

# Appendix C

## *Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation*



WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Provincial Agencies - Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
<b>Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)</b>						
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-14	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Bruce Hopper Christine Goulais Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated September 2020 Indigenous engagement summary.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-17	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Christine Goulais	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-22	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Christine Goulais	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide clarification on one of the responses.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-22	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Christine Goulais	Hydro One emailed ENDM to advise that Hydro One received comments from Grand Council Treaty #3 on the draft ToR seeking clarification regarding ENDM's role in the Project. Hydro One provided a copy of the questions from Grand Council Treaty #3, including proposed responses drafted by Hydro One. Hydro One asked the ENDM to review the responses to Grand Council Treaty #3's questions and advise Hydro One of any edits by end of day Thursday (i.e., September 24, 2020).
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-22	Email	Incoming	Jason McCullough	Christine Goulais	ENDM emailed Hydro One to confirm that they would be able to review Hydro One's draft responses to Grand Council Treaty #3 question regarding ENDM's role as it relates to the Project. ENDM asked Hydro One for clarification regarding one of the responses.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-22	Email	Incoming	Jason McCullough	Christine Goulais	ENDM emailed Hydro One to provide comments/edits on Hydro One's draft responses to Grand Council Treaty #3 regarding their questions pertaining to ENDM's role in the Project.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-23	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Christine Goulais	Hydro One emailed ENDM to thank them for outlining ENDM's role as it relates to the Project.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Andrea Pastori Clare Pineau Jennifer Paetz Mary Perry Tabitha Brown Tracey Dawson-Kinnonen	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed ENDM to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that ENDM was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that ENDM advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-30	Email	Incoming	Jennifer Paetz Mary Perry Tracey Dawson-Kinnonen	Dayna Groom	ENDM emailed Hydro One to request the removal of one of their staff from the Project contact list.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-09-30	Email	Outgoing	Jennifer Paetz Mary Perry Tracey Dawson-Kinnonen	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed ENDM to confirm the staff member would be removed from the Project contact list.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Bruce Hopper Christine Goulais Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated October 2020 Indigenous engagement summary.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Andrea Pastori Brady Lucas Clare Pineau Jennifer Paetz Mary Perry Tabitha Brown	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-15	Meeting		David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One met with the ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTC) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paj; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyszkewych; Kathleen	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2020-11-23	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Bruce Hopper Christine Goulais Devi Shantilal Jessica Maga Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated November 2020 Indigenous engagement summary. Hydro One provided the contacts of additional staff members at Hydro One who would be the leads going forward in terms of providing the monthly updates to ENDM and participating on the calls monthly to provide the verbal update and answer questions.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-09	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Sarah Cohanim Steven Mantifel	Hydro One met with ENDM and MECP to discuss the December 1, 2020 letter received from GLP. Hydro One provided a summary of engagement to date between the GLP and Hydro One. MECP inquired on Hydro One's stance on incorporating Indigenous Knowledge gathering earlier in the EA process. Hydro One noted that they have been sharing project information at regular bi-weekly meetings with the GLP. Hydro One inquired on what MECP would like from Hydro One in response to the letter, and next steps were discussed.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-15	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Sarah Cohanim Steven Mantifel	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of their response to the December 1, 2020 letter sent from GLP and draft meeting minutes for review.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-17	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MNRF, and MECP to provide an update on Indigenous community engagement and the status of the ToR.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2021-01-14	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Devi Shantilal Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated January 2021 Indigenous Engagement Summary.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-21	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2021-02-16	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Devi Shantilal Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated February 2021 Indigenous Engagement Summary.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-18	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One held a meeting with the ENDM, MECP, and MNRF to discuss monthly Project updates.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-24	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications)	Hydro One emailed the MECP to provide additional information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge collection with Indigenous communities on the Project, as requested by the MECP on a previous call (i.e., meeting on February 18, 2021). Hydro One provided information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge with all the Indigenous communities on the Project and attached a summary table. Hydro One noted they are continuing to discuss Indigenous Knowledge gathering with the communities and are holding meetings dedicated to this topic if communities are interested.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-24	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications)	The MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing detailed information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge collection with Indigenous communities on the Project.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2021-03-10	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Devi Shantilal Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated March 2021 Indigenous Engagement Summary.

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Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-18	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-22	Email	Outgoing	Bonnie Bartlett Carolyn Lee Charlene Wagenaar Jason McCullough Kathleen O'Neill Kimberly Yu Linda Norheim Nicholas (Nick) Richard Stephen Bonnell Theresa Stenlund Tim Sinclair	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel	Hydro One emailed MNO and MECP, copying ENDM, in response to the emails that Hydro One was copied on regarding the letter sent to MECP from MNO Region 1 and MNO Region 2 with their comments on the ToR [i.e., letter sent on January 18, 2021]. Hydro One offered assistance to attend meetings or provide any support as needed.
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-22	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Charlene Wagenaar Jason McCullough Kathleen O'Neill Kimberly Yu Nicholas (Nick) Richard Stephen Bonnell Theresa Stenlund Tim Sinclair	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel	MNO emailed Hydro One to thank them for their email to offer assistance and support regarding the letter sent from MNO to MECP on January 18, 2021. MNO advised Hydro One that they had been copied on the email to make Hydro One aware; however, the call would just be between MNO and MECP. MNO noted they would keep their correspondence between themselves and MECP in the future to avoid confusion.
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-22	Email	Outgoing	Bonnie Bartlett Carolyn Lee Charlene Wagenaar Jason McCullough Kathleen O'Neill Kimberly Yu Nicholas (Nick) Richard Stephen Bonnell Theresa Stenlund Tim Sinclair	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel	Hydro One emailed MNO to thank them for the clarification regarding the correspondence between MNO and MECP.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2021-04-08	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Devi Shantilal Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated April 2021 Indigenous Engagement Summary.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)	2021-05-12	Email	Outgoing	Jason McCullough	Devi Shantilal Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed ENDM to provide an email attachment of the updated May 2021 Indigenous Engagement Summary.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-20	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
<b>Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)</b>						
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Jeffrey Schnuerer	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the IESO to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adrienne Fox	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the IESO to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Adrienne Fox Jeffrey Schnuerer	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the IESO to provide a postcard with an update on the Project.
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)	2021-01-15	Email	Outgoing	Sheena Li	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed the IESO to provide contact information for the Project Manager of the Project. Hydro One noted that it had come to their attention that Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation had, or would be, applying to the IESO for funding under the Indigenous Energy Program Innovation stream. Hydro One provided a letter of support in relation to Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation's application.
Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)	2021-02-23	Email	Outgoing	Charlene Wagenaar Jeffrey Schnuerer	Devi Shantilal	Hydro One emailed the MNO, copying the IESO, to follow up on their inquiry regarding the Atikokan Generating Station. Hydro One provided an email attachment of the response from the IESO, and advised the MNO to contact the IESO for further inquiries regarding the Atikokan Generating Station contract renewal.
<b>Infrastructure Ontario (IO)</b>						
Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Ainsley Davidson Alan Sawyer Alex Lye Cory Ostrowka Joanna Brown Notice Review Inbox (IO) Ramsen Yousif	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed IO to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that IO was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that IO advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Alan Sawyer Alex Lye	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed two reviewers at IO to inform them Hydro One was forwarding the email regarding the preparation of submission of the ToR, as their complete email addresses had not been included on the original email.
Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	2020-09-29	Email	Incoming	Alan Sawyer	Dayna Groom	IO emailed Hydro One to notify them that two of their members who are no longer on their environmental team should be removed from the contact list and

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				Cory Ostrowka	Sarah Cohanim	copied their current contact for notices to the email.
Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Alan Sawyer Cory Ostrowka	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed IO to confirm the two contacts would be removed from the Project contact list.
Infrastructure Ontario (IO)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Ainsley Davidson Cory Ostrowka Joanna Brown Notice Review Inbox (IO) Ramsen Yousif	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed IO to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Frances Hallen	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	IO emailed Hydro One to inform them that it is the proponent's responsibility to verify if provincial government property is within the Project study area. IO subsequently provided a list of owners of provincial government property. IO requested that Hydro One consult with them as a directly affected stakeholder if provincial government property in the study area is not required for the project. Additionally, IO suggested that Hydro One should contact them for further instruction if government property is required for the Project.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Olment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
<b>Kenora-Rainy River Riding</b>						
Kenora-Rainy River Riding	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Greg Rickford	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the Ontario Legislative Assembly to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
Kenora-Rainy River Riding	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Greg Rickford	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the Ontario Legislative Assembly to provide a postcard with an update on the Project.
<b>Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA)</b>						
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Gail Willis Michelle Sixsmith Tammy Cook	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed LRCA to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that LRCA was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that LRCA advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Gail Willis Michelle Sixsmith Tammy Cook	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed LRCA to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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<b>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)</b>						
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-15	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP to provide the final meeting minutes for the meeting held on September 3, 2020. Hydro One noted that the MECP's comments regarding preference to receive a CD rather than USB were reflected in the meeting minutes to ensure the Project team was aware of the preference.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-16	Email	Outgoing	Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Erin Greenaway (Golder) Jill LaPorte (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Golder emailed the MECP and MNRF to provide the proposed agenda and presentations for their meeting on the following day (i.e., September 17, 2020).
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-17	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Christine Goulais	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-17	Meeting		Bill Greaves Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher Steve Bobrowicz Virginia Thompson	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Erin Greenaway (Golder) Jill LaPorte (Golder) ]Kevin Seel (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One held a meeting with the MECP and MNRF to discuss the proposed 2020 Field Work Plan. Additional information was also provided regarding the alternatives evaluation planned for the EA for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-22	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide the comments from their Species at Risk Branch on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan.

