval for crossing navigable waters as per the <i>Navigable Waters Act, 1985</i>.
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Provisions of the new <i>Fisheries Act</i> came into force on August 28, 2019. • For work being completed near waterbodies, a <i>Fisheries Act</i> Request for Review Form may need to be submitted to DFO. If DFO concludes that the project is likely to cause death of fish or the Harmful Alteration Destruction or Disruption (HADD) of fish habitat, they may request an application for a <i>Fisheries Act</i> Authorization.
Natural Resources Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitting under the <i>Explosives Act</i>.

*This list is preliminary and meant to provide an overview of potential applicable legislation, permits, approvals and/or authorizations that may be required for the Project and will be further refined and updated during the EA as new information becomes available.

11.3 Other Local Approvals

Based on current information, other permits, approvals and/or authorizations under relevant local legislation and regulations and requirements of utility companies may be required (**Table 11-3**). This list is subject to change as design is refined and new information is received and considered. A final list will be included in the EA Report.



Table 11-3: Other Relevant Local Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations

Agency	Other Relevant Local Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations*
Local Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Permit as per the Ontario <i>Building Code Act, 1992</i>. • Permit to Injure or Remove Trees (woodlands/woodlots), as applicable. • Noise By-Law exemptions (if work is to be completed outside of permitted hours specified in the Noise By-Law). • Conformance with local land use policy and zoning (e.g., road use agreements).
Rail Companies, including Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit to cross rail lines.
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit to cross watercourses and work within regulated areas (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation).
Other Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit to cross other utilities (e.g., existing pipelines, fibre optics, etc.).
Mining Claim Holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and treatment (e.g., including consent) from existing claim holders.

**This list is preliminary and meant to provide an overview of potential applicable legislation, permits, approvals and/or authorizations that may be required for the Project and will be further refined and updated during the EA as new information becomes available.*



Glossary

The following provides a glossary which has been adapted primarily from the MECP’s Glossary: Terms Commonly Used in Ontario Environmental Assessments (2014), as well as applicable MECP Codes of Practice and other applicable documents as referenced below. The terms provided in this glossary may be updated during the EA and will be included in the EA Report.

Term	Description
Alternative methods	Alternative methods of carrying out the proposed undertaking are different ways of doing the same activity. Alternative methods could include consideration of one or more of the following: alternative technologies; alternative methods of applying specific technologies; alternative sites for a proposed undertaking; alternative design methods; and, alternative methods of operating any facilities associated with the proposed undertaking.
Alternatives	Both alternative methods and alternatives to a proposed undertaking.
Alternative Routes	Alternative transmission line routes identified by the Project team.
Alternatives to	Alternatives to the proposed undertaking are functionally different ways of approaching and dealing with a problem or opportunity.
Application	An application for approval to proceed with an undertaking under subsection 5(1) of the EA Act.
Archaeology	The study of past human cultures through the investigation of archaeological resources.
Archaeological Resources	Includes artifacts, archaeological sites, marine archaeological sites, as defined under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i> . The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological fieldwork undertaken in accordance with the <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i> (PPS, 2020).
Areas of Archaeological Potential	Areas of archaeological potential are areas with the likelihood to contain archaeological resources. Criteria to identify archaeological potential are established by the Province. The <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i> , requires archaeological potential to be confirmed by a licensed archaeologist (PPS, 2020).
Built Heritage Resource	A building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured or constructed part or remnant that contributes to a property’s cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Indigenous community. Built heritage resources are located on property that may be designated under Parts IV or V of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i> , or that may be included on local, provincial, federal and/or international registers.



Term	Description
Commitment	Represents a guarantee from a proponent about a certain course of action. Proponents acknowledge these guarantees by documenting obligations and responsibilities, which they agree to follow, in EA documentation (ToR or the EA Report). Once the Minister approves the documents, the commitments within the document are often made legally binding as a condition of approval.
Consultation	A two-way communication process to involve interested persons in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of a proposed undertaking.
Cultural Heritage Landscapes	A defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features, such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association. Cultural heritage landscapes may be properties that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act, 1990</i> , or have been included on federal and/or international registers, and/or protected through official plan, zoning by-law, or other land use planning mechanisms.
Cultural Heritage Resources	An umbrella term that includes archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes.
Do Nothing alternative	An alternative that is typically included in the evaluation of alternatives that identifies the implications of doing nothing to address the problem or opportunity that has been identified.
Engagement	Activities undertaken with participating Indigenous communities that Hydro One has already carried out, and will continue to be carrying out, to fulfill the requirements of the provincial EA process will adhere to the MECP's expectations for Indigenous community consultation as described in the Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MECP, 2014). These activities have included, and will continue to include, relationship-building activities that extend beyond the procedural requirements of consultation, as described in the Code of Practice, and are therefore called "engagement" activities.
Environment	As defined in the EA Act as: (a) air, land or water, (b) plant and animal life, including human life,



Term	Description
Environment (cont'd)	(c) the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community, (d) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans, (e) any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities, or (f) any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them, in or of Ontario.
Environmental Assessment Act, 1990	The EA Act (and amendments and regulations thereto) is a provincial statute that sets out a planning and decision-making process to evaluate the potential environmental effects of a proposed undertaking. Proponents wishing to proceed with an undertaking must document their planning and decision-making process and submit the results from their EA to the Minister for approval.
Environmental Assessment or EA	An EA is a study, which assesses the potential environmental effects (positive or negative) of an individual proposal. Key components of an EA include consultation with government agencies and the public; consideration and evaluation of alternatives; and, the management of potential environmental effects. Conducting an EA promotes good environmental planning before decisions are made about proceeding with a proposal. This is also referred to as an “individual” EA for the purposes of this Project.
Environmental Effect	The effect that a proposed undertaking or its alternative has, or could potentially have, on the environment, both positive and negative, direct and indirect, short and long-term.
Environmental Assessment Report (EA Report)	Any report or documentation prepared that describes how the individual EA was planned to meet the requirements of the EA Act.
Electric Power Research Institute-Georgia Transmission Corporation	Electric Power Research Institute-Georgia Transmission Corporation (or EPRI-GTC) Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology is a framework used for the route selection process. The process included a series of Corridor Workshops to provide a transparent and consensus-based approach to route identification and selection.
Indigenous Communities	Those communities, nations and organizations identified in the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> , including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Groups of Canada.
Interested Persons	Individuals or organizations with an interest in a particular undertaking and may include neighbors and individuals, environmental groups or clubs, naturalist organizations, agricultural organizations, sports or recreational groups, organizations from the local community, municipal heritage committees, ratepayers association, cottage associations, Indigenous communities.



Term	Description
Leave to Construct	An application to be filed with the OEB by Hydro One to allow the Project to proceed.
Minister	Minister of the MECP.
Ministry Review	The Ministry (MECP) review is a document which is prepared by the Ministry during the review and approval process for the individual EA. The Ministry review outlines whether the proponent of a project or individual EA process is in compliance with its approved ToR; how the proponent has met the requirements under the EA Act, including public consultation; and, the Ministry’s analysis of public, Indigenous, and government agency comments received by the Ministry on the individual EA. Once the Ministry review is published and a notice of completion is issued, all interested parties have a final opportunity to submit their comments to the Ministry. Requests to the Minister to consider sending the application for a hearing on significant outstanding environmental issues can also be submitted at this time.
Mitigation Measures	Measures which can be applied to lessen potential negative environmental effects or enhance positive environmental effects.
Monitoring	The activities carried out by the applicant after approval of an undertaking to determine the environmental effects of the undertaking (“effects monitoring”). Monitoring can also refer to those activities carried out by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to ensure that an applicant complies with the conditions of approval of the class environmental assessment (“compliance monitoring”).
Native Species	A species presence in a particular ecosystem due to the result of natural processes, with no human intervention.
Negative Environmental Effects	The negative effects that a project has, or could potentially have, directly or indirectly on the environment at any stage in the project life cycle. Negative environmental effects may include, but are not limited to, the harmful alteration, disruption, destruction, or loss of natural features, flora or fauna and this habitat, ecological function, natural resources, air or water quality, and cultural or heritage resources. Negative environmental effects may also include the displacement, impairment, conflict or interference with existing land uses, businesses or economic enterprises, recreational uses or activities, cultural pursuits, social conditions or the local economy.
Net Effects	Negative environmental effects of a project and related activities that will remain after mitigation measures have been applied.
Proponent	A person, agency, group or organization who carries out or proposes to carry out an undertaking or is the owner or person having charge, management or control of an undertaking (Hydro One).



