

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Executive Summary
November 2023

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge that the Waasigan Transmission Line Project is located within lands that represent the traditional territories and homelands of the Robinson-Superior Treaty (1850) First Nations and Treaty #3 (1873), and traverse the Red Sky Métis Independent Nation, Northwestern Ontario Métis Community and Northern Lake Superior Métis Community.

Hydro One also wishes to acknowledge Indigenous artist, Storm Angeconeb, for developing the covering page and wildlife designs throughout the Final Environmental Assessment. Storm is a highly recognized visual artist from Lac Seul First Nation in Treaty #3 and currently resides in Red Lake. Many of her works include animals and birds as representations of herself or those close to her. The artist's description of the covering page is presented below.

Hydro One Environmental Study Art:

What stands out in this art piece is the symbolic representation of solar rays as "Bringing Power"; we can see the environment represented through the wildlife and Ojibwe floral visuals. This artwork is an excellent representation of Hope, Life, and Opportunity, visually portrayed through the Black Bear and her two cubs. The colour theme of this artwork comes from the Waasigan Transmission Line Project brand identity.

Artist: Storm Angeconeb

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Executive Summary

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has completed this environmental assessment (EA) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project (the Project or undertaking). Hydro One, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, is Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution provider. The Project is 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 transmission line will be approximately 360 kilometres (km) in total as shown on Figure 1.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) completed an assessment of northwestern Ontario's electricity forecast, which identified additional capacity will be required in the region, and this Project is critical to meet Ontario's future electricity delivery needs. In particular, this Project is essential to support growth and maintain a reliable electricity supply to areas west of Thunder Bay and north of Dryden. Industrial activities in northwestern Ontario, particularly in the mining sector, are expected to drive strong electricity demand growth in the coming decades. Considering these changes in demand and the connection of remote communities previously reliant on diesel generation to the electricity grid, the IESO forecasts a need for new supply to meet future demand in northwestern Ontario.

While Hydro One is identified as the proponent for the Project, Hydro One is working in partnership with nine First Nations that will have the opportunity to invest in 50 per cent of the Waasigan Transmission Line Project; eight of those communities make up the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) – Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation), Fort William First Nation (Anemki Wajiw), Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Lac La Croix First Nation (Zhingwaako Zaaga'igan or Gakijiwanoong), Lac Seul First Nation (Obishikokaang), Seine River First Nation (Chima'aganing), and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (Waabigonii Zaaga'igan) – and Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation (Nezaadikaang).

This Final EA Report is being submitted by Hydro One in accordance with the Amended Terms of Reference (ToR), which was approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in February 2022. The EA consists of a systematic evaluation of the potential environmental effects of alternatives and considering the advantages and disadvantages of proceeding with the proposed undertaking. Potential effects to the natural and/or socio-economic environment that could result from the construction, operation, maintenance and retirement of the Project have been identified. Additionally, the potential effects on climate change (i.e., impacts to greenhouse gas emissions), as well as the effects of climate change on the project (i.e., the resilience of the project to a changing climate) have been assessed. In doing so, Hydro One has attempted to avoid, prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects through the application of mitigation measures. At the same time, Hydro One has considered the societal benefits of the undertaking to the environment in the EA process. All these aspects of the Final EA Report are summarized below in this executive summary.