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-23	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing comments from their Species at Risk Branch on the 2020 Field Work Plan and for MECP's review of the Notice of Submission of the ToR. Hydro One provided the revised Notice as an email attachment, and requested that MECP review and confirm additional revisions.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-23	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide additional suggested edits and comments on the draft Notice of Submission of the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-24	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP to respond to their comments on the Notice of the ToR Submission. Hydro One noted they were not planning to include hardcopies of the ToR document at libraries and would have USBs/Tablets available, First Nation communities would be provided hardcopies and USBs to be shared with members of the communities, and confirmed that the Notice of the ToR Submission would be translated into French and posted on the Hydro One website.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-28	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide a draft of the Notice of the ToR Submission. Hydro One requested that MECP advise them of any comments or other requirements prior to the planned submission date.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-28	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the draft agenda for their upcoming meeting and noted they had no items to add to the agenda.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-28	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to recommend an edit to the draft Notice of the ToR Submission and provided an email attachment of the ToR submission instructions.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-01	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Alex To Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Christine Goulais Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hodsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting)	Hydro One held a meeting with MECP to discuss monthly Project updates. Topics included Indigenous community engagement updates, an updated plan for the proposed ToR submission, and next steps for the field work plan.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-05	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide email attachments of distribution memos, acknowledgement forms and a sample letter to the Director. The MECP noted the Notice of the ToR Submission should accompany copies of the ToR. MECP requested a copy of the final Notice and a copy of the Hydro One link to the Project webpage for the Notice of the ToR Submission (in French and English) so the MECP could post the links to the Ministry's Project webpage.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-05	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide a copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission. Hydro One confirmed they would send the Notice with all packages sent. Hydro One noted they would provide a URL to the Project website by the end of the week.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-05	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide a copy of edits to the meeting minutes from their previous meeting (i.e., October 1, 2020). MECP requested that Hydro One provide the URL to the updated Project website by the end of the week.
City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Town of Atikokan Township of Conmee Township of Ignace Township of O'Connor	2020-10-09	Mail	Outgoing	Brian Campbell Carolyn Lee Christine Kent Debra Kincaid James Antler Jason Young Jeff Howie Jim Vazina Melissa Mauro Pat Maxwell Paul Greenwood Penny Lucas Sheldon Haw Trevor Davis Wayne Hanchard	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One mailed government agency stakeholders hardcopies of the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise they were having trouble accessing the link to the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide updated links to the ToR and the Notice of the ToR Submission.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to request the URL to the French version of the Notice of the ToR Submission.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to inquire where they could find their comments on the Draft ToR with Hydro One's responses so they could distribute the ToR to their reviewers.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that the MECP located their comments on the Draft ToR with Hydro One's responses.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of the pages from Appendix M of the Draft ToR specific to MECP comments.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide a link to the French version of the Notice of the ToR Submission.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the French version of the Notice of the ToR Submission.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-15	Meeting		David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One met with the ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-15	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP and provided an email attachment of the updated 2020 Field Work Plan, noting it was reviewed based on comments received. A table with Hydro One's responses to the comments provided by the MECP was also provided as an email attachment. Hydro One advised the aerial reconnaissance was scheduled for October 20 to 24, 2020.
Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Frances Hallen	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	IO emailed Hydro One to inform them that it is the proponent's responsibility to verify if provincial government property is within the Project study area. IO subsequently provided a list of owners of provincial government property. IO requested that Hydro One consult with them as a directly affected stakeholder if provincial government property in the study area is not required for the project. Additionally, IO suggested that Hydro One should contact them for further instruction if government property is required for the Project.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Bleskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananthorn; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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(CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTC) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Maira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Nizowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of a spreadsheet tracking the delivery of hardcopies and read receipts for the Indigenous communities, a PDF of the read receipts received from Indigenous community contacts, and tear sheets for the newspaper ads that ran earlier that week.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to ask for the password for the USB key to provide to Red Sky Métis Independent Nation. MECP inquired if Hydro One had copies of the courier delivery confirmations for Indigenous communities.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-19	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to advise they were able to assist Red Sky Métis Independent Nation to access the ToR and supporting documents. Hydro One provided an email attachment of the shipping confirmations for the hard copies couriered to the Indigenous communities.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-20	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hodsoll	MECP emailed Hydro One to request they continue forwarding comments received from Hydro One's Community Relations Inbox. MECP provided an email attachment of three comment tracking tables, MNR's comments from their letter dated October 16 to the GRT table, and the comments received from two property owners. MECP requested that Hydro One enter any comments received from Indigenous communities outreach into Table 2.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-21	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing their responses to MECP's Species at Risk Branch comments on the 2020 Field Work Plan. MECP noted that additional comments from their Species at Risk Branch would be reflected in the Ministry's comments on the final ToR. Additionally, MECP noted there may be additional EA requirements that may arise from the field work process based on received comments. MECP added that their Species at Risk Branch would need a minimum of four weeks to respond to requests for reviews of the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note they had received a public comment the previous day regarding harnessing hydro power from a local pulp mill in the City of Dryden. MECP inquired if Hydro One had knowledge of the topic and could respond to the comment.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the Lappe area resident, copying MECP to the email, to thank them for providing comments regarding paralleling transmission corridors for the new line. Hydro One noted the resident's input had been documented and would be taken into consideration when evaluating the alternative routes during the EA.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the property owner who had requested where to find a detailed map of the proposed transmission line for the Project, copying MECP to the email. Hydro One provided information regarding the proposed ToR document and noted where the alternative routes identified in the ToR could be found.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Natasha Robertson	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the Roots & Branches Forest School, copying MECP to the email, to thank them for their interest in the Project and provided information regarding the ToR. In response to Roots & Branches Forest School's inquiry about the potential health impacts of the project, Hydro One noted that scientific research does not demonstrate that electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) cause or contribute to adverse health effects.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Natasha Robertson	Emily Spitzer	Hydro One emailed the Roots & Branches Forest School, copying MECP to the email, to provide them a map of the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hodsoll	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for sending the tracking tables and informed them they would update them as they receive comments. Hydro One provided an email attachment of the updated table. Hydro One requested MECP advise how often they would like to be sent the tracking tables, and provided an email attachment of additional comments received, remaining tear sheets, and an updated delivery receipt.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-22	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for sending the public comment that was received the previous day and noted they would work on a response.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-23	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the two residents of Gorham who had expressed concerns of the transmission line through Lappe, copying MECP to the email. Hydro One thanked the residents for their interest in the proposed Project and for providing comments regarding alternative route 1 and 1B. Hydro One noted their input had been documented and would be taken into consideration when evaluating the alternative routes during the EA. Hydro One additionally provided information about the proposed ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-23	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hadsoll	MECP emailed Hydro One to note they would like to review the tracking tables on a weekly basis. MECP inquired if Hydro One was still awaiting delivery confirmation for the MNO in regards to the hardcopy of the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-23	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hadsoll	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an updated tracking sheet and outstanding courier confirmations. Hydro One noted they were awaiting confirmation from Fedex that a copy had been delivered. Thus, they advised they had sent another document via a different courier in case the Fedex delivery was not received.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-23	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hadsoll	MECP emailed Hydro One to inquire if they were aware of the Dryden Mill's proposal to feed power to the power grid. MECP stated they could reach out to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) about the proposal.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-26	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the property owner in Dryden who had inquired about one of the proposed routes for the Project, copying MECP to the email. Hydro One provided information on the proposed ToR. Hydro One noted that for the alternative route in discussion, they were unable to consider the existing right-of-way for the new transmission line due to safety and technical requirements, and advised that they would need to widen the existing right-of-way to accommodate the new infrastructure.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-26	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the resident who had requested that Hydro One send them a map of the planned transmission line(s) between Kakabeka Falls and the Highway 11/Highway 17 divide at Shabaqua, copying MECP to the email. Hydro One provided a brief overview of the route assessment process and attached a map for the relevant section.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-28	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One requesting a list of Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC) and their contact information.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-29	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP a list of Community Engagement Coordinators (CEC) and their contact information. Hydro One noted that two First Nation communities and MNO had not yet elected a CEC.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-29	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing a list of Community Engagement Coordinators and their contact information.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-30	Email	Outgoing	Bill Greaves Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher Steve Bobrowicz Virginia Thompson	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Golder emailed MECP and provided an email attachment of the meeting minutes on the 2020 Field Work Plan. Golder noted their 2021-2022 field plan was in development.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-30	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an updated ToR comment/response table for members of the public, an email sent to the Community Relations Inbox that week, final meeting minutes from their previous meeting, and a draft agenda for their following meeting.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-03	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise they had received a call from a resident who lived close to Dog Lake and had requested more project information regarding route selection.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-03	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to advise they had received a call from Grand Council Treaty #3 regarding difficulty accessing the responses in Appendix M of the Record of Consultation in the draft ToR. MECP suggested to distribute the comment and response tables with a covering letter.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-04	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for informing them of the phone call with Grand Council Treaty #3 regarding accessing the ToR. Hydro One noted the MECP's recommendation for sending letters with their responses to comments received had been acknowledged and would be implemented in the future.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-05	Meeting		Carolyn Lee	Alex To Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hadsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One held a meeting with MECP to discuss monthly Project updates. Topics included Indigenous community engagement updates, Community Relations engagement updates, the ToR review and comment period, and next steps for the field work plan.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-05	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed a member of the public, copying MECP to the email, to note their input had been documented and would be taken into consideration when evaluating the alternative routes during the EA. Hydro One provided a brief overview of the ToR and confirmed the member of the public would be added to the Project contact list.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-06	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP and provided an email attachment of the updated ToR comment/response table for members of the public and a letter from GLP regarding timing of field studies and Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use. Per request, Hydro One also provided a general overview of the Waasigan Community Roundtable for the Project to MECP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-06	Phone	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP called Hydro One to advise they had received a request for an extension to the ToR review period from Grand Council Treaty #3, until November 30, 2020. MECP indicated they would grant the extension and would include Hydro One on their confirmation to Grand Council Treaty #3 the following week.
Grand Council Treaty #3 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-06	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Lucas King Michelle Shephard	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	MECP emailed Grand Council Treaty #3, copying Hydro One to the email, to confirm the Ministry had received their request for extension of the ToR review period.
Grand Council Treaty #3 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-10	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Lucas King Michelle Shephard	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	MECP emailed Grand Council Treaty #3, copying Hydro One, to confirm the Ministry had accepted their request for an additional two weeks to review the ToR for the Project EA.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-10	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee James Antler James Hamilton Karla Barboza Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed MECP, copying Hydro One, to provide an email attachment of comments from the MHSTCI's Heritage Planning Unit on the ToR for the Project. MHSTCI advised that separate comments from the Tourism Unit may be submitted related to their mandate.

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 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-10	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of comments received from MHSTCI's Tourism Policy Unit on the ToR for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Treasury Metals Inc	2020-11-11	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Mackenzie Denyes Mac Potter Mark Wheeler	Sarah Cohanim	Treasury Metals Inc. emailed MECP, copying Hydro One, to provide an email attachment of their feedback on the ToR, noting they own the Goliath Gold Project which is located within the study area for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-12	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of comments received from the MTO on the ToR for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-12	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for forwarding the comments received from the MTO on the ToR for the Project. Hydro One inquired whether they should be populating the Government Review Team comment/response table with received comments, or if MECP would be sending a compiled table for Hydro One to enter responses, as required.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-12	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to confirm Hydro One should populate the Government Review Team comment/response table. MECP provided an email attachment of the October 9, 2020 letter to their Director, for Hydro One's records.
Grand Council Treaty #3 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-12	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Lucas King Michelle Shephard	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	Grand Council Treaty #3 emailed MECP, copying Hydro One, to thank them for accepting their request for an additional two weeks to review the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-13	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that the MNO had tentatively requested an additional two weeks to submit comments on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-13	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of comments received from LRCA on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-13	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide email attachments of the public comment/response tracker, an email received from a property owner, and summaries of discussions with Indigenous communities.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-14	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of comments from their Species at Risk Branch on the revised 2020 Field Work Plan.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the comments received from OMAFRA on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to forward the comments received from MHSTCI's Sport, Recreation and Community Program Division on the ToR.
Maawandoon Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) North Vista Seine River First Nation	2020-11-16	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Lori Salo Mario Buszynski Marvin Pelletier Patrick Boileau Thomas Johnson	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide the email of the request from GLP for the extension of comments on the ToR.
Maawandoon Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) North Vista Seine River First Nation	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Lori Salo Mario Buszynski Marvin Pelletier Patrick Boileau Thomas Johnson	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that the ministry accepted GLP's request for an extension to submit comments on the ToR on November 20, 2020.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to forward the response received from the City of Thunder Bay on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to forward the response received from the Town of Atikokan on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the comments received from ENDM on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to forward the comments received from MNRF on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of their comments and additional general feedback on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-17	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that MNRF had received an email from an Anibiigoog Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek community member expressing concerns about the Project. MECP requested Hydro One include the content of the emails in the public comment tracker.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-17	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to advise they would update their public response tracker to include the comments received from the Anibiigoog Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek community member. Hydro One additionally confirmed receipt of the comments shared from MECP, MNRF, ENDM, OMAFRA and MHSTCI - Sports, Recreation and Community Programs.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Tousha Esquega	MECP emailed Hydro One to note that Mitaanijamiiing First Nation had emailed MECP to advise they would send their comments on the ToR by the end of the week.
Fort William First Nation Grand Council Treaty #3 Lac La Croix First Nation Lac Seul First Nation Maawandoon Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation North Vista Pinchin Seine River First Nation Shared Value Solutions Ltd Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020-11-20	Email	Incoming	Bert Cantin Carolyn Lee Daniel Morrisseau Darren Harper Don Richardson Gerald Kejick Lori Salo Mario Buszynski Marvin Pelletier Michael Ottertail Michelle Shephard Mike Vanegmond Patrick Boileau Robert Atatise Robert Parenteau Robert Pierre Stephanie Wrostad Thomas Johnson	Callum Squires (Golder) Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tousha Esquega	North Vista emailed Hydro One and MECP to provide an email attachment of GLP's comments (compiled by GLP's advisor) on the ToR for the Project. The letter provided project background, as well as comments pertaining to fieldwork, contribution of Tradition Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use information, description of the Project, record of commitments in the EA, Project effects and compliance monitoring, and existing and potential effects.