Term	Description
Protected Area	Protected areas are defined to protect natural and cultural features, maintain biodiversity and provide opportunities for compatible recreation and include features such as provincial parks, conservation reserves, ANSIs, enhanced management areas, wilderness areas, as well as any other areas that exhibit these characteristics. These areas may contain, but are not limited to, the following: old-growth forests; lakes, rivers and wetlands; archaeological sites or other cultural values; habitat for rare or endangered plants and animals.
Record of Consultation	A supporting document submitted with the ToR that describes the consultation carried out during the preparation of the ToR and results. This document also includes engagement with First Nations and Métis.
Right-of-Way or ROW	A type of easement granted or reserved over the land.
Sensitive Areas and/or Features	Areas defined under “Protected Area” above, as well as any others that exhibit similar qualities such as (but not limited to) wetlands, waterbodies, agricultural areas, endangered species habitat, SAR and SAR habitat, Significant Wildlife Habitat, critical Landform/Vegetation types, First Nation reserves, forest management areas, mining claims, floodplains, archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, sensitive landscape areas (from visual perspective) and settlement/residences/built-up areas.
Study Areas	<p>Study Area – also referred to as the Route Selection Study Area or RSSA, was established for the purposes of baseline data collection and for the pre-consultation phase of the Project which began in early 2019. The Study Area includes a large area generally between the Municipality of Shuniah in the east and the City of Dryden in the west.</p> <p>Additional study areas have been conceptualized for use during the EA and these include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Footprint – lands covered by the transmission line right-of-way, access roads and supporting infrastructure (e.g., laydown areas) to be considered in completing fieldwork and identifying direct environmental effects; • Local Study Area – lands within approximately 500 m on each side of the Project Footprint to be used for background data collection and identifying direct and indirect environmental effects; and, • Regional Study Area – lands generally up to approximately 5 km or more from the Project Footprint to be used for determining more generalized baseline data collection (e.g., watershed information, socio-economics, etc.) and for the prediction of indirect environmental effects.



Term	Description
Species at Risk	Plant or animal species identified as being of special concern, threatened, or endangered in Ontario.
Supporting Documentation	Documentation that is submitted to the MECP, in addition to the ToR, which provides further information on issues discussed in the ToR. Information contained in the supporting documentation should support the proponent’s request that the ToR be approved by providing justification for the choices made and details of processes or methodologies to be used. These are routinely submitted as stand-alone documents.
Terms of Reference	The ToR sets out the framework for the planning and decision-making process to be followed by the proponent during the preparation of an individual EA. In other words, it is the proponent’s work plan for what is going to be studied and includes a consultation plan. If approved, the individual EA must be prepared according to the ToR.
the Project	Refers to the Waasigan Transmission Line, a proposed new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden, including any ancillary works as described herein. This is one of several projects identified by the IESO to meet Ontario’s current and future electricity delivery needs. Also referred to as the “undertaking” for the purposes of the ToR.
Undertaking	An enterprise, activity or a proposal, plan or program that a proponent initiates or proposes to initiate, e.g., the Project.



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Appendix A

A

Letters of Direction and Order-in-Council





Appendix B

Siting Report

B





Appendix C

C

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for the Alternative Route Evaluation





Appendix D

D

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators







Appendix E

E

List of Commitments Made in the Terms of Reference





Appendix F

F

Hydro One Indigenous Relations Policy





Appendix F

The draft list of evaluation criteria and indicators provided below will be used for the alternative route evaluation to select a preferred route for further analysis in the environmental assessment. This list is preliminary, and engagement sessions will be held to request further feedback on this list from Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, prior to selecting a preferred route. Acronyms and abbreviations are defined at the end of this table.

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Natural Environment	Physiography, Geology, Surficial Geology and Soils	Area (ha) of productive soils (e.g., agricultural) vs unproductive soils (e.g., developed areas) crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor⁽¹⁾</u>	Minimize adverse effects to productive soils and incompatibilities with existing agricultural operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • Canada Land Inventory • MAFRA • Local municipalities • Local commerce organizations/ businesses
	Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest	Area (ha) of Lakehead Region Conservation Authority conservation areas and forest management areas crossed by the alternative route	Provincially and federally designated features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF
		Area (ha) of Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (Earth and Life Science) crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>		
		Area (ha) of NGO nature reserves crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide</u>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<p><u>corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of forest reserves crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of wilderness areas crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of provincial wildlife areas crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of national wildlife areas crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of conservation reserves crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of provincial parks and provincial nature reserves crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative</p>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<u>route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>		
		Area (ha) of critical Landform/Vegetation Associations <u>crossed by/within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of critical landform/vegetation within designated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF
	Surface Water	Number and area (ha) of lakes and ponds <u>crossed by/within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could form part of provincially designated features May provide habitat for aquatic species or potable/non-potable water sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports Environment Canada's Water Survey of Canada GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF Local municipalities and conservation authority <u>Aerial reconnaissance</u> <u>Field work (as applicable)</u>
		<u>Area (ha) of lakes and ponds within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
		<u>Number of watercourses within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
		Number and area <u>Area (ha) of watercourses crossed by/within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
Groundwater	Number of water wells within 100 m of <u>the alternative route 150 m wide corridor and a buffer 100 m on either side</u>	Some communities use groundwater and water wells as a source of potable and non-potable water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports Environment Canada's Water Survey of Canada GIS and LIO database and mapping MECP water well records Local municipalities 	
	Area (ha) of <u>high</u> potential aquifer deposits <u>crossed by/within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>	Protection of potential aquifers		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Vegetation and Wetlands		<u>Area (ha) of moderate potential aquifer deposits within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
		Area (ha) of previously recently logged lands crossed by (last <u>10 years</u>) within the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>	Previously disturbed areas, such as logged lands, could potentially be more suitable for the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF • Local municipalities • Sustainable license holders • Forest management plans and inventory mapping • Aerial reconnaissance
		Area (ha) of mapped vegetation <u>related</u> SWH crossed by within the alternative route (as identified in the EcoRegion 3W criteria schedule) . Examples include significant woodland and old growth forests . <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>	Minimize adverse effects to vegetation SWH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF • Local municipalities • Sustainable license holders • Forest management plans and inventory mapping • <u>Aerial reconnaissance</u> • <u>Field work (as applicable)</u>
		Number and Area (ha) of Rare Vegetation Communities and of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrence and Observations (vegetation species) crossed by within the alternative route <u>150 m wide</u>	Minimize adverse effects to sensitive vegetation features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • NHIC • MNRF • Local municipalities • Sustainable license holders

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<u>corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management plans and inventory mapping • Aerial reconnaissance
		<u>Area (ha) of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrence and Observations (vegetation species) within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of underrepresented landform/vegetation associations crossed by critical Landform/Vegetation Associations within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>	Protection of <u>underrepresented critical</u> landform/vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF • GapTool data • iNaturalist data
		<u>Area (ha) of underrepresented Landform/Vegetation Associations within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>	<u>Protection of underrepresented landform/vegetation</u>	
		<u>Area (ha) of Provincially Significant Wetlands crossed by within the alternative route</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize adverse effects to wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<p><u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p> <p>Area (ha) of other wetlands crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincially and municipally designated features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNRF Local municipalities and conservation authority Aerial reconnaissance
	<p><u>Species at Risk</u> <u>Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis</u></p>	<p>Number of Species at Risk with known occurrences in proximity to<u>occurrence records within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u></p>	<p>Provincially and federally protected <u>species</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping NHIC MNRF MECP Environment Canada's Species at Risk databases <u>Aerial reconnaissance</u> <u>Field work (as applicable)</u> Data sources from Ontario's data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant Ecological Area (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate SWH) Data sources from NHIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species Observation, locally derived (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate SWH)
		<p>Area (ha) of mapped Species at Risk<u>candidate or known hibernacula</u> habitat crossed by<u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u></p>		
		<p>Area (ha) of <u>candidate maternity roost habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u></p>		
	<p><u>Eastern whip-poor-will</u></p>	<p>Number of <u>known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u></p>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<u>Area (ha) of candidate or known breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iNaturalist data
		<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Barn swallow</u>	<u>Area (ha) of candidate or known breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Bank swallow</u>	<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of candidate or known breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Bobolink</u>	<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<u>Area (ha) of candidate breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
		<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Chimney swift</u>	<u>Area (ha) of candidate or known breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>American white pelican</u>	<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of candidate breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Least Bittern</u>	<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<u>Area (ha) of known breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
		<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>American Badger</u>	<u>Area (ha) of candidate breeding habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Gray Fox</u>	<u>Number of known occurrence records within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of candidate denning habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 1 km buffer on either side</u>		
	<u>Lake sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St.</u>	<u>Number of waterbodies with documented lake sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence population) presence</u>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	<u>Lawrence population)</u>	<u>within 1 km of the alternative route- 150 m wide corridor</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of lake sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence population) habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
	<u>Lake sturgeon (Saskatchewan - Nelson River population)</u>	<u>Number of waterbodies with documented lake sturgeon (Saskatchewan - Nelson River population) presence within 1 km of the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of lake sturgeon (Saskatchewan - Nelson River population) habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
	<u>American eel</u>	<u>Number of waterbodies with documented American eel presence within 1 km of the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		
		<u>Area (ha) of American eel habitat within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>		