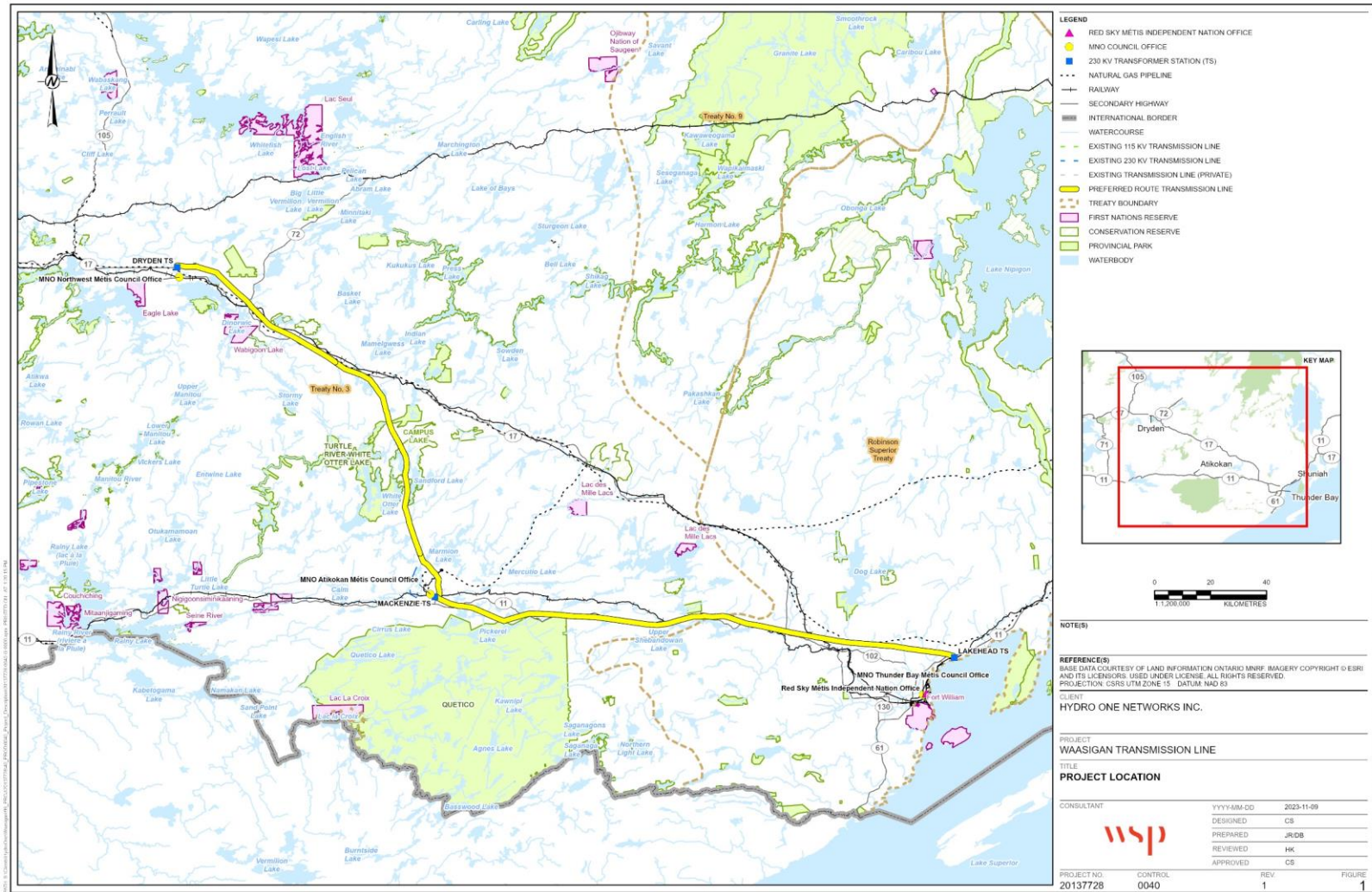


Figure 1: Project Location



Evaluation of Alternatives

To consider alternatives to the Project, proceeding with the Project was compared to the “do nothing” alternative. The “proceed with the Project” alternative was selected as the preferred alternative as it best addresses the need to supply electricity to northwestern Ontario.

To consider alternative means of implementing the Project, the preferred route for the Project was selected through a comparative analysis of the alternative routes identified in the ToR, which reflected feedback received through engagement. The objective of the alternative route evaluation was to compare the alternative routes to identify a preferred route that has, on balance, more advantages than disadvantages with respect to Indigenous culture, values and land use; natural environment; socio-economic environment; and technical and cost considerations. The route identified as preferred generally parallels existing transmission lines, which will limit adverse effects on the environment. Hydro One released the preferred route for review and feedback and made some adjustments prior to the release of the draft and final EA Reports. This included three local route refinements on private land that were accepted by landowners. Hydro One also reviewed the proposed crossings of provincial parks and conservation reserves to identify the preferred crossing of these areas and potential design refinements to limit adverse effects. The preferred route, which is the focus of this assessment, features the preferred balance of advantages and disadvantages.

Project Description

The construction of the Project is expected to commence in 2024, with applicable permits and authorizations being obtained. At this time, construction is expected to take approximately three to five years, using a staged approach where different activities will occur for a few weeks to a few months in one area and then progress along the right-of-way (ROW). Retirement, or decommissioning, is not forecasted at this time as it is anticipated that upgrades to reinforce or rebuild portions of the Project may occur over its lifetime to maintain its longevity.

The approximately 360 km long transmission line will be constructed in a ROW that is typically 46 metres (m) wide. Access roads will be constructed or upgraded to facilitate construction. A portion of these access roads will be maintained through the operation phase, while the remainder will be reclaimed following construction. Laydown areas and construction camps will be established during the construction phase and then decommissioned and areas reclaimed after construction. The Project will also require the development of aggregate pits to provide aggregate material for the Project.

The Project also includes the separation of approximately 1 km of the existing 230 kV double-circuit transmission line outside of the Mackenzie TS in Atikokan (circuits F25A and D26A) into two separate single-circuit transmission lines. In addition, there will be modifications to existing infrastructure at Lakehead TS, Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS and associated permanent infrastructure, such as access roads and waterbody crossings, to accommodate the new transmission line.



Consultation and Engagement Summary

The EA process allows Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, community members and organizations to provide input into project planning, with the intent of developing a project that is compliant with applicable legislation and regulations and mindful of the interests and concerns of interested parties. Consultation with interested parties has been ongoing since 2019. Information gathered during the consultation and engagement activities has been considered and assisted with identifying topics, addressing concerns, and responding to questions raised by Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations. Engagement has also provided these stakeholders with an understanding of the Project's potential effects. Information gathered during the engagement programs has been woven into this EA Report, where relevant, including the effects assessment and mitigation measures.

Environmental Assessment Approach

The Project is subject to a Comprehensive EA under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The EAA requires an assessment of the potential environmental effects, description of mitigation measures, description of net effects, and identification of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives and the Project on the environment.

This section describes the general approach used to carry out the assessment of environmental effects predicted to occur as a result of the Project. The EA methods applied to each valued component generally includes the following main steps:

- **Describe the Project**, including the purpose of and need for the Project, the rationale for the undertaking and alternative methods of carrying out the Project.
- **Identify the preliminary environment** during the development of the ToR to provide a general understanding of the environmental, socio-economic and cultural context of the region in which the Project is being proposed.
- **Identify criteria that may interact with the Project** by focusing on criteria that are based on the key natural and socio-economic environment considerations identified in the Amended ToR and refined through the engagement process. Associated indicators are also identified to measure changes to the criteria, quantitatively or qualitatively.
- **Define the assessment boundaries**, both spatial and temporal boundaries for the criteria.
- **Describe the existing environment** that may be affected by the Project, specific to each criterion.
- **Identify potential Project-environment interactions.**



- **Assess net effects** including identify potential environmental effects (positive and negative), identify mitigation measures, predict and characterize net effects and determine significance of the net effects.
- **Assess cumulative effects** of the net effects in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments (RFD) and activities, and assess their significance.
- **Identify a monitoring framework** during construction and operation and maintenance stages.
- **Determine confidence in effects predictions**, record the key factors influencing that determination, and how uncertainty will be managed so Project effects are not underestimated.
- **Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages** of the alternative to the Project (i.e., do nothing), and the alternative methods of carrying out the Project.

Physiography, Geology, Surficial Geology, Soils and Groundwater Assessment Results

The physiography, geology, surficial geology and soils Local Study Area (LSA) is located in the Canadian Shield and is comprised of rolling and hilly topography. The LSA is underlain by granitic and greenstone bedrock with the surficial geology dominated by glacial deposits. These glacial deposits include silty to sandy tills that form as ground moraine across much of the area. Soil productivity is considered poor throughout most of the LSA but areas of moderate soil productivity around Thunder Bay and Dryden has allowed some agricultural development. Groundwater in the LSA is sourced from both bedrock and/or overburden aquifers, depending on local conditions. Many private water supplies in the LSA rely on groundwater sources like wells, while large municipal and industrial water supplies tend to use surface water sources.