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Fort William First Nation Grand Council Treaty #3 Lac La Croix First Nation Lac Seul First Nation Maawandoon Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation North Vista Pinchin Seine River First Nation Shared Value Solutions Ltd Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020-11-20	Email	Incoming	Bert Cantin Carolyn Lee Daniel Morrisseau Darren Harper Don Richardson Gerald Kejick Lori Salo Mario Buszynski Marvin Pelletier Michael Ottertail Michelle Shephard Mike Vanegmond Patrick Boileau Robert Atatise Robert Parenteau Robert Pierre Stephanie Wrostad Thomas Johnson	Callum Squires (Golder) Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanin Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tausha Esquega	MECP emailed Hydro One and North Vista to thank them for providing GLP's comments on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-20	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide email attachments of various documents pertaining to engagement and consultation for the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-24	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise they had no comments on the November 5, 2020 meeting minutes.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-25	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One called MECP to confirm whether the comments regarding the criteria and indicators could be addressed during the EA. MECP confirmed that it was satisfactory to make a commitment to address in the EA and provided an update on their follow-up with Indigenous communities.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-25	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of examples of EA work plans prepared by a landfill proponent to Hydro One.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-26	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide the contact information of the Community Engagement Coordinator that was hired by Lac Seul First Nation.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-27	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide email attachments of various documents pertaining to the ToR. Hydro One informed MECP they would provide responses to the comments received from GLP the following week.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-30	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One, Dillon, and Golder met with MECP and MNRF to review the comments received on the ToR and review their approach for the alternative route evaluation process for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-30	Meeting		Carolyn Lee	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One, Dillon, and Golder met with MECP to review comments received from the Environmental Approvals Branch of MECP on the ToR. Next steps in the review process were also discussed.
Grand Council Treaty #3 Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation Rainy River First Nation Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020-11-30	Email	Incoming	Arnold Gardner Carolyn Lee Gerald Lewis Lorraine Cobiness Michelle Shephard Robin McGinnis Vernon Redsky Waylon Scott Will Windigo	Christine Goulais Tausha Esquega	Grand Council Treaty #3 emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the comments received from Grand Council Treaty #3's Territorial Planning Unit on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the comments received from the MNO on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the comments received from the Grand Council Treaty #3 on the ToR.
Grand Council Treaty #3 Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation Rainy River First Nation Wabaseemoong Independent Nations	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Arnold Gardner Carolyn Lee Gerald Lewis Lorraine Cobiness Lucas King Michelle Shephard Robin McGinnis Vernon Redsky Waylon Scott Will Windigo	Christine Goulais Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed Grand Council Treaty #3 to thank them for sending the Territorial Planning Unit of Grand Council Treaty #3 comments in relation to the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for sending the comments received from the Grand Council Treaty #3 on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for sending the comments received from the MNO on the ToR.
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of a letter received from the IAAC on the ToR for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	MECP emailed the member of the public who had inquired about harnessing hydro energy from the local Dryden pulp mill, copying Hydro One to the email. MECP provided a response to the inquiry from the Independent Electricity System Operator to address supply capacity in the area.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-03	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One called MECP to discuss updates to comments received from stakeholders and the next steps regarding responses to the comments received from GLP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-04	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide email attachments of various documents pertaining to consultation and engagement on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-07	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanin	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of the updated Indigenous community comment/response tracker for the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-07	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanin	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the updated Indigenous community comment/response tracker for the ToR.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-09	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Sarah Cohanim Steven Mantifel	Hydro One met with ENDM and MECP to discuss the December 1, 2020 letter received from GLP. Hydro One provided a summary of engagement to date between the GLP and Hydro One. MECP inquired on Hydro One's stance on incorporating Indigenous Knowledge gathering earlier in the EA process. Hydro One noted that they have been sharing project information at regular bi-weekly meeting with the GLP. Hydro One inquired on what MECP would like from Hydro One in response to the letter, and next steps were discussed.
Fort William First Nation Grand Council Treaty #3 Lac La Croix First Nation Lac Seul First Nation Maawandoon Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation North Vista Ollhuis Kleer Townshend (OKT LLP) Pinchin Seine River First Nation Shared Value Solutions Ltd Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020-12-10	Email	Incoming	Arnold Gardner Bert Cantin Carolyn Lee Daniel Morrisseau Darren Harper Don Richardson Gerald Kejick Glen Wetelainen Jim Windego Kate Kempton Lori Salo Mario Buszynski Marvin Pelletier Michael Ottertail Michelle Shephard Mike Vanegmond Oliver MacLaren Patrick Boileau Peter Collins Raymond Angeconeb Robert Atatise Robert Parenteau Robert Pierre Stephanie Wrostad Thomas Johnson Will Windigo	Brett Thompson (Golder) Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tausha Esquega	North Vista emailed Hydro One, copying MECP, to request that Hydro One focus their discussions with the GLP to items on the ToR, Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use studies, and administrative items only, and not on EA-related activities.
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-11	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED] Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed the Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek community member who had raised concerns regarding impacts to residents and wildlife with respect to proposed Alternative Route 1A of the Project and copied Hydro One on the email. The MECP confirmed receipt of the comment and noted they had copied the Environmental Planner at Hydro One for the Project to ensure Hydro One was aware of their concerns as well.
Cassels Brock & Blackwell Fort William First Nation Grand Council Treaty #3 Lac La Croix First Nation Lac Seul First Nation Maawandoon Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Nigigoosiminikaaning First Nation North Vista Ollhuis Kleer Townshend (OKT LLP) Pinchin Seine River First Nation Shared Value Solutions Ltd Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation	2020-12-11	Email	Outgoing	Arnold Gardner Bert Cantin Carolyn Lee Daniel Morrisseau Darren Harper Don Richardson Gerald Kejick Glen Wetelainen Jim Windego Kate Kempton Lori Salo Mario Buszynski Marvin Pelletier Michael Ottertail Michelle Shephard Mike Vanegmond Oliver MacLaren Patrick Boileau Peter Collins Raymond Angeconeb Robert Atatise Robert Parenteau Robert Pierre Stephanie Wrostad Thomas Johnson Will Windigo	Arend J.A. Hoekstra (Cassels Brock & Blackwell) Brett Thompson (Golder) Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Sarah Cohanim Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed North Vista, providing a letter with Hydro One's response to North Vista's comments received on December 10, 2020.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-11	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of their feedback and requests for clarification on the comment/response tables for the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-12	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to advise they would be respecting GLP's request that Hydro One focus their discussions on the ToR, Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use studies, and administrative items only. Hydro One provided an email attachment of their response to GLP's email.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-14	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to confirm receipt of their request for clarification on the comment/response tables and noted they would add additional information in response to the comments received.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-15	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel Sarah Cohanim Steven Mantifel	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of their response to the December 1, 2020 letter sent from GLP and draft meeting minutes for review.
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-16	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]	Community Relations Inbox Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek community member who had expressed concerns regarding alternative route 1A, copying MECP to the email. Hydro One noted the concerns had been document and would be taken into consideration when evaluating the alternative routes during the EA. Hydro One noted the final route would not be decided until the EA portion of the project, which would begin following approval of the ToR. Hydro One thanked the resident for providing a map of a historic site of a church and cemetery.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-17	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MNRF, and MECP to provide an update on Indigenous community engagement and the status of the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-18	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of their responses to the clarification comments provided by MECP. Hydro One noted additional correspondence with the public had been added to the public comment table.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-18	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to advise they had updated the Record of Consultation appendix on the Project website to add additional "proof" documents for Indigenous communities that were not previously included. Hydro One noted they had added the October 2018 ENDM delegation letter to the agency appendix.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-18	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of documents sent by Hydro One on December 18, 2020.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-07	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called the MECP to request an update on the review of the ToR. The MECP stated they were reviewing the updated responses Hydro One sent on December 18, 2020. The MECP confirmed there may be an additional back/forth of comment and responses depending on whether there were any outstanding concerns from agencies. The MECP did not give any indication on timelines for the ToR review. The MECP noted they would be reaching out to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and the MECP's Indigenous Relations advisors to coordinate a meeting with the GLP shortly.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-07	Email	Incoming	Lindsay McColm		MECP emailed Golder to advise of the Species at Risk Biologist at MECP for the Project and provided information regarding bat ecotopes.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-12	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to provide the contact information for obtaining Geographic Information System (GIS) shapefiles from the MTO.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-13	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to provide shapefiles obtained from the MTO for Highway 17 and Highway 11/17 from the Terry Fox National Historic Plaque (located in Shuniah) to Vermillion Bay.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-15	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to advise on a follow up comment that was received from OMAFRA with regards to the ToR. The MECP noted that OMAFRA would like the Environmental Assessment to consider how climate change may open up agriculture in the north. The MECP asked Hydro One if this consideration could be committed to examining in the Environmental Assessment.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-19	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP to thank them for passing along the additional ToR comment received from OMAFRA requesting consideration of how climate change may open up agriculture in the north. Hydro One noted they could commit to including this in the EA; however, it would focus on the Project's effects to climate change and not a broader regional assessment of climate change effects on agriculture in the north.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to provide a copy of a letter from MNO to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, which reiterated MNO's comments on the ToR. The MECP noted Hydro One's responses to Indigenous community comments had not yet been shared. The MECP noted they are working with the ENDM to provide responses to some of Grand Council Treaty #3's comments related to overarching electricity planning and legislative changes. The MECP advised that a draft letter to GLP responding to their request to meet had been prepared but was undergoing internal review.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-19	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called the MECP to discuss the ToR Review. MECP indicated that the ToR review process is ongoing, and they are working to compile responses prior to sending Hydro One's responses to the Indigenous communities. The MECP confirmed that a meeting with the GLP had not yet been scheduled. MECP confirmed they had shared Hydro One's responses with all agencies. Next steps with the MNO letter sent on January 18, 2021 were also discussed.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to provide a copy of "Table 2: Indigenous Community Comment Summary Table" which included comments added by the MECP in areas where updates may be needed.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-20	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP to thank them for providing comments in "Table 2: Indigenous Community Comment Summary Table". Hydro One noted they would review the document and send back a revised table with any changes tracked.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-21	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-21	Email	Outgoing	Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nikki Boucher Steve Bobrowicz	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hodsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tausha Esquega	Golder emailed the MECP and MNRF to follow-up on the request for a copy of the alternative route evaluation verification field program presentation that was presented to the MECP and MNRF in late 2020. Golder provided a copy of the presentation as an attachment. Golder noted that a field work plan is being worked on to provide more details on the approach for this additional field program. Golder noted that the field work plan would be submitted to the MECP and MNRF for review and comment ahead of completing the field work.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-28	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to share a copy of the MNRF's follow-up comments (letter and table) on Hydro One's responses to the MNRF's comments on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-29	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called MECP to request an update on the ToR review process. MECP explained that they were still working through comments and responses and were waiting for the MECP Species at Risk Branch review comments. MECP noted the response to the GLP had not yet been sent and was still under review. Hydro One informed MECP they had advised GLP that MECP was working on a response, MECP thanked Hydro One for this. MECP stated they were still working through responses to comments with the IESO and ENDM. Hydro One advised MECP that at the meeting they would be discussing next steps on the sharing/reviewing of the field programs with MNRF and MECP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-02	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Alex To Brandon Fox (Dillon) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Hodsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with the MECP to discuss the Project, including an update on Indigenous community engagement, community relations, ToR review, and the field program and alternative route evaluation.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-02	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the letter of response to GLP sent from the Director of the Environmental Assessment Branch

