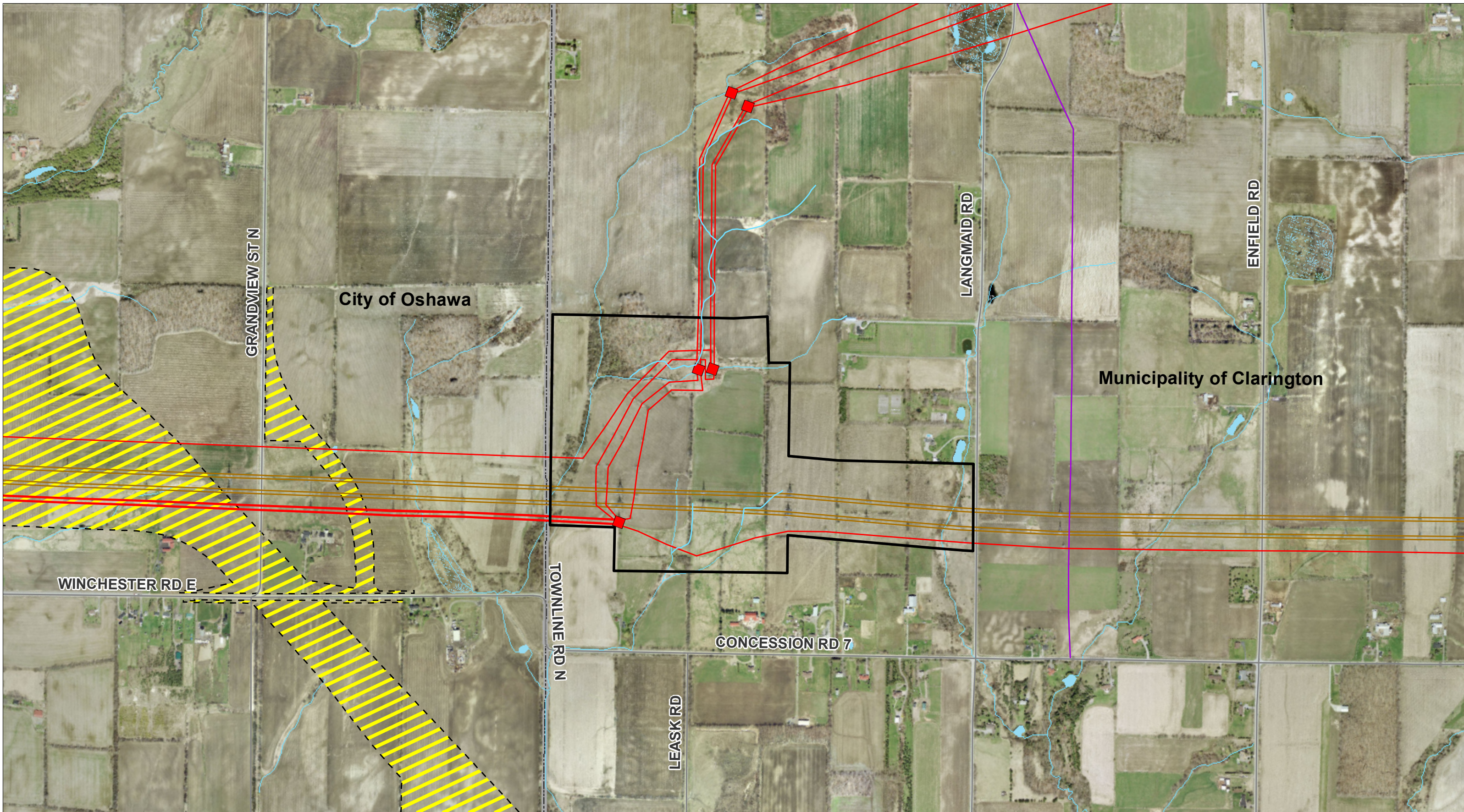




2. Class Environmental Assessment Process












2.1 Study Area Definition

The study area is broadly defined as the zone of influence of the Project related to such aspects of noise and visual effects, and is generally consistent with the road system now bordering the project area (i.e., Concession Road 7, Langmaid Road, Regional Road 3, and Grandview Ave).

The project area was defined by the Hydro One property within which the Project would be situated. The Hydro One property, hereinafter referred to as the “project area” is located in Durham Region, in the Municipality of Clarington, Part Lots 33, 34 and 35, Concession Road 7. The property is described as being north of Concession Road 7 between the unopened Townline Road North and Langmaid Road. A map of the project area is provided in **Figure 2-1**.