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat		Number and area (ha) of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrence and Observations (wildlife species) crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>	Minimize adverse effects to wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • NHIC • MNRF • Aerial reconnaissance • Data sources from Ontario’s data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Ecological Area (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate SWH) • Data sources from NHIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species Observation, locally derived (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate SWH) • iNaturalist data • Field work (as applicable)
		<u>Area (ha) of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species habitat (wildlife species) within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>		
		Area (ha) of mapped wildlife related SWH crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route (as identified in the EcoRegion 3W criteria schedule) . Examples include moose aquatic feeding areas and heronries <u>route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u>	Minimize adverse effects to wildlife habitat	

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<p><u>Area (ha) of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species habitat (wildlife species) within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor, plus a 500 m buffer on either side</u></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sources from Ontario's data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): Significant Ecological Area (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate SWH) Data sources from NHIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species Observation, locally derived (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate SWH) iNaturalist data
		<p>Length of alternative route (km) paralleling existing permanent infrastructure <u>to minimize habitat fragmentation</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize adverse effects to wildlife habitat Feedback from Indigenous communities, agencies and stakeholders indicated a preference to parallel existing infrastructure to limit adverse effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
	Fish and Fish Habitat	<p>Area (ha) of fish habitat crossed by, <u>excluding SAR habitat, within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u></p>	<p>Minimize adverse effects to fish and/or habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping NHIC

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		Number of sensitive habitats crossed by waterbodies within the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor with sensitive habitats</u> , including number of waterbodies with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> other significant aquatic habitat; ; known lake trout presence in lakes; fish sanctuaries; known brook trout presence; nursery areas; and, spawning areas; and <u>other significant aquatic habitat.</u> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MNRF DFO mapping Forest management plans and inventory mapping Local municipalities <u>Aerial reconnaissance</u> <u>Field work (as applicable)</u>
	Air Quality	Potential for air emissions based on total length (km) of alternative route	May affect nearby residents and/or other sensitive land uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MECP Local municipalities
	Acoustics	Potential for increased noise based on total length (km) of alternative route	May affect nearby residents and/or other sensitive land uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MECP Local municipalities
Socio-Economic Environment	Land Use	Number of provincial parks crossed by within the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Identification and protection of existing park values and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports including Crown Land Use Policy Atlas Park management plans GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Parks iNaturalist
		Number of conservation reserves crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>route 150 m wide corridor</u>	Identification and protection of existing reserve values and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports, including Crown Land Use Policy Atlas Reserve management statements GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF Ontario Parks iNaturalist
		Number of enhanced management areas crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Identification and protection of existing values and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports including Crown Land Use Policy Atlas Applicable elements of park/reserve management plans and/or statements GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF Ontario Parks iNaturalist
		Number and area <u>Area</u> (ha) of mining claims crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>route 150 m wide corridor</u>	Protect and maintain access for significant exploration activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS database and mapping Local commerce organizations ENDM MNRF
		Number of active mines crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Protect and maintain access to significant mining activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS database and mapping Local commerce organizations

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENDM • MNRF • Mining companies
		Number of inactive (abandoned) mines crossed <u>by within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Abandoned mines could pose human health and/or constructability issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS database and mapping • ENDM • MNRF
		Number of aggregate pits crossed by <u>and quarries within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Protect and maintain access to significant aggregate activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS database and mapping • ENDM • MNRF • Local municipalities • Data sources from Ontario's data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregate Site Authorized – Inactive • Ministry of Transportation Aggregate Sites
		Area (ha) of high potential for aggregate resources crossed <u>by within</u> the alternative route <u>route 150 m wide corridor</u>	Protect and maintain access to significant aggregate resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS database and mapping • ENDM • MNRF • Local municipalities • Data sources from Ontario's data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/):

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate Site Authorized – Inactive Ministry of Transportation Aggregate Sites
		Area (ha) of lands designated for recreational, residential, institutional or commercial purposes <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects and incompatibilities with existing land use and businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local businesses
		Area of <u>reasonably foreseeable</u> planned developments (ha) <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> (development applications)	Identification of potential land use conflicts with planned developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations
		Area (ha) of lands associated with a specific land use/tenure (e.g., land use permits, leases, easements, etc.) <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize land use/tenure conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities MNRF OGDE data sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown Dispositions (land use permits, leases, easements, etc.) Patent Land External (provides a visual between private lands and Crown lands)
		Number of potential dwelling displacements, including permanent and seasonal, <u>crossed by/within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>	Dwellings are not generally permitted directly within a transmission line ROW	Local municipalities

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Infrastructure and Community Services		<u>Number of dwellings within 1 km of the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u>	<u>Dwellings located in proximity to the line can experience effects that can be minimized (e.g., air and noise effects)</u>	Local municipalities
		Number of active waste management facilities crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects to facilities and related activities or to the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health MECP Official plans Local municipalities
		Number of inactive (closed) waste management facilities crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects to facilities and related activities or to the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health MECP Official plans Local municipalities
		Number of proposed (new) waste management facilities crossed by the alternative route	Identification of potential land use conflicts with planned waste management facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health MECP Official plans Local municipalities
		Number of healthcare facilities within 500 m of the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> (e.g., hospitals, clinics, etc.)	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to facilities and related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health Local municipalities
		Number of educational facilities within 500 m of the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> (e.g., schools, colleges, universities, etc.)	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to facilities and related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health Local municipalities Local school boards
		Number of community-based recreational facilities within 500 m of the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> (e.g.,	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to facilities and related activities	Local municipalities

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	Recreation and Tourism	community centres, libraries, etc.)		
		Number and area (ha) of outpost camps within 1 km of the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to tourism related businesses and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations
		Area (ha) of area of AOC with an associated tourism and recreation prescription in the Forest Management Plan crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to recreational AOC and related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations Forest Management Plans, including AOCs and associated prescriptions
		Number of cabins and cottages within 1 km of the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to recreational cabins and cottages, and related activities/land uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations
		Area (ha) of tourism AOCs crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to recreational tourism AOCs and related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations
		Number of recreational trails and access points crossed by <u>within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to recreational trails and related activities, including access points for recreational activities (e.g., trail heads, fishing access points, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations GIS and LIO database and mapping Data sources from Ontario's data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Trail Network (recreation features) Trail segments (recreation features)

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing access points (recreation features)
		Number of other recreational features, including canoe routes, backcountry campsites, shore launch sites, boat launches <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to other recreational features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations LIO database
		Number of campgrounds <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to campgrounds and/or users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations
		Number of golf courses <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize adverse effects/disturbances to golf courses and users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Local commerce organizations Local business and/or organizations
	Visual Landscape (Aesthetics)	Number of mapped/known public scenic viewpoints within <u>500 m/1 km</u> of <u>the</u> alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor that have a line of sight toward the towers</u>	Minimize effects to existing scenic views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Heritage advisory organizations
		Area (ha) of visual aesthetics Areas of Concern (AOCs) <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Minimize effects to existing visual aesthetic AOCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local municipalities Heritage advisory organizations

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	Archaeology	Number of registered archaeological sites crossed <u>by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Identification and protection of significant archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop study • Archaeological assessments • Local municipalities • Provincial and federal databases • ENDM • Historical mapping • IK
		Area (ha) of alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> with archaeological potential	Identification and protection of significant archaeology resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop study • Archaeological assessments • Local municipalities • Provincial and federal databases • ENDM • Historical mapping • IK
	Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	Number of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes identified within 500 m of alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Identification and protection of significant cultural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop study • Archaeological/ heritage assessments • Local municipalities • Provincial and federal heritage databases • IK • Historical mapping • Heritage advisory organizations • Windshield survey (as necessary and based on available data)