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
						[MECP] in response to GLP's December 1, 2020 letter.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-03	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP and MNRF to inquire on scheduling a call to discuss next steps on the field program and the plan for review of the draft workplans, prior to Hydro One sending them to the MECP and MNRF for review.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-05	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to thank them for their efforts to provide sufficient time to consider the proposed work plans prior to the planned work. The MNRF noted they were not in position to engage in discussion about the review of these plans, or to provide any meaningful feedback on the work plans themselves, without first having a clear understanding of how the information Hydro One is planning to collect will form their evaluation of alternative routes. The MNRF noted once this aspect of the ToR had been confirmed, they would be able to participate effectively in these discussions and would welcome the opportunity to do so.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-05	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MNRF to clarify that in the meeting with the MECP earlier that week (i.e., February 2) it was agreed that another discussion with the MNRF and MECP would be helpful to further explain Hydro One's plans for the field data collection and EA over the coming months. Hydro One noted that a part of those plans is the submission of the field work plan for the alternative route field surveys as requested by the MNRF. Hydro One noted they would like to discuss the timing of this and how that work would factor into their alternative route evaluation process. Hydro One noted they were also developing a few scenario graphics to better outline plans for the EA, and they believed that this next meeting would provide the clarity that the MNRF was looking for.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to note the MNRF could participate in a call to hear what Hydro One was proposing for its field data collection and how they intend to use the data that is collected in the alternative route evaluation process. The MNRF noted they would not be providing comment on those proposals or the work plans at the meeting, and requested that Hydro One confirm if they still wish to meet under that understanding.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kiran Anwar Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note their availability to attend a meeting to hear what additional field work Hydro One was proposing to address ToR concerns regarding ground-based investigations to inform alternative route evaluation. The MECP noted that due to competing priorities, the MECP Species at Risk Branch staff were currently unable to review additional draft field work plans. The MECP provided an email attachment of the MECP's Species at Risk Branch follow-up comments on the 2020 Field Work Plan that had been provided in November 2020. The MECP noted some of the comments were outstanding as the aerial reconnaissance work was completed the week of October 20, 2020 before the 2020 Field Work Plan was finalized. The MECP noted the comments should provide some preliminary guidance on field work planning to inform the evaluation of alternative routes and the assessment of the preferred route with respect to Species at Risk.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MNRF to thank them for their response on February 9, 2021. Hydro One noted they would reach out to the primary MNRF contact the next day to schedule a meeting.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kiran Anwar Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note that their Species at Risk Branch staff would also like to attend the meeting to discuss the field program next steps and provided their availability.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-10	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called the MECP to discuss updates on the ToR review process and the upcoming meeting with the MNRF regarding the alternative route evaluation process and field work plans. MECP confirmed that a meeting with the GLP had not yet been scheduled, and that their response to the MNO's January 18, 2021 letter was still undergoing internal review.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-10	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	The MECP emailed Hydro One to advise they had sent Hydro One's responses to Grand Council Treaty #3, in regard to the comments received on the ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-16	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of MECP Species at Risk Branch's follow-up comments on the ToR. MECP noted that outstanding concerns included the information and studies used to select a preferred route, as well as the list of criteria and indicators for SAR were considered insufficient for both the Alternative Route Selection and the Net Effects Assessment.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-17	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing the MECP Species at Risk Branch follow-up comments on the ToR.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-18	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (FireDog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One held a meeting with the ENDM, MECP, and MNRF to discuss monthly Project updates.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-22	Meeting		Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McCole Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Erin Greenaway (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tomara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One held a meeting with the MECP and MNRF to discuss the proposed approach to the alternative route evaluation and field work for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-22	Email	Outgoing	Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McCole Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Erin Greenaway (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tomara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One emailed the MNRF and MECP to thank them for joining the call that day for an update on the Project Alternative Route Evaluation and field program. Hydro One provided an email attachment of the presentation from the call.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-24	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (FireDog Communications)	Hydro One emailed the MECP to provide additional information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge collection with Indigenous communities on the Project, as requested by the MECP on a previous call (i.e., meeting on February 18, 2021). Hydro One provided information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge with all the Indigenous communities on the Project, and attached a summary table. Hydro One noted they are continuing to discuss Indigenous Knowledge gathering with the communities and are holding meetings dedicated to this topic if communities are interested.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-24	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (FireDog Communications)	The MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing detailed information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge collection with Indigenous communities on the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-26	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP to provide email attachments of a draft agenda for the upcoming MECP Monthly Meeting (scheduled for March 4, 2021), and meeting minutes from the previous MECP Monthly Meeting (i.e., meeting held on February 2, 2021).

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-26	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Nancy Berglund	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP and MNRF to provide the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan for their review. Hydro One noted they will also be following up with a memo summarizing the findings of the 2020 field work as well as a criteria and indicators spreadsheet shortly.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-26	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the MECP's edits to the meeting minutes from the previous MECP monthly meeting (i.e. meeting held on February 2, 2021).
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-01	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide the final meeting minutes from their February 2, 2021 meeting. Topics included updates on Community Relations and Indigenous community engagements, an update on the ToR, and discussion of the Field Program and Alternative Route Evaluation.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-02	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Alex To Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Stephanie Hadsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with the MECP to discuss the Project, including an update on Indigenous community engagement, community relations, ToR review, and the field program and alternative route evaluation.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-03	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the Draft Alternative Route and 2021-2022 Field Work Plans. MNRF noted that, as previously mentioned to Hydro One, MNRF would be looking for how the proposed field work will be used in both the alternatives analysis and the net effects assessment on the preferred route, how the field data collection relates to the Criteria and Indicators and how sampling methods were determined. MNRF noted they looked forward to receiving the summary of the 2020 field season and the spreadsheet on Criteria and Indicators.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-04	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to follow-up on their previous meeting (i.e., meeting held on February 22, 2021). Hydro One noted their understanding was that MECP was waiting for the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF to review the recently provided field work plans prior to determining whether the concerns these two agencies raised during the ToR review process had been adequately addressed. However, Hydro One advised that this was a deviation from what was previously discussed with MECP, as the field work plans are a function of the EA and should not delay MECP's review and the Minister's decision on the ToR. Hydro One noted they had made changes to their overall EA approach in order to address the comments raised from MECP and MNRF and provided an email attachment of two tables that depict how the agency comments had been addressed. Hydro One requested a phone call to discuss outstanding items to progress the ToR review. Hydro One noted they were aware of two outstanding matters that MECP was actively addressing before the ToR review could be completed: meeting with GLP on March 9, and a response to the MNO letter dated January 18, 2021. Hydro One advised they were prepared to provide support for these two outstanding matters.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-05	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that the response letter to MNO's January 18, 2021 letter and Hydro One's responses to the ToR comments had been sent to MNO.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-11	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One phoned MECP to request an update from the GLP meeting that occurred on March 9, 2021. MECP provided an overview of what was discussed, including that GLP wanted commitment from Hydro One that Indigenous Knowledge would be considered at key decision-making milestones during the EA, and noted GLP's concerns around engagement. MECP noted they had advised GLP to work with Hydro One to develop language that could be added to the ToR to address their outstanding concerns, and MECP indicated that GLP would reach out to Hydro One to begin these conversations. MECP advised they would provide example wording from a previously approved ToR to GLP and Hydro One.  Additionally, MECP provided information on the amendment process and indicated that broader consultation on the changes may not be required depending on the extent of the changes. MECP advised they had a phone call scheduled with GLP in approximately one month's time. MECP committed to providing Hydro One with meeting minutes with GLP once they are finalized.  Hydro One also discussed the outstanding concerns on the ToR from the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF and requested confirmation that the agencies do not need to complete their full review of the field work plans in order to consider their concerns addressed. MECP confirmed that the priority now that the agencies had the field programs for review, was to confirm that their concerns had been addressed and a complete review of the field work plans was not required for ToR approval.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-11	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide the website link to the ToR amendment for the Hardrock Gold Mine project that speaks to Indigenous community engagement at each EA milestone for Hydro One to use as an example for their ToR amendment.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-12	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Nancy Berglund	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP and MNRF to provide email attachments of the 2020 Field Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report; responses to MNRF comments on the final 2020 Field Program; responses to MECP comments on the final 2020 Field Program; Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria and Indicators Spreadsheet; and meeting minutes from the Alternative Routes Field Program Update meeting on February 22, 2021. Hydro One noted the ToR approval was a critical milestone, as it allows Hydro One to progress other aspects of the Project, including engagement such as sending field work plans to Indigenous communities. Hydro One advised they believed they had sufficiently resolved all outstanding agency comments, and requested the first priority be confirming that MECP's and MNRF's comments on the ToR had been resolved. Hydro One noted they would appreciate any opportunity to expedite the four-week review periods that had been requested by MECP and MNRF for each of the draft and final field work plans, in order to better achieve the project plan Hydro One has described, including completing important field work during the appropriate seasons in 2021.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-12	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for sending the Project documents regarding the 2020 Field Summary and Criteria and Indicators.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-18	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-22	Email	Outgoing	Bonnie Bartlett Carolyn Lee Charlene Wagenaar Jason McCullough Kathleen O'Neill Kimberly Yu Linda Norheim Nicholas (Nick) Richard Stephen Bonnell Theresa Stenlund	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel	Hydro One emailed MNO and MECP, copying ENDM, in response to the emails that Hydro One was copied on regarding the letter sent to MECP from MNO Region 1 and MNO Region 2 with their comments on the ToR (i.e., letter sent on January 18, 2021). Hydro One offered assistance to attend meetings or provide any support as needed.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
				Tim Sinclair		
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-22	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Charlene Wagenaar Jason McCullough Kathleen O'Neill Kimberly Yu Nicholas (Nick) Richard Stephen Bonnell Theresa Stenlund Tim Sinclair	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel	MNO emailed Hydro One to thank them for their email to offer assistance and support regarding the letter sent from MNO to MECP on January 18, 2021. MNO advised Hydro One that they had been copied on the email to make Hydro One aware; however, the call would just be between MNO and MECP. MNO noted they would keep their correspondence between themselves and MECP in the future to avoid confusion.
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 1 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Region 2 Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-22	Email	Outgoing	Bonnie Bartlett Carolyn Lee Charlene Wagenaar Jason McCullough Kathleen O'Neill Kimberly Yu Nicholas (Nick) Richard Stephen Bonnell Theresa Stenlund Tim Sinclair	Bruce Hopper Penny Favel	Hydro One emailed MNO to thank them for the clarification regarding the correspondence between MNO and MECP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-26	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the final meeting minutes from the GLP/MECP meeting held on March 9, 2021. MECP advised they had followed-up with their Species at Risk Branch about their field work plan review, and the Species at Risk Branch advised they needed until the following week to formalize written comments.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-29	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing the meeting minutes from the GLP/MECP meeting and for the update on the field work plan review.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-01	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide a draft agenda for their upcoming call scheduled for April 9, 2021, as well as draft meeting minutes from their March meeting held on March 2, 2021. Topics of discussion included a Community Relations and Indigenous Community engagement update, an update on the ToR review, and the field program and alternative route evaluation. Hydro One also provided an email attachment of the letter and email received from Animbiigoo Zaag'igan Anishinaabek (AZA).
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-01	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of their edits to the draft March 2, 2021 meeting minutes.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-07	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to inquire if there were specific topics or aspects of the field work plans that MECP Species at Risk Branch staff would like to discuss for the upcoming meeting (i.e., meeting on April 9, 2021), as Hydro One was aware that MECP had forwarded the meeting invitation to MECP Species at Risk Branch. Hydro One noted they wanted to gauge whether they should extend the invite to additional Golder staff (i.e., subject matter experts).
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-07	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that their Species at Risk Branch staff would be sharing general comments on the field work plans in the upcoming meeting.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-07	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for the information and provided an email attachment of the final meeting minutes from their March 2, 2021 meeting.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-08	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called MECP to discuss the upcoming meeting on Friday April 9, 2021. An agenda was agreed upon, and it was noted that the MECP Species At Risk Branch comments would be discussed at the beginning of the meeting. MECP advised Hydro One that they had met with MNO the previous week and advised they would provide meeting minutes once finalized. MECP noted they did not have any updates on where the GLP were in their process of suggesting amendment language for the ToR and noted that a meeting between MECP and GLP had been scheduled.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-09	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Lindsay McCole Nikki Boucher	Alex To Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Erin Greenaway (Golder) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Stephanie Hodsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with the MECP to discuss the Project, including an update on Indigenous community engagement, community relations, ToR review, and MECP Species at Risk Branch comments on the field work plans.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Phone	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called MECP to discuss the MNRF and MECP Species at Risk Branch field program review. Hydro One expressed concerns with progressing through the field work plan review prior to MECP identifying any outstanding concerns that remain with the ToR. MECP could not confirm that Hydro One's responses to the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF comments that were provided on March 4, 2021 were shared with the agencies. It was discussed that next steps would be to schedule a targeted meeting to go over any outstanding concerns with the ToR, and not discuss general field program comments. MECP suggested using the tables that Hydro One sent on March 4, 2021 as a guide for that meeting conversation.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to follow-up on their email sent to MECP on March 4, 2021, in regards to timelines for the Project. Hydro One also provided the email attachments that had been sent in their previous email (i.e., the two tables providing information on how the outstanding ToR comments have been addressed). Hydro One noted that as requested on their call, Hydro One would like MECP to indicate whether there are any outstanding comments that need to be addressed at the ToR stage. Hydro One advised they have demonstrated in the attached documents that outstanding comments on the ToR from MNRF and the MECP Species at Risk Branch have been addressed to the extent possible at this stage or appropriate commitments have been made to do so during the EA.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that they had received Hydro One's email sent on March 4, 2021 which included Hydro One's responses to the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF's follow-up ToR comments. MECP noted that they did not share the responses with the Species at Risk Branch or MNRF. MECP suggested to use the comment response tables as a guide for the upcoming call with MNRF, MECP and Hydro One.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that they had shared the tables provided by Hydro One with MNRF and the MECP Species at Risk branch for their reference.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to advise that Hydro One would like to meet with MNRF and MECP Species at Risk Branch to review the responses to the comments received by MECP and MNRF on the ToR. Hydro One noted that the purpose of the call would be to discuss any remaining ToR-related concerns only, and a meeting could be scheduled at a later date to review comments on the field work plans. Hydro One suggested to meet with the two agencies separately, to ensure they can get through all comments in an hour, and due to challenges with finding available times. Hydro One requested that MECP provide the Species at Risk Branch's availability for a meeting and inquired whether MECP would like to coordinate a call with MNRF or if Hydro One should set up the call.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the meeting minutes from MECP/ENDM's meeting with MNO on March 29, 2021. Topics of discussion included the status of the ToR review, an overview of MNO's concerns, and next steps and continuing engagement.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-19	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing the meeting minutes.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-19	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to follow-up on their request to schedule meetings with the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF. Hydro One inquired if MECP would like to coordinate a meeting with MNRF, or if Hydro One should schedule the meeting. Hydro One also requested the MECP Species at Risk Branch's availability to meet.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note that as the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF have similar concerns with respect to the ToR, it would be beneficial to host a joint meeting to discuss their outstanding ToR concerns and potential commitments/amendments that Hydro One can make to address these outstanding concerns. MECP advised they could set up the call if Hydro One could provide preferred dates and times. MECP noted they agree that another meeting can be scheduled with the MECP Species at Risk Branch to discuss their detailed comments on the field work plans. MECP advised that Golder would likely need to attend this meeting, so Hydro One could coordinate that meeting at a later date.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-21	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide their availability to meet.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-27	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide draft meeting minutes from their April meeting held on April 9, 2021. Topics of discussion included the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan and the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan, an update on the ToR, and Community Relations and Indigenous Community engagement updates.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-29	Meeting		Andrew Evers Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Erin Greenaway (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One held a meeting with the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF to advance discussion on key commitments and issues raised by the two agencies that remain unresolved in the ToR. MECP highlighted that key comments pertain to the approach to the alternative route evaluation, proposed field work, and the stepwise approach to be taken to evaluate alternatives using the proposed criteria and indicators (C&Is) needed to select the preferred alternative. MECP indicated that it has raised concerns and would like commitments amended into the ToR, in addition to the ongoing discussions about the work plans. Hydro One committed to sending in a letter to the Director declaring their intention to amend the ToR, amending the ToR to address outstanding comments only, and submit the final document to the MECP for their decision.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-30	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide their proposed edits to the April 9, 2021 meeting minutes.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-30	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the suggested ToR wording amendments provided by MNRF for Hydro One's consideration.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-30	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing the suggested ToR amendments from MNRF.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-05	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide a comment on MECP's proposed edits to the April 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Hydro One advised they would prefer to keep the text that refers to GLP and Indigenous Knowledge in the meeting minutes consistent with the wording that was used by GLP in their December 1, 2021 letter to MECP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-07	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that they have no concerns with Hydro One's comment on the April 9, 2021 meeting minutes.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-07	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Peter Brown	Alex To Brett Thompson (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Erin Greenaway (Golder) Heather Kyer (Golder) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tousha Esquega	Hydro One met with the MECP to discuss the Project, including an update on Indigenous community engagement, community relations, and ToR review.

