

Appendix C – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Hydro One doing?

Hydro One is seeking approval from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to design, build and operate the new East-West Tie Transmission Line Project. We're calling our proposed project the Lake Superior Link.

What is the Lake Superior Link Project?

The Lake Superior Link project is a 400 kilometre, double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line which would primarily be built on or adjacent to Hydro One's existing East-West Tie transmission corridor between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah, outside of Thunder Bay, and Wawa TS, just east of Wawa. Within Pukaskwa National Park, the existing line would be upgraded without widening the corridor.

Hasn't this project already been awarded to another company?

The construction phase of the project has not yet been awarded by the OEB. Last fall the Minister of Energy wrote a letter to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) about the cost of the plan that was submitted and asked the IESO to review all possible options to ensure customers are protected. In response, Hydro One has developed the Lake Superior Link Project which will deliver benefits to Ontario's electricity customers.

Why is Hydro One doing this?

We have a vision for powering northern Ontario — ensuring homes, businesses and industries with an adequate and reliable supply of power. As the owners and operators of 98% of the province's transmission system, we are uniquely positioned to provide an innovative and cost-effective solution to meet the needs of northwestern Ontario, while minimizing environmental impacts. The Lake Superior Link project will provide the capacity needed for regional growth and development to help northern Ontario shine.

How will this benefit customers and northern communities?

By maximizing existing infrastructure, Hydro One's proposed transmission line is the most cost-effective solution for Ontario electricity customers and it also minimizes environmental impacts. Hydro One's ability to modify its existing transmission infrastructure through Pukaskwa National Park means its proposed route is approximately 50 km shorter than the current proposal and eliminates the need to cut a new corridor through relatively undisturbed lands around the Park.

How much will the project cost and who is paying for it?

Hydro One's plan will deliver project cost savings in excess of \$100 million, and approximately \$3 million in annual operating and maintenance cost savings. Any capital electricity infrastructure project would be put into the rate base once the project is completed and in-service.

How will Hydro One engage local communities?

We want to hear from the public and local communities to ensure our proposal delivers tangible benefits to Ontario consumers and local communities. We will be engaging with communities, elected officials, oversight agencies, affected property owners and other interested parties for their feedback on the proposal.

Hydro One will also explore and discuss various benefits for Indigenous communities, including, but not limited to: capacity building to participate in the engagement process, procurement and sub-contracting opportunities, job training, employment and equity participation.

How can I get involved?

Throughout 2018, Hydro One will be hosting a series of information drop-ins in communities along the proposed route to discuss the project with stakeholders, residents, interest groups and businesses along the proposed transmission line routes. You may also contact Hydro One's Community Relations group by phone at 1-877-345-6799, or by email at Community.Relations@HydroOne.com.