Without mitigation, the Project activities have the potential to change the extent and properties of geologic features and terrain, and affect soil productivity, distribution and quality. The Project also has the potential to affect groundwater quality and quantity (e.g., levels and flows) through construction activities, such as excavations, blasting and foundation construction. Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit these potential effects to physiography, geology, surficial geology, soils and groundwater include:

- Laydown areas, fly yards, construction camps and aggregate pits will be located in previously disturbed areas wherever practicable.
- Construction below the groundwater table will be avoided where practicable and implementing a Groundwater Dewatering and Discharge Plan to manage groundwater takings and discharge.
- Soil cover will be maintained on the ROW as much as practicable.



- An Environment Protection Plan and a Spill and Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan will be implemented that will include procedures to decrease the risk of an accidental spill occurrence, and timely clean-up if a spill were to occur.

For physiography, geology, surficial geology and soils quality, the proposed mitigation measures are accepted and proven best management practices that are well understood and have been applied to transmission line projects throughout North America. Therefore, **net effects to geology, soil distribution, productivity and quality are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

For groundwater quality and quantity, the proposed implementation of effective mitigation measures during construction are expected to reduce the magnitude and duration of net effects on groundwater quality, levels, and flow. The predicted net effects on groundwater are not anticipated to result in a change that will alter the sustainability of the criterion beyond a manageable level or result in changes that are not in accordance with provincial and federal guidelines. Therefore, **net effects to groundwater quality and quantity are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Surface Water Assessment Results

The Project is located in the secondary watersheds of the English River, the Winnipeg River and Northwestern Lake Superior, and crosses seven tertiary watersheds: Kaministiquia River, North Lake Superior Shoreline, Rainy Headwaters, Big Turtle River, Rainy Lake, Upper English River and Wabigoon River. The waterbodies in the LSA generally drain to the east (towards Lake Superior) or west (ultimately discharging to Lake Winnipeg).

Three permits to take water are active within and in close proximity to the surface water LSA. Surface water quality within the LSA is generally within relevant guideline values, noting existing exceedances of some metals (i.e., cadmium, iron, and instances of lead) at certain locations.

Without mitigation, Project activities have the potential to change surface water quantity and quality from short-term water discharges, wash-off of debris, leachate, accidental spills, and short-term water diversions or in-channel hydraulics at new temporary or permanent water crossings. Examples of mitigation measures that will be implemented to limit adverse effects to surface water include:

- Water crossings will be constructed in compliance with applicable regulatory permits and approvals, as applicable. Temporary water crossings will be reclaimed at the end of construction.
- A Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan will be implemented that describes specific measures that would be implemented if a spill occurred.



- Through engagement during the draft EA process, concerns were expressed from Indigenous communities and stakeholders regarding the use of herbicides to remove and manage vegetation on the Project. As a result of this feedback, herbicides will not be used during construction of the Project or for future maintenance of this transmission line.
- Progressive reclamation of disturbed areas will be practiced. Natural recovery is the preferred method over seeding of reclamation on level terrain where erosion is not expected. If seeding is required, erosion-prone areas will be seeded with a native cover crop and certified seed mix approved by the applicable regulatory agency, as soon as feasible after construction.

Overall, the magnitude of the predicted net effects on surface water is negligible (a small measurable change that is expected to be within the range of baseline conditions or guideline values, or within the range of natural variability). With the implementation of mitigation measures, **net effects to surface water quantity and quality are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Vegetation, Wetlands, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Assessment Results

The majority of the upland communities across the LSA for the Project footprint are composed of coniferous, deciduous and mixed-wood forests of mature to overmature seral stages. Many of the upland vegetation communities identified are common to the region and have become adapted to low moisture and/or nutrient conditions and fire disturbance as part of their natural ecology. Changes to upland forest communities throughout the LSA and regional study area (RSA) are a result of forestry management (i.e., logging and forest access road development).

Wetlands are abundant across the LSA and RSA (representing approximately 15% and 14% of the LSA and RSA, respectively) despite changes from historical disturbances. Wetlands are mapped as either bog, fen, marsh, and swamp with most of the wetlands being swamps and the least coverage by bogs.

Riparian ecosystems are distributed throughout the LSA and RSA, and are associated with streams, rivers, and lakeshores. Upland forest communities dominate the riparian ecosystems present in the LSA, with swamp and marsh wetland types also occupying a high percentage of riparian ecosystems. Botanical field surveys completed within the LSA identified one plant Species at Risk (SAR), black ash, which is endangered and was found in thicket swamp, deciduous forest, and treed swamp ecosites. Plant Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC) are not protected as Threatened or Endangered, yet are considered rare at the federal, provincial and/or regional level. The total area for these rare plant species represents less than 1% of the LSA. One SOCC plant species, ragged fringed orchid, was confirmed to be present within the LSA.



Plant species of traditional use identified by more than one Indigenous communities include eastern white cedar, beaked hazelnut, paper birch, showy mountain ash, chokecherry, chaga, common bearberry, early lowbush blueberry, highbush cranberry, Labrador tea, sage, Saskatoon berry, Canada wild ginger, common yarrow, pin cherry, prickly rose and various grasses and wild rice. Habitat types that support most traditional use plant species are common and widespread in the LSA, with lesser prevalence of habitat types that support sweetgrass and wild rice.

The LSA and RSA provide suitable habitat for numerous migratory birds, including raptors, forest songbirds, land birds, marsh birds (e.g., trumpeter swan), herpetofauna, bats (e.g., little brown myotis and northern myotis), Eastern whip-poor-will, barn swallow, bank swallow, bobolink, common nighthawk and chimney swift. The study areas also provide suitable habitat for other wildlife, including moose, American marten, beaver, gray wolf, bats and gray fox. Of the wildlife that inhabit the study areas, many are protected as SAR (e.g., little brown myotis bats). Field survey and background data results included the observations and habitat delineations for all wildlife assessed in the EA including SAR (e.g., Eastern whip-poor-will, little brown myotis, northern myotis, bank swallow).

During early stages of Project planning, the delineation of sensitive vegetation communities and wildlife habitats allowed for consideration of avoidance measures and contributed to the evaluation of route alternatives. This process was best demonstrated through the consideration of one of the most sensitive wildlife habitats: SAR bat hibernacula. These features were identified and mapped at an early stage and considered in the route evaluation process.

