

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT***

### **NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS**

#### **Hydro One Networks Inc.'s Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities**

RE: Amendments to the Class Environment Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities

Proponent: Hydro One Networks Inc.

EA File No.: EA-03-03-02-02

Hydro One Networks Inc., as part of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (ministry) environmental assessment modernization initiative, submitted amendments to its approved Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities for a decision under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Section 15.4 of the EAA establishes the authority and process for making amendments to a class environmental assessment, including amendments made on the ministry's own initiative. To amend a class environmental assessment, the minister must be satisfied that the amendments are consistent with the purpose of the Act and the public interest.

The ministry consulted on the proposed amendments with Indigenous communities, members of the public, government agencies, and stakeholders. Following those consultations, the ministry has reviewed the proposed amendments and has recommended various amendments be made to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities that address the feedback received on the consultations, potential impacts to the environment, and the purpose of the EAA. The ministry has also made various administrative amendments to update references to legislation, correct inaccuracies, and clarify text.

Having considered the amending procedures set out in section 15.4 of the EAA and the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities, the proposed amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities, the submissions on the proposed amendments and the purpose of the EAA and the public interest, I am hereby amending the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities, as attached.

## REASONS

My reasons for amending the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities are as follows:

- (1) I am satisfied that adequate public notice of the proposed amendments has been provided and members of the public have had an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments. The public, provincial government agencies, municipalities and all Indigenous communities in Ontario had an opportunity to submit comments to the ministry during the 45-day comment period provided for the proposed amendments from July 8, 2020, until August 22, 2020. The proposal was posted on the Ontario.ca website and the Environmental Registry of Ontario during this 45-day comment period
- (2) I am also satisfied that adequate consultation with proponents of projects that that may proceed pursuant to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities has occurred, with an appropriate opportunity provided to proponents to review the proposed substantive amendments and to provide their comments.
- (3) The ministry has directly engaged with Indigenous communities on the proposed amendments, providing communities with information, an opportunity to attend webinar sessions or individualized meetings, an opportunity to comment and raise any concerns and has considered those comments and concerns. The Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities processes provides a formal, recognized process for Indigenous communities to learn about projects and to be consulted on those projects both on an interests basis and in terms of potential impacts to existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Additional information was provided in response to questions or concerns from Indigenous communities and concerns about the potential impact of proposed amendments on rights was considered by the ministry in their analysis and by me in my decision.
- (4) The ministry has responded to the concerns raised with respect to the proposed amendments, including proposing changes to amendments, and proposing a new screening process to address Indigenous community concerns related to archaeological resources.
- (5) The ministry has assessed the proposed amendments based on the low-risk criteria established by the ministry and has made its recommendations based on that analysis. The ministry has demonstrated that the final amendments recommended by the ministry are consistent with current legislative requirements and planning practices and will provide for a more effective planning process to deliver electricity transmission infrastructure and servicing in a more efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.
- (6) The administrative amendments proposed by the ministry are necessary and would correct errors in the class environmental assessment, update references to Acts, regulations, ministries, etc., would update the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities to be consistent with changes made to the EAA in 2019 and 2020 and/or are necessary to clarify the existing text of the class environmental assessment.

- (7) The ministry, based on its analysis of the proposed amendments, concluded that the amendments recommended for approval are consistent with the purpose of the EAA and would be in the public interest and based on my reasons set out above, I concur with this conclusion.

Notice of my decision to amend the class environmental assessment will be posted on the registry under the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993* before the amendments come into effect, as required by the *Environmental Assessment Act*, providing public notice of the changes made to the Class Environmental Assessment.

Dated the 12th day of July 2022 at TORONTO.



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Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
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