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 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-07	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Peter Brown	Alex To Brandon Fox (Dillon) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Heather Kyer (Golder) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Stephanie Hodsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One emailed the attendees of the monthly MECP meeting to advise that they had changed the meeting to a Webex so Hydro One could present slides.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-07	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of the final meeting minutes from their April 9, 2021 meeting.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-10	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of the table with Hydro One's responses to MNRF's suggested ToR amendments, as well as the slide deck from their meeting held on the previous Friday (i.e., meeting held on May 7, 2021).
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-11	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note that they had shared the information with MNRF and would advise if there were any questions.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-12	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One, copying MNRF on the email, to provide an email attachment of MECP's comments and edits to the slide deck from their meeting held on May 7, 2021, based on MECP's discussion with MNRF.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-13	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of a letter from Hydro One regarding the ToR amendment related to the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-13	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Dayna Groom	MECP emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the letter.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-18	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP, copying MNRF on the email, to confirm that Hydro One was able to accept MNRF's ToR wording amendments based on their understanding. Hydro One inquired if MECP could confirm that there were no further comments to address from MNRF on the ToR, based on the acceptance of the changes applied.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-18	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One, copying MNRF on the email, to advise that they would confirm with MNRF if their comments had been addressed, and noted that they would let Hydro One know shortly. MECP inquired about timelines for Hydro One's letter indicating that a "time-out" would be taken to amend the ToR, and when the Ministry could expect the amended ToR for review.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-19	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP, copying MNRF on the email, to advise that they would discuss internally and would share Hydro One's timelines for both the submission of the letter and the ToR with amendments shortly.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-19	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to inquire who the letter indicating that Hydro One was amending the ToR should be addressed to at MECP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-19	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to advise that the letter should be addressed to the Director at MECP.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-19	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of Hydro One's responses to MNO's April 28, 2021 letter. Hydro One noted that they have agreed to include the Métis-specific criteria and indicators that MNO had identified through the ToR process. Hydro One advised that they believe their responses address all outstanding comments from the MNO and noted that if there were any outstanding from MECP's perspective, to let Hydro One know so that they could address them.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-20	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-20	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Peter Brown	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide their suggested improvements to the wording for Indigenous Knowledge in the ToR.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-25	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One, copying MNRF on the email, to confirm that the acceptance of MNRF's proposed ToR amendments addresses the outstanding ToR comments, as outlined in the MNRF comment-response table. MECP provided a copy of the comment-response table for reference.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-26	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Peter Brown	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing suggested improvements to the wording for Indigenous Knowledge in the ToR. Hydro One confirmed that the change will be incorporated.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-28	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kathleen O'Neill Kiran Anwar	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of a letter to advise MECP that Hydro One intends to amend the proposed ToR that was submitted to the Ministry in October 2020.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-28	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kathleen O'Neill Kiran Anwar	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the letter to amend the proposed ToR.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-31	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide draft meeting minutes from their monthly meeting held on May 7, 2021. Hydro One additionally provided an email attachment of an agenda for their call scheduled the next day (i.e., June 1, 2021).