Without avoidance or mitigation measures, Project activities could affect the habitat availability and distribution and survival and reproduction/recruitment of vegetation and wildlife species in the LSA. These Project activities include removal of vegetation, interactions with Project equipment or infrastructure, emissions from construction (e.g., dust), chemical or fuel spills, and the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive plant species. Examples of avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented to limit adverse effects to vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, and wildlife habitat include:

- Existing access roads or trails will be used as much as possible to limit disturbance resulting from construction of new access roads.
- A Vegetation Management Plan including measures to protect rare plants and rare vegetation communities will be developed and implemented.
- Temporary access roads, construction camps, waterbody crossings and laydown areas will be reclaimed at the end of construction.
- Construction of temporary (e.g., access roads) and permanent (e.g., towers) structures will be limited in wetlands or within 30 m setback from a wetland to the extent practicable.



- Vegetation removal activities will be avoided within wildlife restricted activity periods, to the extent practicable.
- Suitable vegetation management procedures will be implemented to avoid and minimize the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive plants.
- Compatible vegetation will be allowed to grow back in the ROW to provide cover and reduce line of sight for predators.

Most upland, wetland and riparian ecosystems will remain abundant, intact and well distributed across the LSA. Overall changes to ecosystem availability, distribution and composition from the Project are predicted to be within the resilience limits and adaptive capacity of upland, wetland and riparian ecosystems. Further, despite some increase in fragmentation, most ecosystems that host plant SAR, plant SOCC and plant species of traditional use are expected to remain abundant and well connected across the LSA. Therefore, with the implementation of avoidance and mitigation measures, the **net effects on vegetation and wetlands (i.e., upland, wetland and riparian ecosystems, SAR, SOCC and traditional plant species) are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Past and existing activities have likely negatively affected habitat availability, habitat distribution, and survival and reproduction of various wildlife species in the LSA. Small changes in wildlife habitat availability, distribution, and survival and reproduction from the Project, relative to the existing conditions, are predicted to remain within the resilience and adaptability limits of wildlife in the LSA. With effective implementation of mitigation measures, the incremental contribution of the Project footprint to combined effects from previous and existing activities that overlap the LSA are not expected to have a measurable change in the sustainability of wildlife populations. Consequently, **net effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Fish and Fish Habitat Assessment Results

Waterbodies in the LSA are known to support 53 fish species, including brook trout, lake trout, northern pike, walleye. SAR (Lake Sturgeon) and SOCC species (Coaster Brook Trout, Deepwater Sculpin and Northern Brook Lamprey) were restricted to specific waterbodies within the LSA. The LSA contains diverse fish communities consisting of many species of ecological, socio-economical and Indigenous importance. The species encountered are typical of cold and cool water thermal regimes in Ontario.

The Project is expected to include 315 transmission line crossings of waterbodies, 515 access crossings of waterbodies (i.e., 404 preferred access roads and 111 alternative access road crossings).

Without mitigation measures, Project activities have the potential to negatively change fish and fish habitat quantity and quality, as well as have the potential to cause death/harm to fish and changes to fish communities and distributions through the physical alteration of waterbodies,



removal of riparian vegetation, and increased suspended sediment transport through operation or placement of machinery or structures in the waterbody. Examples of mitigation measures that will be implemented to limit predicted effects to fish and fish habitats include:

- Applicable best management strategies, avoidance and mitigation measures will be applied using the practices detailed within various standard guidance documents and environmental approval conditions (once available).
- Transmission line infrastructure and cable will be installed on land and overhead (i.e., they will not be installed below the highwater mark of the waterbodies).
- Existing access roads will be used as much as possible during construction, and operation and maintenance to limit disturbance resulting from construction of new access roads.
- Where new water crossing structures are proposed, the primary preferred structures will avoid in water work (e.g., preferential use of clear-span bridges, ice bridges/snow fills, etc.).
- Work below the highwater mark will abide by the Ontario Fish Restricted Activity Timing Windows to protect spawning migrations, spawning and egg/larval development periods, to the extent practicable.
- Water crossing structures (e.g., bridges, ice bridges/snow fills, rig mats) will be installed, maintained, removed, and decommissioned using best management practices and following environmental approval conditions (once available) for the Project.
- Fording will be avoided to the extent possible, if fording is required it will be a one-time crossing with clearing and bridge installation equipment (over and back).
- Buffer zones of 30 m around waterbodies will be maintained, and removal of riparian vegetation will be limited to the extent practicable and to the requirement of the access road and alignment clearing width only. Clearing at water crossings along the ROW will generally be limited to a 10 m wide ROW for equipment access to water crossing structures (e.g., temporary bridges).
- An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed for the Project to ensure measures are implemented and installed, monitored, and managed as appropriate to reduce the risk of sediment from reaching a waterbody prior to and during construction. A Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan will be developed and implemented for the Project.
- No herbicides will be used during construction of the Project or for future maintenance of this transmission line.



With the implementation of these mitigation measures, construction activities associated with the Project are anticipated to reduce unexpected effects to fish and fish habitat. Consequently, **the net effects on fish and fish habitat are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases Assessment Results

Sources of emissions in the Project study areas include vehicles on roadways, long-range transboundary air pollution such as industrial sources, and small regional sources such as local industry. Overall, monitoring data indicate that background air quality surrounding the Project is below the relevant provincial and federal ambient air quality guidelines, criteria and standards.

Emissions from construction are primarily comprised of fugitive dust (i.e., particulate matter that is suspended in air by wind action and human activity) and tailpipe emissions from the movement and operation of construction equipment and vehicles. Primary sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the construction of the Project include clearing (including both the loss of the carbon sink and the burning of cleared wood), fossil fuel combustion from off-road and on-road equipment, and electricity consumption for construction camps. During operation and maintenance, emissions could be from similar sources, but to a much lesser extent. Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects on air quality and GHGs include:

- A Dust Control/Air Quality Plan will be implemented prior to construction.
- Where reasonable, vehicles and equipment will be turned off when not in use, unless weather and/or safety conditions dictate the need for them to remain turned on and in a safe operating condition.
- Vehicles and equipment will be regularly serviced, maintained, and inspected for leaks.
- Multi-passenger vehicles will be used to transport personnel, where practicable.
- Dust control practices (e.g., wetting with water) will be implemented at work sites and on access roads near residential areas or other areas as appropriate.
- Use of vehicular traffic on exposed soils will be minimized and high traffic areas will be stabilized with suitable cover material.