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Indigenous Communities	Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes ⁽²⁺⁾	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and area (ha) of animal harvesting sites <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> Number and area (ha) of plant harvesting sites <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> Number and area (ha) of waterbody features used to harvest fish <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> Number and area (ha) of habitation sites (cabins/camps /village/trading posts) <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> Number of trap line crossings <u>crossed by/within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> Number and area (ha) of travel routes (trail/canoe/walking) <u>crossed by/within</u> the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize adverse effects to known traditional land uses Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities IK studies that are shared with Hydro One

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>		
	Cultural and Spiritual Areas and Sites ⁽²⁺⁾	Number and area (ha) of culturally sensitive sites and areas <u>crossed by within the alternative route 150 m wide corridor</u> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceremonial sites • Graves • Sacred sites • Gathering areas • Spiritual sites • Points of interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize use of lands identified as having cultural and/or spiritual sites • Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities • IK studies that are shared with Hydro One • Archaeology/ heritage studies

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship areas 		
	Landscapes of Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and significance of Place Names crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> Number of Orientation Points crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize use of lands identified as having specific purpose to Indigenous landscapes Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities IK studies that is shared with Hydro One Archaeology/heritage studies
	Other Applicable Criteria/ Indicators Identified by Communities	n/a	Placeholder to include other specific criteria identified by Indigenous communities	n/a
Technical	Project Size	Total length (km) of alternative route	Shorter routes tend to have fewer environmental effects and lower overall cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro One Applicable safety standards and requirements
	Existing Community Infrastructure	Number of rail lines crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Reducing the amount of rail line crossed may reduce potential for damage to facilities and overall Project costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro One Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Number of roads crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Reducing the amount of roads crossed may reduce potential for damage to facilities and overall Project costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro One Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Number of pipelines crossed <u>bywithin</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Reducing the amount of existing pipeline crossed may reduce potential for damage to facilities and overall Project costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro One Applicable safety standards and requirements

Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation

Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	Constructability	Number of airports crossed <u>by within</u> the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Distancing towers from local airports can minimize potential for future disruptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Canada • Hydro One • Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Number of transmission line corners required	Minimize the number of transmission line corners which require more land, increase overall cost and complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro One • Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Number of transmission line crossovers required	Minimize the number of transmission line crossovers which can reduce system security, require more land and increase costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro One • Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Area (ha) of hazard/unstable land crossed within by the alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u>	Avoid areas with hazard/unstable slopes for tower locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro One • Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Terrain condition/ quality (poor, moderate, good)	Use favourable terrain (and sub-terrain) for tower locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro One • Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Distance to existing access roads available (low, medium, high)	Maximize use of existing access roads, as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro One • Applicable safety standards and requirements
		Existing ROWs	Distance (km) of alternative route <u>150 m wide corridor</u> located parallel to existing ROWs	Routes located within, or parallel to, existing ROWs generally have fewer adverse effects compared to new corridors
	Economic	Estimated Project Cost	Hydro One has a duty to reduce costs to ratepayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydro One



Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation				
Factor	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		Estimated Yearly Operation Cost	Hydro One has a duty to reduce costs to ratepayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro One
	Safety and Compatibility with Electricity Grid	Hydro One/IESO	Some routes may offer better safety and compatibility with the existing electrical grid in Ontario than others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro One Applicable safety standards and requirements

¹ *This Terms of Reference identifies alternative routes for the transmission line which are representative “centre lines”. A 150 m wide buffer will be applied to these routes to create alternative route corridors for comparison. After a preferred route corridor is selected, detailed routing of the preliminary preferred route right-of-way will be completed.*

² *The indicators for the Indigenous Community Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes and Cultural and Spiritual Areas and Sites criteria are reliant on the availability of IK information. If this information is not available at the time of the alternative route evaluation, different route evaluation criteria will be discussed with Indigenous communities.*

Notes:

- This is a draft/preliminary list subject to refinement/change based on ongoing consultation and new information that may be received during the EA
- Listed data sources may apply to more than one criteria and/or factor
- Only those criteria/indicators for which suitable data is available will be used as part of the evaluation

Acronyms and Abbreviations

- AOC – Area of Concern
- DFO – Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- EA – Environmental Assessment
- ENDM – Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
- GIS – Geographic Information Systems
- Ha – hectares
- IESO – Independent Electrical System Operator
- IK – Indigenous Knowledge

km – kilometre

LIO – Land Information Ontario

m – metre

MAFRA – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

MECP – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

MMAH – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

MNRF – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

n/a – Not applicable

NGO – Non-Government Organization

NHIC – Natural Heritage Information Centre

OGDE – Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange

ROW – Right-of-Way

SWH – Significant Wildlife Habitat



The draft list of criteria and indicators provided below will be used for the net effects assessment of the preferred route in the environmental assessment. This list is preliminary, and engagement sessions will be held to request further feedback on this list from Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations.

Natural Environment

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Physiography, Geology, Surficial Geology and Soils	Soil Productivity and Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to areal extent of productive soil within the Project Footprint Change in soil capability and soil quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid or minimize loss of, and adverse effects to, productive soils Avoid or minimize incompatibilities with existing agricultural operations Avoid or minimize potential to encounter or disperse contaminated soils given the importance to ecosystem diversity and interrelation with other components (e.g., groundwater, vegetation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and Land Information Ontario (LIO) database and mapping Canada Land Inventory Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) Ecolog Environmental Risk Information Services (ERIS) Local municipalities Local commerce organizations/ businesses

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Surface water	Surface Water Quality and Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to surface water quantity and flows considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types and timing of watercourse crossings to be used or constructed - Surface water withdrawal volumes during construction - Stream flows - Water Levels - Cross-sections hydraulics - Erosion-sedimentation processes - Drainage patterns • Change to surface water quality considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types and timing of watercourse crossings to be used or constructed - Total suspended solids loading - Water chemistry - Water temperature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize impacts to surface water quality and quantity, which may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form part of provincially designated features - Provide habitat for aquatic species - Provide potable/non-potable water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Water Survey of Canada • Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and LIO database and mapping • Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) • Lakehead Region Conservation Authority • Local municipalities • Field survey
Groundwater	Groundwater Quality and Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in groundwater quality, levels and flow considering: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize impacts to groundwater quality and quantity, which may: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers, depths, and proximity of water wells in the study area - Anticipated groundwater withdrawal and discharge during construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be a source of potable and non-potable water supply - Provide baseflow to surface water features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Canada’s Water Survey of Canada • GIS and LIO database and mapping • Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) water well records • Local municipalities
Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Other Protected Areas	Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in protected areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial parks and provincial nature reserves in the Project Footprint - Conservation reserves in the Project Footprint - Natural and Scientific Interest (Earth and Life Science), including candidate areas, in the Project Footprint - Other Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Project Footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to provincially designated areas • Protect critical landform/vegetation within designated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MECP • MNRF • Provincial Park and Conservation Reserve Management Plans and Management Statements • Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) Reports

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	Federally Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in federally protected areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of national wildlife areas in the Project Footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid or minimize adverse effects to federally designated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping ECCC
Vegetation and Wetlands	Vegetation Communities, including Wetlands Examples of specific criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland ecosystems Riparian ecosystems Wetland ecosystems Wild rice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystem quantity: Anticipated changes to area (ha) of vegetation communities in the Project Footprint, by type as appropriate (e.g., bog, fen, swamp wetlands) Ecosystem distribution: Anticipated changes to spatial configuration of vegetation communities (e.g., fragmentation) in the study area Ecosystem condition: Anticipated changes to the integrity or naturalness of vegetation communities in the study area, including their ability to support the communities of organisms naturally associated with them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid or minimize adverse effects to vegetation communities, and specifically to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underrepresented landform/vegetation values Vegetation significant wildlife habitat (SWH) Sensitive vegetation features Provincially Significant Wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF Local municipalities Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Forest Management Plans and inventory mapping GapTool data IK Field Studies

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	Plant Species at Risk or Species of Special Concern and Related Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat quantity: Anticipated changes to amount (ha) of mapped suitable habitat with high potential to support plant Species at Risk or species of special concern in the study area Habitat distribution: Anticipated changes to spatial configuration of habitat in the study area, including the effects on plant dispersal and population distribution Survival and reproduction: Anticipated changes to plant Species at Risk or species of special concern populations (i.e., abundance) through changes in survival and recruitment, as well as changes in the number of documented occurrences of plant Species at Risk or species of special concern in the study area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid or minimize adverse effects to vegetation Species at Risk or species of special concern and/or habitat Legal protections for Species at Risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping MNRF MECP ECCC's Species at Risk databases Species at Risk Status Reports and Recovery Strategies Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) iNaturalist data IK Field studies
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, including Species at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat quantity: Anticipated changes to amount (ha) of wildlife habitat in the study area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid or minimize adverse effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat Legal protections for Species at Risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop review including technical and background reports GIS and LIO database and mapping



Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	<p>Examples of species or taxa-specific criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ungulates (e.g., moose) • Furbearers (e.g., pine marten, beaver, lynx, black bear) • Raptors (e.g., bald eagle) • Songbirds (e.g., Nashville warbler, white throated sparrow, red eyed vireo, olive-sided flycatcher, Canada warbler) • Herpetofauna (e.g., snapping turtle, northern leopard frog, Wildlife Species at Risk (e.g., little brown myotis, eastern whip-poor-will)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat distribution: Anticipated changes to spatial configuration of habitat in the study area, including the effects on wildlife movement and habitat connectivity • Survival and recruitment: Anticipated changes to wildlife populations through changes in survival and recruitment.⁽²⁾ <u>Depending on the taxa/species, field data may be used to determine relative abundance (e.g. songbirds) or level of activity (e.g. amphibians) which will be used to predict changes to this indicator. In other instances, publicly available population data (e.g. moose) This can be</u> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNRF • MECP • ECCC's Species at Risk databases • Species at Risk Status Reports and Recovery Strategies • Forest Management Plans • NHIC • <u>iNaturalist data</u> • <u>eBird data</u> • <u>Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA)</u> • IK • Field studies



Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat (Species at Risk)	<u>Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Habitat quantity: Anticipated changes to amount (ha) of wildlife-SAR critical habitat in the study area.</u> • <u>Habitat distribution: Anticipated changes to spatial configuration of critical habitat in the study area, including the effects on wildlife-movement corridors and habitat connectivity</u> • <u>Survival and recruitment: Anticipated changes to wildlifeSAR populations through changes in survival and recruitment.⁽²⁾</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Legal protections for Species at Risk</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Desktop review including technical and background reports</u> • <u>GIS and LIO database and mapping</u> • <u>MNRF</u> • <u>MECP</u> • <u>ECCC's Species at Risk databases</u> • <u>Species at Risk Status Reports and Recovery Strategies</u> • <u>Forest Management Plans</u> • <u>NHIC</u> • <u>iNaturalist data</u> • <u>eBird data</u> • <u>OBBA</u> • <u>IK</u> • <u>Field studies</u>
	<u>Eastern whip-poor-will</u>			
	<u>Barn swallow</u>			
	<u>Eastern whip-poor-will</u> <u>Bank swallow</u>			
	<u>Bobolink</u>			
	<u>Barn swallow</u> <u>Chimney swift</u>			
	<u>American white pelican</u>			
	<u>Bank swallow</u> <u>Least bittern</u>			
	<u>American Badger</u>			
	<u>Bobolink</u> <u>Gray fox</u>			
<u>Olive-sided flycatcher</u>				
	<u>Canada warbler</u>			
Fish and Fish Habitat <u>including Fish-SAR</u>	<p>Fish and Fish Habitat, <u>including Species at Risk</u></p> <p>Examples of species endemic to northwestern Ontario</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat quantity: Anticipated changes to the amount (ha) of fish habitat identified in the study area • Habitat quality: Anticipated changes (qualitative) to the type and condition of habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize adverse effects to fish and fish habitat</u> • <u>SAR: Provincially and federally protected</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports and literature • GIS and LIO database and mapping



Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
	or taxa-specific criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Pike - Walleye - Lake Trout — Brook Trout — Lake Sturgeon — Fish Species at Risk other than Lake Sturgeon - 	available for various life history stages of fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival and reproduction: anticipated changes (qualitative) to a fish population as a result of altering survival and reproduction • Distribution and connectivity: Anticipated changes (<u>qualitative</u>) to habitat availability, including the effects on fish movement and habitat connectivity. Distribution and connectivity will be assessed using a qualitative assessment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNRF (Fish ON-Line and information request) • NHIC • ECCC's Species at Risk databases • MECP • Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) • Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) fish database • Lakehead Region Conservation Authority • Forest Management Plans • Field studies • IK • Status Reports and Recovery Strategies • Fisheries Management Zone plans and regulations

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s) ⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
<u>Fish and Fish Habitat (Species at Risk)</u>	<u>Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence River population)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Habitat quantity: Anticipated changes to the amount (ha) of fish habitat identified in the study area</u> 	<u>Legal protections for Species at Risk</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Desktop review including technical and background reports and literature</u> <u>GIS and LIO database and mapping</u> <u>MNRF (Fish ON-Line and information request)</u> <u>NHIC</u> <u>ECCC's Species at Risk databases</u> <u>MECP</u> <u>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)</u> <u>Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) fish database</u> <u>Lakehead Region Conservation Authority</u> <u>Forest Management Plans</u> <u>Field studies</u> <u>IK</u> <u>Status Reports and Recovery Strategies</u> <u>Fisheries Management Zone plans and regulations</u>
	<u>Lake Sturgeon (Nelson River population)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Habitat quality: Anticipated changes (qualitative) to the type and condition of habitat available for various life history stages of fish</u> <u>Survival and reproduction: anticipated changes (qualitative) to a fish population as a result of altering survival and reproduction</u> 		
	<u>American Eel</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Distribution and connectivity: Anticipated changes (qualitative) to habitat availability, including the effects on fish movement and habitat connectivity</u> 		

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)⁽¹⁾	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Air Quality	Air Emissions	Change to ambient criteria air contaminants (CAC) and fugitive dust emissions in the study area	May affect nearby residents and/or other sensitive land uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCC • MECP • Local municipalities
	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Change to GHG emissions in the study area	May contribute to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCC • MECP
Acoustics	Acoustics	Change to noise levels in the study area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May affect nearby noise-sensitive wildlife, human occupancy and land use • To consider compliance with Ontario Hydro Protocol for Community Noise Control dated January 7, 1981 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MECP • Ontario Hydro Protocol • Health Canada • Local municipalities

Socio-Economic Environment

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Provincial and Municipal Land Use Policy	Land Use Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of lands designated for recreational, residential, institutional or commercial purposes in the Project Footprint • Proximity to planned developments (ha) in the study area (development applications) • Need for amendments to existing land use policy to accommodate the Project Footprint • Ability to conform with local and provincial land use policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning by conforming with provincial policy and official plans • Avoid or minimize land use conflicts and incompatibilities with existing and planned land uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) • Official Plans • Local municipalities - Interviews with municipal representatives • Local commerce organizations • Local businesses • Crown Land Use Policy Atlas
	Provincial Parks	Ability to conform with the policy direction and maintain the objectives of the provincial parks crossed by the Project Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing park values and activities • Provincially designated feature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crown Land Use Policy Atlas - Protected area management plans and management statements • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF • MECP, Ontario Parks • iNaturalist

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys/interviews with Parks managers and user groups
	Conservation Reserves	Ability to conform with the policy direction and maintain the objectives of the conservation reserves crossed by the Project Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing conservation reserve values and activities • Provincially designated feature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crown Land Use Policy Atlas - Conservation reserve management statements • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF • MECP, Ontario Parks • iNaturalist
	Enhanced Management Areas	Ability to maintain the objectives of enhanced management areas in the Project Footprint	Protection of existing values and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crown Land Use Policy Atlas - Approved Forest Management Plans and Annual Work Schedules • Applicable elements of park/reserve management plans and/or statements • GIS and LIO database and mapping • MNRF • MECP, Ontario Parks • Sustainable Forest License holders • iNaturalist
Community Well-being	Population and Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to population and demographics considering: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning by identifying potential opportunities local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Canada • MMAH • Official plans

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population and demographics of the settlements in the study area - Size, location, and duration of anticipated workforce - Location and availability of accommodation for the workforce 	<p>populations and accommodations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to populated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local municipalities • Accommodation websites
	Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to quality of life considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to settlements and built-up areas within the study area - Location of nearby points of reception to the Project Footprint - Nature of anticipated nuisance-related concerns (e.g., noise, vibration, traffic, access) from activities in the Project Footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning by identifying potential opportunities for local populations • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to populated areas, dwellings and sensitive points of reception (e.g., residents or recreational users) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Canada • MMAH • Official plans • Local municipalities • Applicable data sources from Ontario's data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/) • Results from the net effects assessment of the Natural Environment features • Stakeholder consultation and Indigenous engagement