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-31	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Peter Brown	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for confirming the wording change for the Indigenous Knowledge amendment in the ToR. MECP noted that they had received GLP's follow-up letter/proposed ToR wording changes the previous week, and provided an email attachment for Hydro One.
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-31	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Peter Brown	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for sharing GLP's letter and proposed ToR wording changes.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-31	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP and MNRF to provide an email attachment of the draft meeting minutes from their call on April 29, 2021 regarding amendments to the ToR. Hydro One noted they would incorporate any edits and finalize the meeting minutes for circulation.
<b>Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)</b>						
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Michael Falconi Michael Helfinger	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MEDJCT to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that MEDJCT was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that MEDJCT advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Michael Falconi Michael Helfinger	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MEDJCT to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blasik; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvanathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Otment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Nizowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Halm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibbs; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
<b>Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)</b>						
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Bob Freeman Carol Otment Darja Keith James Antler James Hamilton Karla Barboza Laurie Brownlee Ray Dempster Rosi Zirger Susan Golets	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that MHSTCI was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that MHSTCI advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-09-30	Email	Incoming	Bob Freeman Carol Oitment Darja Ros James Antler James Hamilton Karla Barboza Laurie Brownlee Ray Dempster Rosi Zirger Susan Golets	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to note that electronic copies of the ToR was suitable, and requested removal of one of their staff members from the Project contact list.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-09-30	Email	Outgoing	Bob Freeman Carol Oitment Darja Ros James Antler James Hamilton Karla Barboza Laurie Brownlee Ray Dempster Rosi Zirger Susan Golets	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to confirm the staff member would be removed from the Project contact list.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-09-30	Email	Incoming	James Antler Laurie Brownlee	Dayna Groom	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to request the delivery of a hardcopy of the ToR to one of their reviewers and provided a mailing address.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-09-30	Email	Outgoing	James Antler Laurie Brownlee	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to confirm that Hydro One would mail a hardcopy of the ToR to the reviewer at the address provided. Hydro One noted the supporting documentation, including appendices and Record of Consultation, would be provided via a USB flash drive.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-10-01	Email	Incoming	Bob Freeman Carol Oitment Ray Dempster	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to indicate the staff members Hydro One should send the ToR materials to, and noted that a hardcopy of the ToR was not required.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-10-01	Email	Outgoing	Bob Freeman Carol Oitment Ray Dempster	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to confirm they would provide electronic access to the ToR and supporting documentation once available.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Bob Freeman Carol Oitment Darja Keith James Antler Karla Barboza Laurie Brownlee Ray Dempster Rosi Zirger Susan Golets	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Town of Atikokan Township of Conmee Township of Ignace Township of O'Connor	2020-10-09	Mail	Outgoing	Brian Campbell Carolyn Lee Christine Kent Debra Kincaid James Antler Jason Young Jeff Howie Jim Vezina Melissa Mauro Pat Maxwell Paul Greenwood Penny Lucas Sheldon Haw Trevor Davis Wayne Hanchard	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One mailed government agency stakeholders hardcopies of the ToR.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowski; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennitt; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-10-27	Email	Outgoing	James Antler	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to advise they had learned there were issues with the previously shipped USB flash drives containing the Project ToR and supporting documents. Hydro One advised the documents loaded onto the USBs were available on the Project website and that a replacement USB drive was available, if requested.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2020-10-27	Email	Incoming	James Antler	Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to advise they had a hard copy of the ToR and they did not require a replacement flash drive containing the ToR and supporting documents.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-10	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee James Antler James Hamilton Karla Barboza Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed MECP, copying Hydro One, to provide an email attachment of comments from the MHSTCI's Heritage Planning Unit on the ToR for the Project. MHSTCI advised that separate comments from the Tourism Unit may be submitted related to their mandate.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-03-18	Phone	Outgoing	Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One phoned MHSTCI to discuss planned work on Stage 1 Archaeology for the Project. Hydro One explained that they would be completing a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment for the Project, and had offered Indigenous communities funding to hire their own consultants to review the document and work collaboratively with Hydro One on developing the assessment. Hydro One noted that GLP had requested to hire their own archaeologist to complete a separate Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment and advised that Hydro One had agreed to support this. Hydro One noted that GLP had committed to working collaboratively with Hydro One and their archaeologist and to share information. Hydro One noted they wanted to notify MHSTCI to advise they would be reviewing two Stage 1 Archaeological Assessments for the same study area and inquired if MHSTCI had any concerns. MHSTCI confirmed that this warrants further discussion with their Archaeological Programs Unit and would reach out to them to coordinate a meeting.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-03-24	Email	Incoming	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to follow-up on their previous phone call regarding the possibility of two Stage 1 Archaeological Assessments for the Project (i.e., phone call on March 18, 2021). MHSTCI advised there would need to be further discussion and provided the contacts of two staff at MHSTCI within their Archaeology unit who Hydro One should also discuss the topic with. MHSTCI provided their availability for the week to set up a meeting.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-03-25	Email	Outgoing	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to thank them for reaching out to their Archaeology unit. Hydro One advised they were unavailable for the times MHSTCI provided for a potential meeting and inquired if it was possible to meet the following week. Hydro One advised they would send their availability later that day.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-03-25	Email	Outgoing	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to provide their availability for the following week to coordinate a meeting with MHSTCI to discuss the potential of two Stage 1 Archaeological Assessments. Hydro One inquired if MHSTCI had availability within the given timeslots.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-03-31	Meeting		Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Lafe Meichenheimer (Golder) Michael Teal (Golder) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One held a meeting with MHSTCI. Topics of discussion included an update on the Project and the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment work for the Project.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-04-22	Email	Outgoing	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to provide an email attachment of the draft meeting minutes from their March 31, 2021 meeting regarding the approach for the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment. Hydro One advised that according to the last update they had received from the GLP, they have not yet hired their archaeological consultant. Hydro One noted they would provide MHSTCI with more information when they have any updates.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-04-22	Email	Incoming	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the draft meeting minutes and advised they have attached it to their file for the Project.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-04-23	Email	Incoming	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	MHSTCI emailed Hydro One to confirm the draft meeting notes can be finalized.
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI)	2021-04-26	Email	Outgoing	Paige Campbell Rosi Zirger	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MHSTCI to provide an email attachment of the final meeting minutes from the March 31, 2021 meeting.
<b>Ministry of the Solicitor General</b>						
Ministry of the Solicitor General	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Robert Greene	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the Ministry of the Solicitor General to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that the Ministry of the Solicitor General was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that the Ministry of the Solicitor General advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ministry of the Solicitor General	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Robert Greene	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the Ministry of the Solicitor General to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvanarthan; Annie Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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<b>Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)</b>						
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Carr Hayley Berlin Marcia Mapp Sylvie Oulton Victoria Kosy	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MMAH to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that MMAH was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that MMAH advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)	2020-09-29	Email	Incoming	Marcia Mapp	Dayna Groom	A contact from MMAH emailed Hydro One to request their removal from the Project contact list, as they no longer worked with MMAH.
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Marcia Mapp	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the former contact from MMAH to confirm they had been removed from the Project contact list.
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Carr Hayley Berlin Sylvie Oulton Victoria Kosy	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MMAH to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Maira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Youusif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
<b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)</b>						
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-16	Email	Outgoing	Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Erin Greenaway (Golder) Jill LaPorte (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Golder emailed the MECP and MNRF to provide the proposed agenda and presentations for their meeting on the following day (i.e., September 17, 2020).
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-17	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to inform them the primary MNRF contact for the Project would be changing. MNRF noted that the new contact would be introduced during the next call, and asked Hydro One to update the Project contact list accordingly.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-17	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Christine Goulais	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-09-17	Meeting		Bill Greaves Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher Steve Bobrowicz Virginia Thompson	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Erin Greenaway (Golder) Jill LaPorte (Golder) Kevin Seel (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One held a meeting with the MECP and MNRF to discuss the proposed 2020 Field Work Plan. Additional information was also provided regarding the alternatives evaluation planned for the EA for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-18	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to request a copy of the ToR comment tracker for the Project that Hydro One had sent to the MNRF on September 4, 2020 in either a Microsoft Word or Excel version so they could add another column with their responses.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-18	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to provide a Microsoft Word version of the comment and response table. Hydro One requested that MNRF advise when they expected to provide comments by, as Hydro One would be working to finalize the ToR in the following week.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-23	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson Londa Mortson Melissa Mauro	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the letter and detailed comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-23	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson Londa Mortson Melissa Mauro	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to thank them for providing the letter and detailed comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-23	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to request confirmation if the reviewers who had requested a hard copy of the draft ToR would also like hard copies of the proposed ToR once submitted.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-24	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to note the reviewers who had requested a hard copy of the draft ToR would also like hard copies of the proposed ToR once submitted. MNRF also requested Hydro One send two hard copies to a reviewer at the MNRF (contact information was provided).
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-24	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to confirm they would send hard copies of the proposed ToR of those identified, as well as two hard copies to the reviewer at MNRF.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-09-29	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson Londa Mortonson Melissa Mauro	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to provide their response to Hydro One's responses on their comments on the draft ToR.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MNRF to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Town of Atikokan Township of Conmee Township of Ignace Township of O'Connor	2020-10-09	Mail	Outgoing	Brian Campbell Carolyn Lee Christine Kent Debra Kincaid James Antler Jason Young Jeff Howie Jim Vezina Melissa Mauro Pat Maxwell Paul Greenwood Penny Lucas Sheldon Haw Trevor Davis Wayne Hanchard	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One mailed government agency stakeholders hardcopies of the ToR.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-13	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to request that a broken website link contained in Hydro One's previous email regarding the Notice of the ToR Submission be corrected.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-13	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to provide a new link to the ToR and offered technical support should they continue to have trouble accessing the ToR.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-13	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to inform them they were able to access the ToR after turning their VPN off.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-13	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to inquire if hardcopies of the ToR had been mailed out.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-13	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to inform them that the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) hardcopies were shipped the previous week.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-13	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to confirm the hardcopies of the ToR had been received.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-15	Meeting		David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Christine Goulais Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One met with the ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-15	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson Londa Mortonson Melissa Mauro	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to provide an email attachment of the updated 2020 Field Work Plan, noting it was reviewed based on comments received. A table with Hydro One's responses to the comments provided by the MNRF was also provided as an email attachment. Hydro One advised the aerial reconnaissance was scheduled for October 20 to 24, 2020.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Bloskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Poetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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				Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-16	Email	Incoming	Dale Hopper Heather Nelson Londa Mortonson Melissa Mauro	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to provide their comments on the Field Work Plan for aerial reconnaissance.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-19	Email	Outgoing	Dale Hopper Heather Nelson Londa Mortonson Melissa Mauro	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to confirm receipt of the comments received on the proposed Field Work Plan. Hydro One noted they would review the comments and inform MNRF if they had any questions.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-10-27	Email	Outgoing	Brian Campbell Christine Kent Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro Sheldon Haw Trevor Davis	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to advise they had learned there were issues with the previously shipped USB flash drives containing the Project ToR and supporting documents. Hydro One advised the documents loaded onto the USBs were available on the Project website and that a replacement USB drive was available, if requested.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-10-30	Email	Outgoing	Bill Greaves Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McCalm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher Steve Bobrowicz Virginia Thompson	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Golder emailed MECP and provided an email attachment of the meeting minutes on the 2020 Field Work Plan. Golder noted their 2021-2022 field plan was in development.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-11-30	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One, Dillon, and Golder met with MECP and MNRF to review the comments received on the ToR and review their approach for the alternative route evaluation process for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2020-12-10	Email	Incoming	Doug Lowman Emily Hawkins James Cross Vishnu Kowlessar	Matthew Maloney (Golder)	MNRF emailed Golder to advise that the data that is represented in the maps on the website for Lakehead Forest Management Unit comes from MNRF's LIO Warehouse, which is open to the public to download. MNRF provided a description on how to access the data.
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-11	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed the Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek community member who had raised concerns regarding impacts to residents and wildlife with respect to proposed Alternative Route 1A of the Project, and copied Hydro One on the email. The MECP confirmed receipt of the comment, and noted they had copied the Environmental Planner at Hydro One for the Project to ensure Hydro One was aware of their concerns as well.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-17	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MNRF, and MECP to provide an update on Indigenous community engagement and the status of the ToR.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-01-04	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Matthew Maloney (Golder)	The MNRF emailed Golder to inquire if they had heard back from their colleague in regards to eFRI data availability. The MNRF reiterated that all future requests should be sent through the Regional Planner who is the MNRF lead for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-01-05	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Matthew Maloney (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder)	Golder emailed the MNRF to inquire about obtaining data that shows the extent of where logging has recently occurred. Golder asked the MNRF if such a database exists, and if so, how the data could be obtained.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-01-06	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Matthew Maloney (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder)	The MNRF emailed Golder to advise that the Ministry does have timber harvest data available; however, a new Intellectual Property Agreement would be required prior to release of the dataset. To start the Agreement, the MNRF requested Golder provide the full legal requestor's name.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-01-07	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Sarah Cohanim	Golder emailed the MNRF to thank them for working with their team on the request for timber harvest data, and noting that they are looking into the request for a new Intellectual Property Agreement. Golder noted understanding that the MNRF Regional Planner is to be the primary contact for requests/correspondence related to the Project. Golder provided copies of correspondence had with other MNRF staff as email attachments for the MNRF's reference.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-21	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Michele Proulx Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-01-21	Email	Outgoing	Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Lindsay McCalm Melissa Mauro Nikki Boucher Steve Bobrowicz	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim	Golder emailed the MECP and MNRF to follow-up on the request for a copy of the alternative route evaluation verification field program presentation that was presented to the MECP and MNRF in late 2020. Golder provided a copy of the presentation as an attachment. Golder noted that a field work plan is being worked on to provide more details on the approach for this additional field program. Golder noted that the field work plan would be submitted to the MECP and MNRF for review and comment ahead of completing the field work.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-01-21	Email	Outgoing	Angus Carr Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Matthew Maloney (Golder)	Golder emailed the MNRF to provide shapefiles of the area of interest, as required/requested by the MNRF in order to fulfill the forestry data request.

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 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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					Sarah Cohanim	
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-03	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP and MNRF to inquire on scheduling a call to discuss next steps on the field program and the plan for review of the draft workplans, prior to Hydro One sending them to the MECP and MNRF for review.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-05	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to thank them for their efforts to provide sufficient time to consider the proposed work plans prior to the planned work. The MNRF noted they were not in position to engage in discussion about the review of these plans, or to provide any meaningful feedback on the work plans themselves, without first having a clear understanding of how the information Hydro One is planning to collect will form their evaluation of alternative routes. The MNRF noted once this aspect of the ToR had been confirmed, they would be able to participate effectively in these discussions and would welcome the opportunity to do so.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-05	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MNRF to clarify that in the meeting with the MECP earlier that week (i.e., February 2) it was agreed that another discussion with the MNRF and MECP would be helpful to further explain Hydro One's plans for the field data collection and EA over the coming months. Hydro One noted that a part of those plans is the submission of the field work plan for the alternative route field surveys as requested by the MNRF. Hydro One noted they would like to discuss the timing of this and how that work would factor into their alternative route evaluation process. Hydro One noted they were also developing a few scenario graphics to better outline plans for the EA, and they believed that this next meeting would provide the clarity that the MNRF was looking for.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to note the MNRF could participate in a call to hear what Hydro One was proposing for its field data collection and how they intend to use the data that is collected in the alternative route evaluation process. The MNRF noted they would not be providing comment on those proposals or the work plans at the meeting, and requested that Hydro One confirm if they still wish to meet under that understanding.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kiran Anwar Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note their availability to attend a meeting to hear what additional field work Hydro One was proposing to address ToR concerns regarding ground-based investigations to inform alternative route evaluation. The MECP noted that due to competing priorities, the MECP Species at Risk Branch staff were currently unable to review additional draft field work plans. The MECP provided an email attachment of the MECP's Species at Risk Branch follow-up comments on the 2020 Field Work Plan that had been provided in November 2020. The MECP noted some of the comments were outstanding as the aerial reconnaissance work was completed the week of October 20, 2020 before the 2020 Field Work Plan was finalized. The MECP noted the comments should provide some preliminary guidance on field work planning to inform the evaluation of alternative routes and the assessment of the preferred route with respect to Species at Risk.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MNRF to thank them for their response on February 9, 2021. Hydro One noted they would reach out to the primary MNRF contact the next day to schedule a meeting.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-09	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kiran Anwar Melissa Mauro	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to note that their Species at Risk Branch staff would also like to attend the meeting to discuss the field program next steps, and provided their availability.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-02-10	Phone	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One phoned the MNRF to discuss scheduling a call for the Waasigan project with the MECP. Hydro One left a voicemail requesting that the MNRF return their call.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-02-11	Email	Outgoing	Heather Nelson	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MNRF to follow-up on a voicemail they had left the previous day. Hydro One noted their availability, and the availability of the MECP, further requesting that the MNRF provide their availability for the phone call.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-02-11	Email	Incoming	Heather Nelson Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to provide their availability to meet for the phone call regarding next steps for the field program.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-18	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devil Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (FireDog Communications) Tousha Esquega	Hydro One held a meeting with the ENDM, MECP, and MNRF to discuss monthly Project updates.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-22	Meeting		Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Erin Greenaway (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One held a meeting with the MECP and MNRF to discuss the proposed approach to the alternative route evaluation and field work for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-22	Email	Outgoing	Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Heather Nelson Kevin Green Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Craig DeVito (Golder) Dayna Groom Erin Greenaway (Golder) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One emailed the MNRF and MECP to thank them for joining the call that day for an update on the Project Alternative Route Evaluation and field program. Hydro One provided an email attachment of the presentation from the call.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-24	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (FireDog Communications)	Hydro One emailed the MECP to provide additional information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge collection with Indigenous communities on the Project, as requested by the MECP on a previous call (i.e., meeting on February 18, 2021). Hydro One provided information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge with all the Indigenous communities on the Project, and attached a summary table. Hydro One noted they are continuing to discuss Indigenous Knowledge gathering with the communities, and are holding meetings dedicated to this topic if communities are interested.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-24	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Heather Nelson Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (FireDog Communications)	The MECP emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing detailed information on the status of Indigenous Knowledge collection with Indigenous communities on the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-02-26	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Nancy Berglund	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the MECP and MNRF to provide the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan for their review. Hydro One noted they will also be following up with a memo summarizing the findings of the 2020 field work as well as a criteria and indicators spreadsheet shortly.