 Produced By: Inergi LP, GIS Services
 Date: July 22, 2013
 Fig2-1_Map12-02_ClaringtonTS_ProjectArea
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- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  230 kV Junctions | Transmission Lines |  Roads |  Watercourses |
|  44 kV |  Future Highway 407 |  Water |  Wetlands |
|  230 kV |  Project Area |  Municipal Boundary | |
|  500 kV | | | |

Clarington TS - Project Area
Figure 2-1



2.2 Initial Notification

As part of the Class EA process, initial project notification is to be provided to First Nations and Métis communities, government agencies and officials, interest groups, affected property owners and the public. The government agencies, as well as the affected municipal government, will be asked to provide comments with respect to potential concerns relating to their specific policies, mandates and/ or jurisdictions. The initial notification may be provided via letter, email, public notice, meeting and/or telephone.

Refer to **Section 4.1** for more details on the Initial Notification and **Section 4** for information on the consultation activities undertaken for the Project.

2.3 Environmental Inventory

As delineated in the Class EA process (Ontario Hydro, 1992), information should be collected for the following natural environment and socio-economic factors:

- Biological resources (i.e., terrestrial and aquatic resources);
- Forestry resources;
- Agricultural resources;
- Human settlement;
- Mineral resources;
- Recreational resources;
- Appearance of the landscape (i.e., visual and aesthetic resources); and
- Heritage resources (i.e., built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological sites).

Information for the factors was based on literature review, personal contacts and/or field surveys. Environmental baseline conditions of the study area have been documented in a number of publications and reports. This information was augmented and updated by data obtained from the MOE, MNR, CLOCA, the Municipality of Clarington and the City of Oshawa. The environmental baseline conditions are summarized in **Section 3**. This information was considered in assessing the potential effects of the Project.

2.4 Identification and Evaluation of Alternative Methods

The *EA Act* and the Class EA process require identification and evaluation of alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking. Alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking are not to be confused with alternatives to the undertaking. Alternative methods refer to different means of carrying out the same task (in this case, construction of a new 500/230 kV TS) such as at different locations (i.e., if the same facility or undertaking can be constructed at different locations), connection points (i.e., within a given site), access road routes and site layouts. Alternatives to the undertaking refer to functionally different means of addressing the need for the undertaking such as different transmission alternatives, or the “do nothing” alternative. As described in **Section 1.3**, Hydro One has accepted the conclusions of the OPA that there are no technically feasible alternatives to the undertaking and that construction of a new 500/230 kV TS is the only feasible undertaking which meet the Project need and purpose (**Sections 1.1** and **1.2**, respectively).

Potential alternative methods are identified based on past experience, cost and design standards, preliminary environmental inventory, and input received during the Class EA consultation process. If these potential alternatives pass technical, cost, environmental and social selection criteria, they are considered alternative methods to the undertaking. A more detailed investigation is then undertaken which involves the development of evaluation criteria which are circulated to stakeholders through public information centres, Project web site and other public consultation avenues.

Section 5.2 describes the rationale for selection of the station layout within the Clarington TS property. The station layout was selected to minimize disturbance to the woodlot (and associated creek) to the west and northwest, the existing transmission lines crossing the property (south, west and north) and local residences. The only property acquisition required was to permit access from the west (Townline Road North), as opposed to original plans to access along the transmission corridor from to the east (Langmaid Road).

Other alternative methods included the points of connection of the Clarington TS to the existing 500 kV and 230 kV transmission lines. The evaluation of these alternative methods and selection of the preferred method is described in detail in **Section 5.3**.

2.5 Final Notification and Draft ESR Review Period

As set out in the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (1992, Ontario Hydro), the draft ESR described and documented the Class EA process undertaken for the planning of the Project including the environmental inventory undertaken for the study area and all consultation activities, as well as the comments and issues raised during these activities.

A Final Notification was provided to First Nations and Métis communities, government agencies and officials, interest groups, affected property owners and interested public to announce the draft ESR 30-day review period upon completion of the draft ESR. The draft ESR was made available for review and comment from Thursday November 15, 2012 to Monday December 17, 2012.

Details of the Final Notification and the draft ESR review period can be found in **Sections 4.9 and 4.10**, and **Appendices B6 and B8**.

2.6 Part II Order Requests and Minister's Decision

Fifty-six (56) Part II Order request letters were received during the draft ESR review period to elevate the status of the project to an Individual EA. Hydro One responded to each of the issues and concerns raised in the Part II Order Request via letters to the requesters. The Part II Order request letters and Hydro One's responses can be found in **Appendix B9**.

After consideration of the Part II Order requests and Hydro One's responses, the Minister of the Environment decided that an Individual EA was not required. Both Hydro One and the requesters were notified about the decision in letters dated January 2, 2014.

In the letter addressed to Hydro One, the Minister of the Environment imposed six (6) conditions which are to be undertaken as the Project proceeds into the detailed design and construction phases. Many of the conditions are consistent with issues raised by stakeholders and are addressed within this ESR and/or communications with stakeholders during the Class EA process.

The Minister's conditions and Hydro One's responses are described in **Section 4.12.3**. The letters from the Minister's office informing Hydro One and the Part II Order requesters of the Minister's decision are provided in **Appendix B11**.