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Employment and Economy	Labour Force and Local Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for local and regional employment opportunities • Potential for procurement of project materials and services from local businesses and contractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning to maximize positive economic effects • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to employment and the economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description • Desktop research and secondary source information • Stakeholder consultation and Indigenous engagement
	Local Government Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected local government revenues • Expected local government expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning to maximize positive economic effects • Avoid or minimize adverse effects relating to local government revenue, taxes and expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal financial reports • Hydro One
Resource Use	Mining Resource Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in access of mining resources considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to mining claims in the study area - Proximity to active and planned mines, and associated infrastructure (i.e., mine access roads), in the study area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and maintain access for significant exploration and mining activities • Abandoned mines could pose human health and/or constructability issues, as well as wildlife habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS database and mapping • Local commerce organizations • Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) • MNRF • Mining companies • Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) data sources:

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity of inactive (abandoned) mines in the study area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crown Dispositions (land use permits, leases, easements, etc.) • Patent Land External
	Aggregate Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in availability of aggregate resources in the study area considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to aggregate pits and associated infrastructure (e.g., access roads) in the study area - Area (ha) of high potential for aggregate resources in the Project Footprint - Anticipated volume and sources of aggregate required for the Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning by identifying active aggregate sources local to the Project • Protect and maintain access to significant aggregate activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS database and mapping • ENDM • MNRF • Local municipalities • Data sources from Ontario’s data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aggregate Site Authorized – Inactive - Ministry of Transportation Aggregate Sites • OGDE data sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crown Dispositions (land use permits, leases, easements, etc.) - Patent Land External
	Hunting, Trapping and Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to hunting, trapping and fishing in the study area considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife Management Units 	Avoid or minimize adverse effects to resource harvesting, which is a common practice for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review including technical and background reports • GIS database and mapping • Local organizations • MNRF • IK studies

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crossed by the Project Footprint - Proximity to traplines in the study area - Number and types of hunting licenses in the study area - Waterbody features used for recreational fishing in the Project Footprint 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder consultation and Indigenous engagement • OGDE data sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crown Dispositions (land use permits, leases, easements, etc.) • Patent Land External
	Recreation and Commercial Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to recreation and commercial tourism considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to outpost camps in the study area - Proximity to areas of concern (AOC) associated with tourism and recreation in the study area - Proximity to cabins and cottages in the study area - Proximity to recreational trails 	Avoid or minimize adverse effects and disturbances to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism related businesses and activities • Recreational and tourism-related AOCs and related activities • Recreational cabins and cottages, and related activities/land uses • Recreational trails and related activities, including access points for recreational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local municipalities • Local commerce organizations • Local business and/or organizations • Forest Management Plans, including ACOs and associated prescriptions • GIS and LIO database and mapping • Data sources from Ontario’s data catalogue (https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ontario Trail Network (recreation features) - Trail segments (recreation features) • Fishing access points (recreation features) • Stakeholder consultation and Indigenous engagement

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and access points in the study area - Proximity to other recreational features, including canoe routes, backcountry campsites, shore launch sites, boat launches in the study area - Proximity to campgrounds in the study area - Proximity to golf courses in the study area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities (e.g., trail heads, fishing access points, etc.) • Campgrounds and/or users • Golf courses and users • Other recreational features 	
	Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to navigation considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Navigable watercourses crossed by the Project Footprint - Types and timing of watercourse crossings to be used or constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid or minimize interference with navigation and navigation safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review • GIS and LIO database and mapping • Local municipalities and conservation authority • Stakeholder consultation and Indigenous engagement • Field study for surface water • Results from the net effects assessment for Surface Water

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
Infrastructure and Community Services	Transportation and Energy Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in transportation and energy infrastructure considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to transmission lines, pipelines and other utilities in the study area - Proximity to roads, highways, rail lines and airports in the study area - Distance and condition of existing access roads available for use - Capacity of local infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize use of existing access roads and infrastructure • Maximize benefits of providing new energy infrastructure • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to existing infrastructure and facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review • GIS and LIO database and mapping • Applicable safety standards and requirements • Transport Canada
	Community Services and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to community services and facilities considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to active, inactive (closed), and proposed (new) waste management facilities in the study area - Proximity to healthcare facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance planning by identifying existing services potentially available for the Project • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to access and operations of community services and facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health • MECP • Official plans • Local municipalities • Local school boards

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the study area (e.g., hospitals, clinics, etc.) - Proximity to educational facilities in the study area (e.g., schools, colleges, universities, etc.) - Proximity to community-based recreational facilities in the study area (e.g., community centres, libraries, etc.) - Proximity to places of worship in the study area - Capacity of the community services identified in the study area 		
Aesthetics	Visual Landscape (Aesthetics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the visual landscape considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to mapped or known public scenic viewpoints and visual aesthetics 	Avoid or minimize effects to existing scenic views and visual aesthetic AOCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual management planning objectives from local and regional governments • Heritage advisory organizations • MNRF, LIO

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators				
Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AOCs in the study area - Anticipated visibility of the Project from key scenic viewpoints and visual aesthetics AOCs in the study area - Visual contrast of the Project relative to the existing landscape from key viewpoints. - Compatibility of the Project with the visual landscape 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-related 3D infrastructure modelling data • Available spatial data (e.g., aerial imagery, light detection and ranging (LiDAR) and terrain data). • Engagement with stakeholders, Indigenous communities and public • Photographic inventory
Cultural Heritage Resources	Archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to archaeological resources considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of archaeological sites in the Project Footprint - Area (ha) of Project Footprint with archaeological potential - Number of archaeological sites 	Identification and protection of significant archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop study • Archaeological assessments • Local municipalities • Federal, provincial and municipal heritage databases • Written sources, photographs, historical maps, and aerial imagery • Heritage organizations • Field studies • ENDM • IK

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		where archaeological assessment is completed prior to Project construction		
	Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity of Built Heritage Resources & Cultural Heritage Landscapes identified in the study area - Proximity of known historical cemeteries in the Project Footprint 	Identification and protection of significant cultural resources and historic cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop study • Cultural heritage assessments • Local municipalities • Federal, provincial and municipal heritage databases • IK • Historical mapping and imagery • Heritage advisory organizations • Field studies
<u>First Nations</u> <u>Indigenous</u> <u>Community</u> Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes	Traditional Use of Land and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to use of land and resources for traditional purposes considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area (ha) of unoccupied Crown land being converted to occupied Crown land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize adverse effects to the exercise of Indigenous Rights including land availability and harvesting practices or sites • Criteria and indicators may be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities • IK studies that are shared with Hydro One • Field studies



Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of harvested resources (considering outcomes of assessments for wildlife, vegetation, fish) - Access (increased or decreased) to preferred harvesting areas (hunting, trapping, fishing and plant harvest) 	<p>adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</p>	
	<p>Cultural Landscapes and Intangible Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to cultural practices considering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to culturally sensitive, sacred or spiritual landscapes and sites - Quality of experience/sense of place in areas of use for traditional purposes, including sensory disturbance through Project-related changes to air quality, acoustics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Indigenous Rights and expression of cultural practices and values • Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous communities • IK studies that are shared with Hydro One • Archaeology/heritage studies • Visual, <u>Noise and Air Quality</u> impact assessment • Field studies



Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		and visual landscape (aesthetics)		
<u>Métis Rights/Interests and Use of Land and Resources</u>	<u>Loss of Land/ Change in Priority Rights</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Changes in Land Available for Métis Use considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Conversion of unoccupied Crown land to occupied Crown land</u> - <u>Increased physical disturbance</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> • <u>Archaeology/heritage studies</u> • <u>Field studies</u>
	<u>Harvesting/Sites</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Changes in physical attributes considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Decrease in air quality</u> - <u>Increase in noise</u> - <u>Decrease in visual quality</u> - <u>Perception of changes in air quality, noise or visual quality</u> - <u>Increased avoidance behaviours</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> • <u>Visual, Air Quality and Noise impact assessment</u> • <u>Field studies</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Changes to harvesting of culturally critical species considering:</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and</u>

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Displacement of wildlife resulting in reductions to hunting, fishing and trapping</u> - <u>Reduction or change in vegetation resulting in reductions of gathering activities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Field studies</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Changes to harvesting practices considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Disruption to harvesting timing windows</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> • <u>Field studies</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Changes to access considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Increased non-Métis access</u> - <u>Decreased Métis access</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u>