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-03	Email	Incoming	Carolyn Lee Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to thank them for providing the Draft Alternative Route and 2021-2022 Field Work Plans. MNRF noted that, as previously mentioned to Hydro One, MNRF would be looking for how the proposed field work will be used in both the alternatives analysis and the net effects assessment on the preferred route, how the field data collection relates to the Criteria and Indicators and how sampling methods were determined. MNRF noted they looked forward to receiving the summary of the 2020 field season and the spreadsheet on Criteria and Indicators.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-03-10	Email	Incoming	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to advise they had not yet received the summary of the 2020 field season or the spreadsheet on the Criteria and Indicators. MNRF requested Hydro One provide the documents as soon as possible, as MNRF noted they are unable to forward the Draft Alternative Route and the 2021-2022 field work plans to their technical staff for review without the documents requested.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-03-11	Email	Outgoing	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to note they were unaware that the start of the review would be held up by the two documents MNRF requested. Hydro One advised they are in the process of finalizing and aimed to provide them to MNRF by the end of the week.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-12	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Nancy Berglund	Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP and MNRF to provide email attachments of the 2020 Field Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report; responses to MNRF comments on the final 2020 Field Program; responses to MECP comments on the final 2020 Field Program; Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria and Indicators Spreadsheet; and meeting minutes from the Alternative Routes Field Program Update meeting on February 22, 2021. Hydro One noted the ToR approval was a critical milestone, as it allows Hydro One to progress other aspects of the Project, including engagement such as sending field work plans to Indigenous communities. Hydro One advised they believed they had sufficiently resolved all outstanding agency comments, and requested the first priority be confirming that MECP's and MNRF's comments on the ToR had been resolved. Hydro One noted they would appreciate any opportunity to expedite the four-week review periods that had been requested by MECP and MNRF for each of the draft and final field work plans, in order to better achieve the project plan Hydro One has described, including completing important field work during the appropriate seasons in 2021.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-03-17	Email	Outgoing	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to request confirmation of receipt of the Project documents regarding the 2020 Field Summary and Criteria and Indicators that had been sent on March 12, 2021.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-03-17	Email	Incoming	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to confirm receipt of the Project documents regarding the 2020 Field Summary and Criteria and Indicators. MNRF requested confirmation that the Criteria and Indicators listed in the excel spreadsheet was strictly associated with the Alternate Routes field plan, and inquired if there would be a separate Criteria and Indicator spreadsheet that accompanies the Preferred route field plan.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-03-17	Email	Outgoing	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to advise that MNRF was correct, the criteria/indicators in the spreadsheet provided were specific to the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One noted that once the EA begins, Hydro One would be engaging with MNRF and other agencies on the list of the criteria/indicators for the net effects assessment of the preferred route. Hydro One advised they would not be providing an updated list at this time.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-03-18	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Jason McCullough Joseph Tyance Kiran Anwar Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-06	Email	Outgoing	Nancy Berglund	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to inquire if there was an update on the progress of MNRF's review of the Project field work plans. Hydro One noted that MECP had indicated that the MECP Species at Risk Branch reviewers were in the process of formalizing their comments. Hydro One noted that any update or indication of when they could expect the first round of comments from MNRF would be much appreciated.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-07	Email	Incoming	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to advise that they were also formalizing their comments on the draft 2021 Field Plan. MNRF noted they hoped to provide comments to Hydro One by the end of the week or very early the next week.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-08	Email	Outgoing	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to thank them for providing the update regarding MNRF's review of the field work plans. Hydro One noted they look forward to receiving the comments.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-09	Meeting		Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Lindsay McCole Nikki Boucher	Alex To Ashley Marton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Devi Shantilal Don McKinnon (Dillon) Emily Spitzer Erin Greenaway (Golder) Joseph Carnevale (Dillon) Nancy de Rojas (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Stephanie Hodsoll Stephen Lindley (Stephen Lindley Consulting) Tamara Skillen (Golder) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with the MECP to discuss the Project, including an update on Indigenous community engagement, community relations, ToR review, and MECP Species at Risk Branch comments on the field work plans.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-13	Email	Incoming	Londa Mortson Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of a letter that outlines MNRF's comments on the draft 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan. Comments included topics regarding data sources for fisheries and terrestrial values, terrestrial specific comments, and fisheries specific comments.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-15	Meeting		Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-15	Email	Incoming	Londa Mortson Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MNRF emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of an updated version of the letter with attachments.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-15	Phone	Outgoing	Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One called MNRF to discuss their review of the field work plans. Hydro One expressed that their current goal is to determine whether the MNRF concerns with the ToR have been addressed, and noted that this has also been expressed to MECP. Hydro One inquired about their first general comment sent on April 9, 2021. MNRF explained that they are concerned that the field work proposed to support the alternative route evaluation is ground thruthing existing data, rather than gathering new data. Hydro One noted that follow-up discussions on this should be held so that everyone is on the same page with what is being proposed. MNRF reiterated their stance that they need to have an updated list of criteria/indicators prior to reviewing the 2021/2022 field work plan as they want to understand how the data would be applied. Hydro One explained that a workshop will be held once the EA has begun to confirm the Criteria and Indicators, however, MNRF advised they still would like an updated draft list that is more detailed than what is in the ToR before reviewing the 2021/2022 field work plan. Hydro One confirmed they would take this request back.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-04-15	Email	Outgoing	Londa Mortonson Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MNRF to confirm receipt of the comments received on the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-29	Meeting		Andrew Evers Brandon Norman Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Lindsay McColm Melissa Mauro Nancy Berglund Nikki Boucher	Ashley Morton (Golder) Bruce Hopper Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Erin Greenaway (Golder) Sarah Cohanim Tamara Skillen (Golder)	Hydro One held a meeting with the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF to advance discussion on key commitments and issues raised by the two agencies that remain unresolved in the ToR. MECP highlighted that key comments pertain to the approach to the alternative route evaluation, proposed field work, and the stepwise approach to be taken to evaluate alternatives using the proposed criteria and indicators (C&Is) needed to select the preferred alternative. MECP indicated that it has raised concerns and would like commitments amended into the ToR, in addition to the ongoing discussions about the work plans. Hydro One committed to sending in a letter to the Director declaring their intention to amend the ToR, amending the ToR to address outstanding comments only, and submit the final document to the MECP for their decision.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-30	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One to provide an email attachment of the suggested ToR wording amendments provided by MNRF for Hydro One's consideration.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-04-30	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kevin Green Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to thank them for providing the suggested ToR amendments from MNRF.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-12	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One, copying MNRF on the email, to provide an email attachment of MECP's comments and edits to the slide deck from their meeting held on May 7, 2021, based on MECP's discussion with MNRF.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-18	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP, copying MNRF on the email, to confirm that Hydro One was able to accept MNRF's ToR wording amendments based on their understanding. Hydro One inquired if MECP could confirm that there were no further comments to address from MNRF on the ToR, based on the acceptance of the changes applied.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-18	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One, copying MNRF on the email, to advise that they would confirm with MNRF if their comments had been addressed, and noted that they would let Hydro One know shortly. MECP inquired about timelines for Hydro One's letter indicating that a "time-out" would be taken to amend the ToR, and when the Ministry could expect the amended ToR for review.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-19	Email	Outgoing	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP, copying MNRF on the email, to advise that they would discuss internally and would share Hydro One's timelines for both the submission of the letter and the ToR with amendments shortly.
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-20	Meeting		Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee David Johnson-Weiser Jason McCullough Michele Proulx Nancy Berglund Peter Brown	Bruce Hopper Devi Shantilal Sarah Cohanim Stephanie Ash (Firedog Communications) Tausha Esquega	Hydro One met with ENDM, MECP and MNRF to provide an update on the status of Indigenous community engagement for the Project.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-25	Email	Incoming	Andrew Evers Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	MECP emailed Hydro One, copying MNRF on the email, to confirm that the acceptance of MNRF's proposed ToR amendments addresses the outstanding ToR comments, as outlined in the MNRF comment-response table. MECP provided a copy of the comment-response table for reference.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	2021-05-26	Email	Outgoing	Angus Carr Nancy Berglund	Callum Squires (Golder) Heather Kyer (Golder) Matthew Maloney (Golder) Sarah Cohanim	Golder, on behalf of Hydro One, emailed MNRF requesting clarification on the forest inventory data that was shared.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2021-05-31	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Kiran Anwar Nancy Berglund	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP and MNRF to provide an email attachment of the draft meeting minutes from their call on April 29, 2021 regarding amendments to the ToR. Hydro One noted they would incorporate any edits and finalize the meeting minutes for circulation.
<b>Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)</b>						
Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Cindy Brown Dawn Irish John Slobodzian Kevin Ellis Patricia DeCal	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MTO to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that MTO was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that MTO advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Cindy Brown Dawn Irish Kevin Ellis Patricia DeCal	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MTO to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)	2020-10-15	Email	Incoming	Cindy Brown Kevin Ellis	Sarah Cohanim	MTO emailed Hydro One to advise them the provided link to the ToR did not work for some of their reviewers. MTO requested assistance with accessing the ToR or for Hydro One to provide copies of the document.
Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)	2020-10-15	Email	Outgoing	Cindy Brown Kevin Ellis	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MTO to provide technical advice and provided another link to the ToR.
Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)	2020-10-15	Email	Incoming	Cindy Brown Kevin Ellis	Sarah Cohanim	MTO emailed Hydro One to advise the recommendation to turn off the VPN had worked, and the reviewers successfully gained access to the ToR document.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Vocca; Carol Ottem; Carolyn Lee;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)</b>						
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Jocelyn Beatty Michele Doncaster	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed OMAFRA to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that OMAFRA was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that OMAFRA advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Jocelyn Beatty Michele Doncaster	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed OMAFRA to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
<b>Ontario Power Generation (OPG)</b>						
Ontario Power Generation (OPG)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Tammy Wong	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed OPG to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that OPG was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that OPG advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ontario Power Generation (OPG)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Jeff Myllyaho Tammy Wong	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed OPG to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Otment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Poetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
				Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ontario Power Generation (OPG)	2021-01-22	Email	Outgoing	Charlene Wagenaar Darcey Bailey Denise Hardy	Devi Shantilal	Hydro One emailed OPG and MNO to provide introduction between OPG's Director of Plant Operation at the Atikokan Generating Station and MNO's Energy Consultation Advisor. Hydro One noted that MNO is seeking to gain deeper understanding of how the Atikokan Generating Station operates and thus Hydro One noted OPG's assistance would be greatly appreciated.
<b>Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)</b>						
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Jennifer Davey	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the OPP to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that the OPP was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that the OPP advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Jennifer Davey	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the OPP to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Otment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Poetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkevych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Federal Agencies - Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
<b>Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission</b>						
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MED)CT Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Vaca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
<b>Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)</b>						
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MED)CT Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Municipality of Shuniah	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Vaca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

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Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkevych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
<b>Canadian National Railway (CN Rail)</b>						
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Michael Vallins	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed CN Rail to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that CN Rail was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that CN Rail advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Michael Vallins	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed CN Rail to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview; link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Otment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkevych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton;	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