With the implementation of these mitigation measures, construction activities associated with the Project will temporarily affect local air quality in the immediate vicinity; however, these are anticipated to be minimal due to their short duration and intermittent frequency. Consequently, **the net effects on air quality are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

GHG emissions associated with Project construction activities will additively increase overall provincial and federal GHG emissions. However, GHG emissions are expected to be less than 1% of Ontario's total emissions and less than 0.1% of the Canada-wide total. With the



implementation of mitigation measures, **the net effects on GHG are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Hydro One is committed to adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change in a complex business and regulatory environment. In 2021, Hydro One's Board of Directors approved the company's targets to reduce GHG emissions. Hydro One is committed to achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, in support of Canada's commitments, with a target of a 30% Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction by 2030, based on 2018 levels. In support of these commitments, Hydro One has established plans and mitigation targets to reduce their most significant emission sources and agreed on annual emission reduction targets. Climate change is overseen by Hydro One's executive leadership, who manage their climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

Acoustic and Vibration Assessment Results

The majority of the Project is in areas that are expected to experience noise levels consistent with "quiet rural areas" in accordance with Health Canada Noise Guidance. Locations closer to existing industry and human activities in Dryden, Atikokan and Thunder Bay are expected to have higher existing noise levels consistent with MECP noise guidelines for areas that are representative of larger communities. Existing baseline vibration levels are expected to be negligible or minimal, similar to other areas across Canada for similar suburban and rural land uses, and adjacent to road corridors and industrial uses.

Project activities have the potential to increase existing noise and vibration levels during construction, such as equipment and vehicle use, helicopter use, cable splicing, and blasting. During the operation and maintenance stage, maintenance activities on the transmission line and transformer stations, and electricity transmission, have the potential to increase existing noise and vibration levels. Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects on noise and vibration include:

- Environmental Protection Plan, Noise Management Plan, and construction vibration workplans will be implemented prior to construction;
- Construction activities will comply with local noise by-laws that include restrictions for vibrations and typically occur during one 10-hour shift per day, generally within the daytime period;
- Locate and operate construction equipment as far as possible from sensitive receptors; and
- Develop a complaint resolution mechanism whereby people can contact Hydro One if there are concerns.

With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the magnitude of the net effects from the increased noise and vibration during construction will vary depending on the distance between the receptor and the construction activities. However, increased noise and vibration are



expected to be short term in duration during the construction stage. During operations and maintenance, transformer stations will operate in accordance with an Environmental Compliance Approval or Environmental Activity and Sector Registry registration, and maintenance activities will be short term in duration, which will limit adverse effects. Consequently, **the net effects on noise and vibration are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Land and Resource Use Assessment Results

Land users and residents that reside, own or utilize Crown and/or private lands along the transmission line ROW may experience effects including acoustic and visual disturbances (i.e., aesthetics) and, in some cases, land rights across portions of private land parcels may be required for the transmission line ROW.

The Project footprint crosses approximately 12.6 ha of Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, 0.6 ha of Quetico Provincial Park (access road only), 61.3 ha of White Otter Enhanced Management Area, 0.6 ha of Swamp River Area of Scientific Interest and 91 ha of Campus Lake Conservation Reserve.

The Project footprint crosses a mixture of Crown land and private land. Lands transected by the Project can be regulated by Forestry Management Units, Wildlife Management Units, Bait Harvest Areas, Fish Management Zones, trout-bearing lakes, fish sanctuaries, trapline license areas, operational cell claims (e.g., active mining claims, active pending proceedings, held and pending claims), operational alienations (e.g., active withdrawals), mineral occurrences, abandoned mine sites, aggregate designated areas, aggregate pits (including active, inactive, forestry, and MTO pits), various land-use planning authorities and other land and resource use boundaries and tenures established through the Province of Ontario. Moose, deer and bear are actively hunted, and the trapping of furbearers is actively practiced in the LSA. With respect to non-consumptive outdoor tourism and recreation, trail use (including the use of canoe, portage snowmobile, ATV routes and trails), aquatic recreation, motorized recreation and camping, cabin and cottage sites are common in the LSA. Tourism service providers and tourism establishment areas (e.g., guided outfitters) operate throughout the LSA. Mining (e.g., active mines, active and pending mining claims, and abandoned mine sites) and aggregate extraction are commercial industry land and resource uses occurring to varying degrees in the LSA.

Parks and protected areas, outdoor tourism and recreational land use areas, and commercial industry land and resource use areas are expected to experience changes in the quantity of land available for these uses and associated activities. During the construction phase, the quantity of land available and accessible for these land uses will be reduced in areas of active construction, in order to promote land user and worker safety. However, the disturbance to land use quantity and access will not be continuously in effect for the entire construction stage, as construction will be completed using a staged approach, as Project construction progresses along the ROW.



During Project construction and operation, the Project is expected to affect the quality or perceived quality of parks and protected areas, outdoor tourism and recreational land use (including navigable waters) directly, as a result of Project footprint overlap with these areas, and indirectly, through effects on other elements of the biophysical environment (e.g., air quality, noise, and visual aesthetics).

Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects to land and resource use include:

- Hydro One will work with relevant agencies on any updates to provincial park management plans and conservation reserve management statements as required;
- Existing access roads and trails will be used to the extent practicable to limit disturbances to provincial park access resulting from the construction of new access roads.
- Permanent Project components will be minimized within provincial parks and protected areas to the extent practicable.
- Temporary construction access roads and areas that are being used on a temporary basis during construction, such as laydown areas, pull sites and helipads, that are located on previously undisturbed lands will be restored.
- Land use permits and agreements for the ROW and other Project components (e.g., access roads) on Crown and private land will be obtained.
- A Landowner Compensation Program will be implemented for directly impacted property owners. Construction activities will be coordinated with mining resource land users through ongoing engagement, and Hydro One will continue to engage claim holders, licence holders, and other tenure holders, and where appropriate.
- A Communications Plan will be implemented that will set out standards regarding communications on Project updates and community relations, such as providing advance notice of construction activities. A minimum 48-hour notification in advance of major activities commencing will be provided to Indigenous Communities, directly affected landowners, or as otherwise required by permits/approvals. Details of construction activities/schedule will be made available via the Hydro One project website.

With the implementation of these mitigation measures, adverse effects on land use including provincial parks and protected areas, current land use, forestry, mining, aggregate resources and recreation (including hunting, trapping and fishing) will be limited. Consequently, **the net effects on land and resource use are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.** Hydro One is committed to continuing to work with landowners to avoid or minimize effects to private property.