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Change in teaching/transmittal considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Removal of resources for teaching/transmittal to the next generation</u> - <u>Removal of sites for teaching/transmittal to the next generation</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ongoing engagement with communities</u> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> • <u>Archaeology/heritage studies</u> • <u>Visual impact assessment</u> • <u>Field studies</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Changes in perception of considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Changes in perception of harvesting experience</u> - <u>Changes in perception of species</u> - <u>Changes in perception of Métis sites</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> • <u>Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> • <u>Archaeology/heritage studies</u> • <u>Visual impact assessment</u> • <u>Field studies</u>
	<u>Cultural Identity</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Disruption of "sense of place" considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Removal of required conditions for</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Métis communities</u> • <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> • <u>Archaeology/heritage studies</u>

Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Valued Component	Criteria	Indicator(s)	Rationale for Selection	Possible Data Source(s)
		<u>territorial connection for the Métis</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Visual impact assessment</u> <u>Field studies</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Reduction in cultural practices considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Changes in traditional practices specifically linked to cultural identity</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Métis communities</u> <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> <u>Archaeology/heritage studies</u> <u>Visual impact assessment</u> <u>Field studies</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Change in teaching/transmittal to the next generation considering:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Removal of cultural connection required for teaching / transmittal to the next generation</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Avoid or minimize effects to the exercise of Métis Rights and expression of cultural practices and values</u> Criteria and indicators may be adjusted based on ongoing engagement with communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Métis communities</u> <u>IK studies that are shared with Hydro One</u> <u>Archaeology/heritage studies</u> <u>Visual impact assessment</u> <u>Field studies</u>

¹Valued component specific study areas will be determined during the EA

² Depending on the taxa/species, field data may be used to determine relative abundance (e.g. songbirds) or level of activity (e.g. amphibians) which will be used to predict changes to this indicator. In other instances, publicly available population data (e.g. moose) will be used.

Notes:

- This is a draft/preliminary list subject to refinement/change based on ongoing consultation and new information that may be received during the EA
- Listed data sources may apply to more than one criteria and/or factor
- Only those criteria/indicators for which suitable data is available will be used as part of the assessment

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANSI – Area of Natural and Scientific Interest

AOC – Area of Concern

CAC – Criteria Air Contaminants

DFO – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

EA – environmental assessment

ECCC – Environment and Climate Change Canada

ENDM – Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

ERIS – Environmental Risk Information Services

GHG – Greenhouse Gas

GIS – Geographic Information Systems

ha – hectare

IK – Indigenous Knowledge

LiDAR – Light Detection and Ranging

LIO – Land Information Ontario

MECP – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

MNR – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

MMAH – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

n/a – Not applicable

NHIC – Natural Heritage Information Centre

OGDE – Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange

OMAFRA – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Project Footprint - lands covered by the transmission line right-of-way, access roads and supporting infrastructure (e.g., laydown areas) to be considered in completing fieldwork and identifying direct environmental effects

ROM – Royal Ontario Museum



ROW – Right-of-Way

SWH – Significant Wildlife Habitat



This table provides a general overview of the main commitments made by Hydro One and is intended to be read in conjunction with the Terms of Reference (ToR). It is Hydro One’s intention that these commitments, along with any others made as part of the development of the ToR, will be fulfilled as the EA progresses subject to available information and data as noted herein or in the ToR. Acronyms and abbreviations are defined at the end of this table.

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
1	Seek to understand Indigenous community concerns regarding how the Project may impact their rights and interests and reflect those concerns within the appropriate documentation and processes.	x	x	x	3.1
2	Consult with MECP SARB on specific wildlife SAR study areas, field work plan, and approach to SAR effects assessment.	x	x		4.1
3	Provide the opportunity for input from Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, stakeholders and interested persons and organizations, as applicable; on discipline-specific study areas, proposed work plans, and field studies at the beginning of the EA process.	x			4.2
4	Include a description in the EA of how the climate is projected to change in the study area based on available secondary source information.		x		4.2.2.9
5	A Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with applicable stakeholders.		x	x	4.2.3.3
56	Incorporate input into the development of the analysis framework and addressing effects through mitigation and accommodation, as appropriate, through the EA process.	x			4.2.3.6
67	Continue to engage Indigenous communities to determine their interest in participating in the IK program.	x			4.2.3.6
78	Work with Indigenous communities to obtain IK information that would benefit the Project. This may include IK that has been previously collected and project-specific IK information that would be collected during the EA.	x			4.2.3.6
89	Work with Indigenous communities to determine how existing information would be used and documented in the EA.	x			4.2.3.6

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
10 10	Respect the conditions of the information sharing agreements established with each Indigenous community.	x			4.2.3.6
11 11	Discuss with Indigenous community members the most appropriate way to facilitate orally shared information or information shared by other means.	x			4.2.3.6
12 12	Refrain from specifically identifying or labelling an area of Indigenous community importance that could be of interest to outside parties and could affect the communities, such as high quality harvest areas and areas with traditional medicines.	x			4.2.3.6
13 13	Work with Indigenous communities to identify a collaborative process for working through the differences towards an outcome for EA analysis that is acceptable to the communities.	x			4.2.3.6
14 14	Using western science and IK conduct an initial analysis of potential effects and identify initial measures to avoid or reduce effects.		x		4.2.3.6
15 15	Provide opportunities and work with potentially affected Indigenous communities as identified by the Crown or that have otherwise asserted their rights or expressed interest in the Project (or effects of the Project).	x			4.2.4
16 16	Complete a built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes windshield survey during the EA.			x	4.2.4
17 17	Complete additional studies in the EA as noted in Section 4 and Table 4-4.	x	x	x	4.2.4
18 18	Consider the impact of the construction workforce on local and Indigenous communities, including the requirements for temporary accommodation, food, transportation and other services for the construction workforce of this Project.			x	4.3.2
19	<u>A preliminary access plan will be developed and assessed as part of the EA. The access plan will identify where changes to existing access are planned (i.e., new roads or upgrades to existing roads) and the potential impacts (natural environment/social/economic) of these changes and associated mitigation measures.</u>		<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>5.1.1.2</u>
20 20	Restore all temporary construction components/areas located on previously undisturbed lands.		x		5.1.1.3
21 21	Restore natural areas disturbed from temporary construction facilities.		x		5.1.1.4

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
20 <u>22</u>	Progressively restore temporary construction access roads located on previously undisturbed lands; except those necessary to maintain long-term inspection and maintenance activities; as the Project progresses and temporary components are no longer needed.		x		5.1.1.2
21 <u>23</u>	Progressively restore areas to be used on a temporary basis during construction, such as laydown areas, pull sites, and helipads, located on previously undisturbed lands.		x		5.1.1.3
22 <u>24</u>	Progressively restore temporary construction camp sites as the Project construction progresses and they are no longer needed.		x		5.1.1.4
23 <u>25</u>	Progressively restore mobile construction office sites as the Project construction progresses and as the construction office sites are no longer needed.		x		5.1.1.5
24 <u>26</u>	Consult MECP SARB (and other applicable agencies) and Indigenous communities in the finalization of the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators and the net effects assessment criteria and indicators.	x	x		6.3
25 <u>27</u>	Refine alternative route evaluation criteria, indicators and data sources in consultation with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and stakeholders.	x	x	x	6.3
<u>28</u>	<u>Field data from 2020 and 2021 field studies will be used in the evaluation of the alternative routes. The data processing details within the Criteria and Indicators table associated with the alternate routes assessment will include new values (candidate values identified through desktop analysis and confirmed through field work).</u>		<u>x</u>		<u>6.3</u>
26 <u>29</u>	Complete an assessment of potential for cumulative effects of other approved projects that could combine with the net effects of the Project.		x	x	7.1
27 <u>30</u>	<u>Develop mitigation plans for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e., Significant Wildlife Habitat, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Fish Habitat, Species at Risk and Protected Areas) for use during construction. In addition, where a particular location consists of multiple natural heritage values (e.g., overlapping values), a site-specific mitigation plan shall be developed. Develop mitigation measures for implementation during construction.</u>		x	x	8.1