Community Well-being, Infrastructure and Economy Assessment Results

The Project is located within the districts of Kenora and Thunder Bay. Between 2011 and 2021, the District of Kenora experienced a population increase, growing from 57,607 to 66,000 (14.6%) while the District of Thunder Bay experienced an increase in population, from 146,057 to 146,862 (0.6%). The population increase in the District of Kenora is projected to continue to increase in the next three decades due to a combination of high birthrates in the district, as well as initiatives to attract newcomers to the region.

First Nation communities being engaged on the Project include Couchiching First Nation, Migisi Sahgaigan, 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. Métis communities are also present within the LSA and include the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) – Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC) and Region 2 – as well as Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

There is a diverse range of economic activity in the LSA, with the Districts of Kenora and Thunder Bay supplying goods and services to residents, industrial, commercial and construction operations and projects in the region. The mining and forestry industries have historically been the primary drivers of the regional economy and goods and services supply and development in the area have occurred in response to demand created by these industries. Businesses operating within the Indigenous communities within the LSA are primarily focused on retail service offerings. The MNO have several businesses, partnerships and joint ventures, which include construction, security, engineering and procurement companies.

A variety of healthcare services and educational facilities are available throughout the LSA communities. Solid waste disposal facilities consist of municipally-operated landfills. Water distribution and treatment services in the LSA are provided by municipalities or through wells and septic systems.

Based on data obtained from Statistics Canada, in 2020, the median income of persons aged 15 and over in the LSA communities ranged from \$40,400 to \$45,200, with the Thunder Bay Metropolitan Area, District of Thunder Bay and City of Dryden having higher median total incomes than the provincial median of \$41,200. In 2020, the median income in Indigenous communities within the LSA (for which information was available), was lower than the Indigenous communities in the rest of Ontario (\$36,000). This is indicative of differences in educational attainment, employment levels, and, in the case of people living in remote areas, availability of work.

Potential effects of the Project related to community well-being include changes to quality of life and community services and facilities (including capacity of municipal services and transportation and energy infrastructure). Project activities have the potential to result in changes to air quality and increased noise and vibration which may result in nuisance effects to



those in close proximity to the Project. Project effects on safety include construction activities that could create physical hazards and negatively affect public safety (e.g., interactions with construction activities or risk of electrocution). Further, having an influx of new people in the community as the result of a sizable workforce may have potential to exacerbate social challenges in communities that may not possess adequate capacity to address additional pressures.

Highways, municipal roads, and forestry roads will be used to support the Project according to the access plan prepared by the contractor. In some cases, inactive roads will require improvements including removal of vegetation, grading, re-installation of watercourse crossings or widening. Accidents and malfunctions, and worker injuries during Project construction have the potential to increase demand for emergency services (i.e., ambulance, fire response and emergency medicine) in the LSA. Some response services, including emergency medical, ambulance, and fire response services, would be drawn from the nearest community to the incident, in the unlikely event of a medical emergency requiring off-site attention or a fire emergency.

Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects to community well-being include:

- Implementation of mitigation, as respectively indicated, to limit air, noise and vibration emissions from the Project.
- Management plans will be implemented to limit public exposure to hazards, such as a Fire Prevention and Preparedness Plan and Emergency Response Plan.
- Implementation of policies and protocols including code of conduct for staff, drug and alcohol policies, Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) considerations, camp curfews, limited use of personal vehicles, restrictions on non-Project staff in company vehicles (including hitchhikers) and site security.

Given the nature of the Project, the potential nuisance effects to quality of life and effects to community well-being are expected to be short term in duration. Overall, with the implementation of mitigation measures, **net effects on community well-being are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

The Project will support economic development in the LSA communities through the provision of employment opportunities, procurement of Project materials and services from local businesses and contractors resulting in payment of taxes and contribution to government revenues. As a result, the Project is expected to result in positive net effects related to the economy. These **positive net effects are not expected to result in significant effects at the Project level, but individual Indigenous communities may consider the economic benefits of the Project to be significant to their respective communities.**



Given the nature of Project employment (e.g., short term) and local geographic extent, there is not expected to be any changes to non-emergency, emergency, social and protective services anticipated and there is not expected to be any noticeable effect from the Project on their ability to continue with the current level of service provision. The Project is expected to result in increased road traffic, particularly on Highway 17 and Highway 11. However, it is anticipated that road network in the LSA is sufficient to handle the increased traffic during the Project construction stage. Therefore, **net effects to infrastructure (e.g., community services and facilities) are not expected to result in significant adverse effects.**

Visual Aesthetics Assessment Results

The regional setting for the Project is characterized by the Ontario Shield Ecozone, which comprises Ontario's portion of the boreal forest. The topography of the Ontario Shield Ecozone is generally gently rolling terrain with broadly sloping uplands and frequent depressions and deposits (i.e., eskers, moraines, drumlins, and faults) that form the area's numerous lakes, streams, ponds and wetlands. This terrain is predominantly covered by coniferous boreal forest in the northern and central part of the ecozone, and mixed and deciduous forests of hardwoods found in the southern portion of the ecozone. Wetlands (i.e., fens and bogs) are located throughout in poorly drained areas and feature grasses and sedges with generally sparse and small coniferous trees.

Key viewpoints were identified for the Project related to transportation routes and recreation/tourism. An assessment of the key viewpoints identified suggested that most viewing opportunities are of a predominately natural setting, which may include evident disturbance from existing linear infrastructure (e.g., roads and transmission lines) or from residential development.

Visual disturbances are expected to begin during the construction stage and continue incrementally. Construction activities related to transportation and distribution of personnel, equipment and materials along access roads and trails, the transmission line ROW, and at temporary construction facilities and sites (i.e., temporary camps and temporary laydown areas) will create temporary changes in visual quality. Further, construction activities related to site preparation (e.g., clearing of vegetation along the transmission line ROW and construction of access roads), grading along access roads and the right-of-way as required, the erection of transmission structures and conductors, and the modification of existing transformer stations will create persistent changes in visual quality by removing vegetation, modifying landforms, and introducing built structures. These changes will remain for subsequent operation and maintenance stages which are anticipated to continue for an indeterminate time period as retirement or decommissioning is not anticipated. Transmission structures will be most evident located on top of hills, along ridges, and spanning water courses or roadways where they would be set against a backdrop of sky.

Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects to visual aesthetics include:



- Avoiding new Project footprint disturbances, to the extent practicable, such as using existing roads and trails, and disturbed areas.
- Retaining existing vegetation and landforms, to the extent practicable, to provide screening of activity and Project components.
- Removing unnecessary facilities, and reclaiming temporary access roads and water crossings, helicopter pads, temporary laydown areas, and temporary construction camps.

Most of these construction activities would likely be visible only to those viewers adjacent to the sites and expected to be short in duration. Most of the Project is expected to be partially or fully screened by surrounding vegetation or the visible Project components would blend readily into the disturbance pattern from existing transmission line infrastructure. Therefore, **changes on visual aesthetics are not expected to result in significant adverse effects**. Hydro One is committed to working with landowners on ways to minimize these effects.

Archaeology Resources and Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes Assessment Results

A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (desktop study) was completed for the Project and identified nine registered archaeological sites within the LSA, including one site within the Project footprint, and 23 registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the LSA. The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment also identified areas in the LSA that have the potential to contain archaeological resources, which require additional assessment if crossed by the Project footprint.

Project activities during construction and maintenance, such as the construction of the ROW, temporary construction camps, and access roads, have the potential to damage or destruct terrestrial and marine archaeological resources associated with ground disturbance, erosion resulting from increased stream flows, and increase in public access to archaeological resources.

For cultural heritage resources, a Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (CHEC / PIA) was completed to identify, through desktop sources and field investigation, known or potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the study area. One cultural heritage landscape, Dawson Trail (CHL-1), was assessed to have known Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI) and three properties were found to have buildings or structures 40 years or more years old, but were evaluated at a preliminary level not to have potential CHVI. Two additional potential cultural heritage landscapes were identified based on feedback from landowners.

Project activities during construction have the potential to alter or destruct cultural heritage resources, though built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes will be identified



prior to the construction stage. One known cultural heritage landscape, Dawson Trail (CHL-1), and two potential cultural heritage landscapes may be crossed by the Project footprint.

Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects on archaeology and built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes include:

- Complete a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (and Stage 3 and 4 as required) in the areas of the Project footprint with archaeological potential that are anticipated to be subject to Project impacts.
- Implement an Archaeological Resources Contingency Plan prior to construction.
- Continue engagement with affected communities and apply protocols identified by Indigenous communities for land access and treatment of findings.
- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports (CHERs) will be conducted to evaluate the cultural heritage landscape in the Project LSA.
- If any potential resources are evaluated in the CHER as being of CHVI, complete a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and include mitigation measures. The HIA may also recommend that a Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) be undertaken to guide protection and conservation of the specific cultural heritage resource. The CHER, HIA, and/or HCP will be submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and Indigenous communities for review and comment.

Based on the mitigation measures identified, the loss of, or damage to, known archaeological resources and built cultural heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes from the Project is not predicted. Therefore, there are no net effects to archaeological resources and built cultural heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.

First Nations Rights, Interests and Use of Land and Resources Assessment Results

The EA includes an assessment of the effects of the Project on First Nation rights, interests and use of lands and resources, which includes the ability of Indigenous people to practice their rights, including access to preferred areas and the exercise of their rights with respect to resource harvesting (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering), to experience culturally sensitive, sacred or spiritual landscapes and sites, and to maintain quality of experience/sense of place in areas within traditional territories.

Indigenous Knowledge (IK) refers to the combination of traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional land and resource use (TLRU). IK information was sought by Hydro One to inform understandings of potential Project effects on First Nation rights, interests and use of lands and resources and potential mitigations. Hydro One will continue to work with First Nation communities as IK information becomes available to identify specifically affected areas of harvested resources (i.e., hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering) and culturally sensitive, sacred



or spiritual landscapes and sites. Hydro One will continue to work with First Nation communities to review existing or develop additional appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures. As IK information becomes available, the information will be incorporated into the next project planning and decision-making milestone.

The EA considered the rights, interests and use of lands and resources of the following First Nation communities: Couchiching First Nation, Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation), Fort William First Nation (Anemki Wajiw), Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation (Nezaadikaang), Lac La Croix First Nation (Zhingwaako Zaaga'lgan or Gakijiwanoong), Lac Seul First Nation (Obishikokaang), Seine River First Nation (Chima'aganing), and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (Waabigonii Zaaga'lgan).

The EA assessed potential effects of the Project on First Nations Rights, Interests and Use of Land and Resources including changes in/to:

- Area (ha) of Unoccupied Crown Land Converted to Occupied Crown Land;
- Availability of Harvested Resources;
- Access to Preferred Harvesting Areas;
- Access to Culturally Sensitive, Sacred, or Spiritual Landscapes and Sites; and
- Quality of Experience/Sense of Place.

Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects to First Nations Rights, Interests and Use of Land and Resources include:

- Not using herbicides as part of the Project;
- Respect individual First Nation cultural protocols to the extent possible;
- Incorporate shared IK into the next project milestone and implement appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures;
- Facilitate opportunities for First Nations to participate in archaeological assessments;
- Develop Communications and Monitoring Plans in collaboration with potentially affected First Nations;
- Share the Environmental Protection Plan and construction-related plans with potentially affected First Nations communities for review prior to construction;
- Give advance notice of planned activities within the traditional territories of potentially affected First Nations;



- Stage construction to avoid or minimize potential effects on environmentally sensitive areas or wildlife breeding cycles (e.g., breeding bird period, fisheries windows, etc.), where possible; and
- Ensure all project staff and contractors participate in relevant cultural awareness training.

With the implementation of mitigation measures, the net effects are not predicted to represent a substantial interference in the continued opportunity for First Nations communities to be able to undertake use of land and resources for the current and traditional exercise of Indigenous rights.

Hydro One is committed to engaging with First Nations on potential refinements to the Project footprint and incorporation of site-specific mitigation in order to avoid or minimize impacts to the use of land and resources for the current and traditional exercise of Indigenous rights.

Métis Rights, Interests and Use of Land and Resources Assessment Results

The EA includes an assessment of the effects of the Project on Métis rights, interests and use of lands and resources, which includes the ability of Métis citizens to practice their rights, including access to preferred areas and the exercise of their rights with respect to resource harvesting (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering), to experience culturally sensitive, sacred or spiritual landscapes and sites, and to maintain quality of experience/sense of place in areas within traditional territories.