#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
<u>2831</u>	Complete additional studies as described in Section 8.1, if required, prior to construction.		x	x	8.1
<u>2932</u>	Develop an environmental monitoring program that considers all phases of the Project and both project effects and EA compliance monitoring, including commitment to develop an Environmental Protection Plan pending availability of detail design information.		x	x	8.1
<u>3033</u>	Continue to consult and engage with Indigenous communities and interested parties during the EA process.	x			8.1
<u>3134</u>	Identify, assess, and manage potentially significant environmental risks and integrate environmental considerations into decisions.		x	x	8.1
<u>3235</u>	Inform employees and contractors of their role, responsibilities and Hydro One's environmental requirements and confirm they have the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to perform their duties.		x	x	8.1
<u>3336</u>	Promote continual improvement by setting environmental objectives and targets, monitoring performance and taking corrective actions when required.		x	x	8.1
<u>3437</u>	Work cooperatively with governments, customers, suppliers, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders to develop programs that contribute to the achievement of Hydro One's environmental objectives and targets.	x	x	x	8.1
<u>3538</u>	Support the investigation and use of new methods of environmental protection that will help achieve Hydro One's business objectives.		x	x	8.1
<u>3639</u>	Integrate Indigenous community, public, government agency and stakeholder feedback and concerns received during the ToR and EA into the monitoring program and identify and manage potential environmental effects resulting from the Project.		x	x	8.1
<u>3740</u>	Implement a worker training program to ensure the construction team and contractor(s) are aware of applicable legislated requirements and Hydro One's corporate environmental policies, programs and practices.		x	x	8.1
<u>3841</u>	Establish and achieve Project environmental objectives and targets, and ensure corrective action is taken when required.		x	x	8.1

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
<u>3942</u>	Provide a strategy that sets out how and when all commitments made in the EA will be fulfilled and how Hydro One will report to the MECP about compliance.		x	x	8.1
<u>4043</u>	Employ the services of an environmental inspector(s) as well as Indigenous Environmental Monitors and/or Guardians during construction of the Project to assist with monitoring.		x		8.1/8.2
<u>4144</u>	Include a plan/protocol to address instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values are discovered in the field during future stages of the Project (e.g., construction and operation) based on available information.		x		8.2
<u>4245</u>	Work with Indigenous communities to collect IK to incorporate into the EA regarding traditional lands and resource use and cultural practices.	x			9.3.1
<u>4346</u>	Be transparent, proactive, and engage in two-way communication with potentially affected individuals and/or organizations and be welcoming to collaborative consultation relationships.	x			10.2
<u>4447</u>	Offer to conduct presentations to provide Project updates to applicable municipal Councils, including City of Thunder Bay, Municipality of Shuniah, Township of Conmee, Township of O'Connor, Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, Town of Atikokan, Township of Ignace, and the City of Dryden.	x			10.3.6
<u>4548</u>	Make a team of land agents available that will provide personal, one-window contact with directly affected landowners and tenants; aiming to be as responsive as possible to landowner and tenant needs.	x			10.3.7
<u>4649</u>	Undertake the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan to inform and receive input from Indigenous communities. The same applies to the Stakeholder Consultation Plan.	x			10.4
<u>4750</u>	Advise the appropriate Crown representatives and agencies of the results of engagement with Indigenous communities during the EA and work cooperatively with all involved to reach appropriate solutions.	x			10.4
<u>4851</u>	Work with Indigenous communities during the EA to collectively identify and consider any potential concerns and/or issues raised by any of the communities.	x			10.4

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
<u>4952</u>	Engage Indigenous communities and organizations at a level consistent with their anticipated level of interest in the Project and potential for effects.	x			10.4
<u>5053</u>	Collaborate with Indigenous communities to better understand their rights and asserted rights as well as their concerns for the people affected by work in the areas where Hydro One may operate.	x			10.4
<u>5154</u>	Follow internal Hydro One policies with respect to working with Indigenous communities.	x			10.4
<u>5255</u>	Act and encourage open dialogue and communication on Project events and details, and be attentive and responsive to Indigenous community concerns.	x			10.4
<u>5356</u>	Show respect for traditional ways and land, cultural heritage resources, the environment, and IK.	x	x	x	10.4
<u>5457</u>	Should additional Indigenous communities come forward and assert their rights with regards to the Project, Hydro One will engage them and also notify ENDM of the assertion.	x			10.4.1
<u>5558</u>	Respond to and address issues, concerns and questions raised by the Indigenous communities in a clear and transparent manner throughout the completion of the regulatory approval processes (e.g., the EA process).	x			10.4.2
<u>5659</u>	Follow the individual internal protocols and procedures of Indigenous communities to the extent possible.	x			10.4.2
<u>5760</u>	Provide opportunities for Indigenous participants to communicate with Hydro One about any issues or concerns about the Project during the EA.	x			10.4.2
<u>5861</u>	Hire a CEC for each interested Indigenous community to assist in the organization, facilitation and documentation of engagement activities, events and inputs; and work with the CECs in the making of arrangements for engagement activities that encourage the participation of youth, elders, and other interested Indigenous community members, including the in IK collection program.	x			10.4.2
<u>5962</u>	Conduct training activities related to the EA.	x			10.4.2
<u>6063</u>	Schedule meetings outside of traditional cultural windows/period.	x			10.4.2

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
6164	Use local vendors and caterers when meeting on Indigenous lands.	x			10.4.2
6265	Facilitate and make arrangements for Indigenous community involvement in any individual EA studies (e.g., fieldwork, archaeology, etc.).	x			10.4.2
6366	Translate requested consultation materials into a form acceptable to Indigenous communities (e.g., reports, meeting materials, letters, notices, etc.).	x			10.4.2
6467	Respect each Indigenous community's interests and understand that this may change during the course of the EA and, as such, provide all identified Indigenous communities with statutory notices, such as Notice of Commencement of EA, Notice of CICs, as well as ongoing updates and opportunities for providing comments on routing and reports produced as part of the EA.	x			10.4.2
6568	Prepare information sheets and newsletters that will be posted to the Project website and distributed to the Indigenous communities.	x			10.4.3
6669	Seek to hold CICs and workshops (as applicable) in each identified Indigenous community as a forum tailored to each individual Indigenous community's needs. May relate to alternative route evaluation, selection of preferred route and effects assessment. Engagement activities during the EA will comply with COVID-19 protocols and restrictions for each community.	x			10.4.3
6770	Offer Capacity Funding Agreements to Indigenous communities to support their engagement on the Project.	x			10.4.4
6871	Maintain a comprehensive communications record and issues tracking database to document all Indigenous engagement activities.	x			10.4.4
6972	Monitor consultation efforts and periodically reflect on the consultation tools being used to ensure they are effective, working as planned and may adjust them accordingly during the EA.	x			10.5
7073	Measure the effectiveness of the engagement program by reflecting on the number and type of comments received through the various tools that are being made available (e.g., Project email, website, phone line, etc.), attendance at CICs and other community meetings, and the number of individuals and groups requesting to be	x			10.5/10.6

#	Hydro One Terms of Reference Commitments	Type of Commitment			Terms of Reference Section
		Engagement	Natural Environment	Socio-Economic	
	added to the Project Contact List; reflect on the tools being used, and make adjustments, as needed.				
7174	Use several engagement and consultation tools during the EA to share information in an efficient and effective way, and to make the process of providing input more convenient while fostering positive relations with stakeholders.	x			10.5
7275	Identify all necessary approvals that may be required during Project planning and construction; and where appropriate, initiate permit applications concurrently with the EA process; and carry out required studies necessary to support those approvals following completion of the EA.		x	x	11.0
7376	Consult with applicable agencies to confirm how their Class EA requirements will be met in the EA, as applicable.	x			11.1.1
7477	If the Project is modified and thereby becomes a “designated project” under the IAA, Hydro One will notify the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.	x			11.2.1
<u>78</u>	<u>Hire engineers early in the EA to support the preliminary design to identify ancillary infrastructure required for Project construction. This preliminary design (ancillary infrastructure) will be assessed as part of the EA.</u>		<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>Not applicable</u>
<u>79</u>	<u>Work with Sustainable Forestry Licence Holders to find efficiencies that will reduce the overall impacts on the environment, such as shared use of existing or new/planned roads and water crossings.</u>	<u>x</u>			<u>Not applicable</u>

Notes:

The above table identifies the main commitments made by Hydro One and is intended to be read in conjunction with the ToR.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CEC – Community Engagement Coordinators

CIC – Community Information Centre

EA – Environmental Assessment

ENDM – Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

IAA – Impact Assessment Act

IK – Indigenous Knowledge

MECP – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

MNO – Métis Nation of Ontario

SARB – Species at Risk Branch

ToR – Terms of Reference



#	Hydro One Commitments for Specific Plans to be Prepared During the EA and/or Prior to Construction*
1	Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan (including prescribed burning plan)
2	Spill Prevention and Response Plan
3	Access Plan (for construction, maintenance, and decommissioning purposes)
4	Environmental Protection Plan
5	Worker Training Program
6	Issues Resolution Strategy Plan
7	Hydro Corridor Vegetation Management Plan
8	Construction and Post-Construction Monitoring Plan
9	Health and Safety Plan

**Subject to confirmation during the EA once additional information becomes available.*