IK refers to the combination of TK and TLRU. IK information was sought by Hydro One to inform understandings of potential Project effects on Métis rights, interests and use of lands and resources and potential mitigations.

Hydro One will continue to work with Métis communities as IK information becomes available to identify specifically affected areas of harvested resources (i.e., hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering) and culturally sensitive, sacred or spiritual landscapes and sites.

The EA considered the rights, interests, and use of lands and resources of the NWOMC and Region 2 of the Métis Nation of Ontario and of the Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

The EA assessed the following potential effects of the Project on Métis Rights, Interests and Use of Land and Resources including changes in/to:

- Land Available for Métis Use;
- Harvesting of Culturally Critical Species;
- Physical Attributes (Harvesting Sites);
- Harvesting Practices (Timing Windows);



- Access to Harvesting Areas;
- Teaching/Transmittal of Knowledge;
- Perception of “Place” (Harvesting Sites); and
- “Sense of Place” and Reduction in Cultural Practices.

Examples of mitigation measures to be implemented to limit potential effects to Métis Rights, Interests and Use of Land and Resources include:

- Not using herbicides as part of the Project;
- Collaborate with Métis communities to further identify specific affected areas for harvesting resources (i.e., for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering); known sites that are important for the next generation; potential refinements to the project footprint; and other site-specific measures to reduce project impacts;
- Facilitate opportunities for Métis community to participate in archaeological assessments;
- Continue to engage with Métis communities on the information provided in the Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study;
- Provide further engagement with Métis communities on the potential effects related to provincial parks and conservation reserves;
- Develop Communications and Monitoring Plans in collaboration with potentially affected Métis communities;
- Share the Environmental Protection Plan and construction-related plans with Métis communities for review before construction;
- Post signage along public roadways in proximity to areas of construction activities as appropriate to alert land users that workers are in the area, such as during hunting seasons or periods of harvests indicated by Métis communities; and
- Stage construction to avoid or minimize potential effects on environmentally sensitive areas or wildlife breeding cycles (e.g., breeding bird period, fisheries windows, etc.), where possible.

With the implementation of mitigation measures, the net effects are not predicted to represent a substantial interference in the continued opportunity for Métis communities to be able to undertake use of land and resources for the current and traditional exercise of Indigenous rights.



Hydro One will continue to work with Métis communities to review existing or develop appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures. As IK information becomes available, the information will be incorporated into the next project planning and decision-making milestone.

Hydro One is committed to engaging with Métis communities on potential refinements to the Project footprint and incorporation of site-specific mitigation in order to avoid or minimize impacts to the use of land and resources for the current and traditional exercise of Indigenous rights.

Cumulative Effects

In addition to assessing the net environmental effects of the Project, which considered past and present developments, this assessment also evaluated and assessed the significance of net effects from the Project that overlap temporally and spatially with effects from other reasonably foreseeable future developments and activities (i.e., cumulative effects). Each valued component completed an assessment to identify potential cumulative effects, determine if additional mitigation measures were required and determine if the cumulative effects were significant. Based on those assessments and with the implementation of mitigation measures to limit the adverse effects, **the Project is not expected to result in significant adverse cumulative effects.**

Monitoring

Project effects monitoring will include programs designed to test the accuracy of effects predictions, reduce or address uncertainties, determine the effectiveness of mitigation, or provide appropriate feedback for modifying or adopting new mitigation measures, policies, and practices (e.g., implementation of adaptive management). Project effects monitoring will include construction and post-construction monitoring activities. Each assessment section of this EA Report identified whether monitoring plans are recommended to be implemented during Project activities and Hydro One and its contractors will be responsible for implementing the monitoring.

If an environmental monitoring program identifies that adverse environmental effects are greater than predicted, Hydro One will evaluate whether they result in changes to the conclusions in this EA. If changes are confirmed, Hydro One will evaluate the need for revised mitigation actions and management practices to manage effects.

While Hydro One always strives to avoid and minimize potential effects to the natural and socio-economic environments, and restore areas that are affected by the Project, Hydro One acknowledges that there may be adverse effects that cannot be avoided, or that occur even when appropriate mitigation and restoration measures are employed. Natural environment examples include the long-term transition of incompatible vegetation, such as forest communities to compatible vegetation communities including meadows or shrub thickets. Because these net effects cannot be further avoided or mitigated, they are typically compensated for by undertaking positive environmental activities.



Hydro One has committed to undertaking a biodiversity initiative specific to this project to offset habitat loss or transition (long-term change) that may occur as a result of the Project. The scope of the biodiversity initiative is expected to be determined post-EA completion; however, typically such initiatives involve the funding of third-party opportunities or projects, such as wetland and wildlife habitat creation and enhancement, aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement activities, or invasive species inventory or removal, among others. As well, in an effort to offset socio-economic net effects, Hydro One is also committed to working with local communities in the Project area to identify opportunities that could enhance and contribute to the broader landscape, recognizing that community benefits can be varied and diverse in nature. Following completion of the EA process, Hydro One will engage with Indigenous communities, local communities and interested parties to discuss the implementation of the biodiversity and community benefits initiatives for the Project.

Conclusion

This EA describes the Project and the existing environmental conditions and assesses the likely effects of the Project on the environment. The EA also includes an assessment of likely cumulative effects of the Project in combination with other previous, existing or reasonably foreseeable developments, as required. Throughout the EA process, Hydro One engaged with Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations and has woven this feedback into the EA where appropriate.

Based on the assessment, the Project is expected to provide the following net benefits (advantages):

- Increase in labour demand from direct employment, indirect employment, and induced employment.
- Contracting opportunities and spending by local and regional consumers and service-oriented businesses of wages and income from the Project will support economic development.

Hydro One acknowledges that proceeding with the Project is predicted to cause adverse net effects (i.e., disadvantages). However, based on the Project description prepared at the time of submission of this report, the existing environment, and taking into account the implementation of the mitigation measures described in the EA, the **net effects associated with the Project can be effectively mitigated** by standard and site-specific environmental protection measures, such that **no significant effects are predicted**.

The selection of the Project as the preferred alternative is supported by the identification of the Project as a priority project for the province in the 2013 Long Term Energy Plan. Overall, given the purpose of the Project to meet Ontario's current and future electricity delivery needs, the relative advantages (e.g., to maintain a reliable and cost-effective long-term electricity supply to northwestern Ontario) outweigh the relative disadvantages.





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