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 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
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				Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		
<b>Canadian Pacific Railway (CP Rail)</b>						
Canadian Pacific Railway (CP Rail)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Don Brosseau	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed to provide Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference, as an email attachment. The notice advised that Hydro One submitted a Terms of Reference to the MECP. Review of the Terms of Reference was encouraged, and information regarding how to submit comments to the MECP was provided.
Canadian Pacific Railway (CP Rail)	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Don Brosseau	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed a postcard with a project update.
<b>Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)</b>						
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Daniel DeOcampo Dan McDonnell Sandra Leonardelli Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed ECCC to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that ECCC was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that ECCC advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Daniel DeOcampo Dan McDonnell Sandra Leonardelli Wesley Plant	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed ECCC to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	2020-10-15	Email	Outgoing	Daniel DeOcampo	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed ECCC to provide an updated 2020 Field Work Plan for the Project, which was revised based on comments received. Hydro One noted that the aerial reconnaissance is scheduled for October 20 to October 24, 2020.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennitt; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rasi Zirger; Sandra Leonardelli; Shane Lipsitt; Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
<b>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)</b>						
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	DFO Fisheries Protection	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed DFO to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that DFO was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that DFO advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	DFO Fisheries Protection	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed DFO to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	2020-10-15	Email	Outgoing	DFO Fisheries Protection	Callum Squires (Golder) Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed DFO to provide an updated 2020 Field Work Plan for the Project, which was revised based on comments received. Hydro One noted that the aerial reconnaissance is scheduled for October 20 to October 24, 2020.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blasiek; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Poetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Halm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rasi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
<b>Health Canada</b>						
Health Canada	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Aurelia Thevenot Kitty Ma	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed Health Canada to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that Health Canada was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that Health Canada advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Health Canada	2020-09-30	Email	Incoming	Aurelia Thevenot Dae Young Lee Kitty Ma Umme Akhtar	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Health Canada emailed Hydro One in response to Hydro One's email regarding the upcoming ToR submission for the Project to the MECP. Health Canada outlined their role in Impact Assessment/EA and noted that Health Canada's expertise can be called upon by reviewing agencies, and in absence of such a request, will not carry out a comprehensive review of the Project. Health Canada noted they should be contacted if Hydro One has any specific questions related to the assessment of effects on human health, or Health Canada guidance documents.
Health Canada	2020-09-30	Email	Outgoing	Aurelia Thevenot Dae Young Lee Health Canada Ontario Region Kitty Ma Umme Akhtar	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed Health Canada to thank them for their email with clarification outlining Health Canada's role in Impact Assessment/EA. Hydro One asked Health Canada if they would like to continue to receive notices for the Project, or if they would prefer to be removed from the Project contact list.
Health Canada	2020-10-02	Email	Incoming	Dae Young Lee Kitty Ma Umme Akhtar	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Health Canada emailed Hydro One to request that they be removed from the Project contact list. However, Health Canada noted they should be contacted if Hydro One has any specific questions related to the assessment of effects on human health or Health Canada guidance documents.
<b>Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)</b>						
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Anjala Puvananathan	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed the IAAC to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Anjala Puvananathan	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom	Hydro One emailed the IAAC to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
					Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonnell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkewych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishewski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falcon; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rasi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wong; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	2020-11-30	Email	Incoming	IAAC Ontario Office	Sarah Cohanim	IAAC emailed Hydro One to provide a letter which indicated that based on the information available to the Agency, the project did not appear to be described on the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> Project List. IAAC requested that Hydro One review the requirements of the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> and if the project is not subject to the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> , that the Agency be removed from the project distribution list.
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	2020-12-01	Email	Outgoing	Carolyn Lee Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed MECP to provide an email attachment of a letter received from the IAAC on the ToR for the Project.
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	2020-12-04	Email	Outgoing	IAAC Ontario Office	Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed IAAC to inform them that their agency will be removed from their distribution list because the Waasigan Transmission Line project is not subject to the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> .
<b>House of Commons of Canada</b>						
House of Commons of Canada	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Don Rusnak	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the House of Commons Canada to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
House of Commons of Canada	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Robert D. Nault	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the House of Commons Canada to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
House of Commons of Canada	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Patty Hajdu	Community Relations Inbox	Hydro One emailed the House of Commons Canada to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.
<b>Transport Canada (TC)</b>						
Transport Canada (TC)	2020-09-29	Email	Outgoing	Katie Gaulton Transport Canada Environmental Assessment Program, Ontario Region	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed TC to advise that Hydro One is preparing for the submission of a ToR for the Project to the MECP. Hydro One noted that the ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. Hydro One asked if a hardcopy of the ToR was preferred, and if so, requested an appropriate mailing address be provided. Hydro One noted that TC was receiving the Project email because they were identified as part of the Government Review Team for the EA. Hydro One asked that TC advise if they no longer wish to be contacted for this Project, or would like to provide an alternate contact.
Transport Canada (TC)	2020-10-08	Email	Outgoing	Katie Gaulton Transport Canada Environmental Assessment Program, Ontario Region	Bruce Hopper Dayna Groom Don McKinnon (Dillon) Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed TC to provide the Notice of Submission of ToR for the Project. Hydro One provided a Project overview, link to the Project website and information regarding the 30-day review and comment period. Hydro One provided instruction regarding how to submit comments on the ToR to the MECP, including contact information for the MECP. Hydro One asked that if the stakeholder had not yet requested a hard copy and required one, to advise Hydro One as soon as possible, and provide an appropriate mailing address.
Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission City of Dryden	2020-10-16	Email	Outgoing	Adam Blaskie; Ainsley Davidson; Andrea Pastori; Andrew Carr; Anjala	Dayna Groom Sarah Cohanim	Hydro One emailed government agencies and stakeholders to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. A copy of the Notice of the ToR Submission was provided as an email attachment. Hydro One encouraged review of the ToR, and provided information on how to submit comments to the MECP.

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE  
 AMENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE • RECORD OF CONSULTATION  
 Appendix C: Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation

Organization	Date	Type of Communication	Origin	Stakeholders <sup>1</sup>	Staff Members	Summary
City of Thunder Bay Confederation College Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Infrastructure Ontario (IO) Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) Lakehead University Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Ministry of the Solicitor General Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge Municipality of Shuniah Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Town of Atikokan Town of Fort Frances Township of O'Connor Transport Canada (TC)				Puvananathan; Anne Young; Blair Arthur; Bob Freeman; Brady Lucas; Bryce Voca; Carol Oitment; Carolyn Lee; Catherine Daniels; Cindy Brown; CIRNAC EA Coordination; Clare Pineau; Cory Ostrowka; Daniel DeOcampo; Dan McDonell; Darja Keith; Dave Paxton; Devon McCloskey; DFO Fisheries Protection; Dorothy Campbell; Doug Wylie; Dr. Moira McPherson; Eric Grimm; Fergus Beattie; Gail Willis; Glen Niznowski; Graham Warburton; Greg Hankkio; Greg Paju; Hayley Berlin; Heather Nelson; Henry Mattas; James Antler; James Bennett; Jason Blier; Jeff Myllyaho; Jennifer Davey; Jennifer Paetz; Joanna Brown; Jocelyn Beatty; Karla Barboza; Katherine Onyshkevych; Kathleen Lynch; Katie Gaulton; Ken Yanishevski; Kerri Reid; Kevin Ellis; Kirstin Hicks; Laurie Brownlee; Leslie McEachern; Mary Perry; Melissa Mauro; Michael Falconi; Michael Helfinger; Michael Vallins; Michele Doncaster; Michelle Sixsmith; Mike Holm; Nadene Hunley-Johansen; Nicole Pitton; Notice Review Inbox (IO); Pamela Skillen; Patricia DeCal; Paul Jordan; Ramsen Yousif; Ray Dempster; Robert Greene; Rosi Zirger; Sandro Leonardelli; Shane Lipsit-Fraser; Steve Kingston; Steve Winsor; Sylvie Oulton; Tabitha Brown; Tammy Cook; Tammy Wang; Trevor Gibb; Trina Rawn; Tyler Moffitt; Victoria Kosny; Wesley Plant		

1. Some content redacted for protection of privacy

# Appendix C-1

## *Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents*



## Appendix C-1

### Provincial and Federal Record of Consultation Supporting Documents

#### Notifications to All Agencies

1. Email sent by Hydro One advising of preparations to submit the ToR. September 29/October 1, 2020
2. Email sent by Hydro One providing the Notice of Submission of the ToR. October 8, 2020
3. Email sent by Hydro one to advise that the ToR had been submitted to the MECP. October 16, 2020

#### Comments on the Proposed ToR

1. Comments received from Infrastructure Ontario. October 16, 2020
2. Comments received from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MSTCI) Heritage Planning Unit on the ToR. November 10, 2020
3. Comments received from MHSTCI's Tourism Policy Unit on the ToR. November 10, 2020
4. Comments received from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on the ToR. November 12, 2020
5. Comments received from Lakehead Region Conservation Authority on the ToR. November 13, 2020.
6. Comments received from Treasury Metals Inc. on the ToR. November 11, 2020
7. Comments received from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) on the ToR. November 16, 2020
8. Comments received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) on the ToR. November 16, 2020
9. Comments received from the Ministry of Energy, Development and Mines (ENDM) on the ToR. November 16, 2020
10. Comments received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on the ToR. November 16, 2020
11. Comments received from MHSTCI's Sport, Recreation and Community Program Division on the ToR. November 16, 2020
12. Comments received from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) on the ToR. November 30, 2020

## Provincial Government

Ministry of Energy, Development and Mines and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks:

1. Meeting with ENDM and MECP to discuss the December 1, 2020 letter received from GLP. December 9, 2020

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries:

1. Meeting with MHSTCI to discuss the approach for the Stage 1 Archeological Assessment. March 31, 2021

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry:

1. Meeting with MECP and MNRF to discuss the proposed 2020 Field Work Plan. September 17, 2020
2. Slide deck from the meeting with MNRF and MECP to review comments received on the ToR and discuss alternative routes evaluation. November 30, 2020
3. Meeting minutes and slide deck from the meeting with MECP and MNRF to discuss the proposed approach to the alternative route evaluation and field work for the Project. February 22, 2021
4. Email and tables sent from Hydro One to MECP and MNRF providing responses to their comments on the final 2020 field program. March 12, 2021
5. Meeting with the MECP Species at Risk Branch and MNRF to discuss ToR amendments. April 29, 2021
6. Suggested ToR wording amendments provided by MNRF to MECP. April 30, 2021
7. Table from MECP providing MNRF's comment-response table to confirm acceptance of MNRF's suggested ToR amendments. May 25, 2021

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks:

13. Comments received from the MECP Species at Risk Branch on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan. September 22, 2020
14. Monthly meeting with MECP to discuss Project updates. October 1, 2020
15. Hydro One's responses to MECP's comments on the updated 2020 Field Work Plan. October 15, 2020
16. Monthly meeting with MECP to discuss Project updates. November 5, 2020
17. Acknowledgement letter from MECP regarding the Notice of Submission for the ToR. November 12, 2020
18. Comments received from the MECP Species at Risk Branch on the revised 2020 Field Work Plan. November 12, 2020



19. Acknowledgement of Receipt of the ToR from the City of Thunder Bay. November 16, 2020
20. Acknowledgement Receipt of the ToR from the Town of Atikokan. November 16, 2020
21. MNRF's follow-up comments to MECP regarding Hydro One's responses to their comments on the ToR. January 27, 2021
22. Monthly meeting with MECP to discuss Project updates. February 2, 2021
23. MECP Species at Risk Branch's follow-up comments on the ToR. February 16, 2021
24. Monthly meeting with MECP to discuss Project updates. March 2, 2021
25. Meeting with GLP and MECP. March 9, 2021
26. Monthly meeting with MECP to discuss Project updates. April 9, 2021
27. Monthly meeting with MECP to discuss Project updates. May 7, 2021
28. Hydro One's responses to MECP regarding MNRF's suggested ToR amendments. May 10, 2021
29. Letter from Hydro One to MECP regarding the ToR amendment related to the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge. May 13, 2021
30. Letter from Hydro One to MECP advising that Hydro One intends to amend the proposed ToR. May 28, 2021

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry:

1. Letter from MNRF to Hydro One providing comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan. September 23, 2020
2. Letter from MNRF to Hydro One providing comments to Hydro One's responses on MNRF's comments on the draft ToR. September 29, 2020
3. Hydro One's responses to MNRF's comments on the updated 2020 Field Work Plan. October 15, 2020
4. Letter from MNRF to Hydro One providing comments on the Project plan for aerial reconnaissance. October 16, 2020
5. Letter from MNRF to Hydro One providing comments on the draft 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan. April 9, 2021.

**From:** [Dayna.Groom@hydroone.com](mailto:Dayna.Groom@hydroone.com)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment - Upcoming Submission of Terms of Reference  
**Date:** September 29, 2020 4:45:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Image\\_20200929\\_164558\\_017.jpeg](#)

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**From:** GROOM Dayna  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 3:40 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** COHANIM Sarah <Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com>  
**Subject:** Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment - Upcoming Submission of Terms of Reference

Good afternoon,

Hydro One Networks Inc. is preparing for the submission of a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as required under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project consists of 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 (see attached map).

The proposed ToR will be made available for review in the coming weeks. A Notice of Terms of Reference Submission will be circulated to the Project stakeholder contact list prior to submission. The Notice will include information on how to access the ToR electronically. **If you require a hardcopy of the proposed ToR, please confirm the number of copies and provide a mailing address to us by Friday, October 2, 2020.** You are receiving this email because you were identified as part of the Government Review Team (GRT) for the Environmental Assessment. If you no longer wish to be contacted for this Project or would like to provide an alternate contact, kindly let us know. Otherwise, you will remain on our contact list.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your input is important to us and we would like to thank you for your continued involvement on this Project.

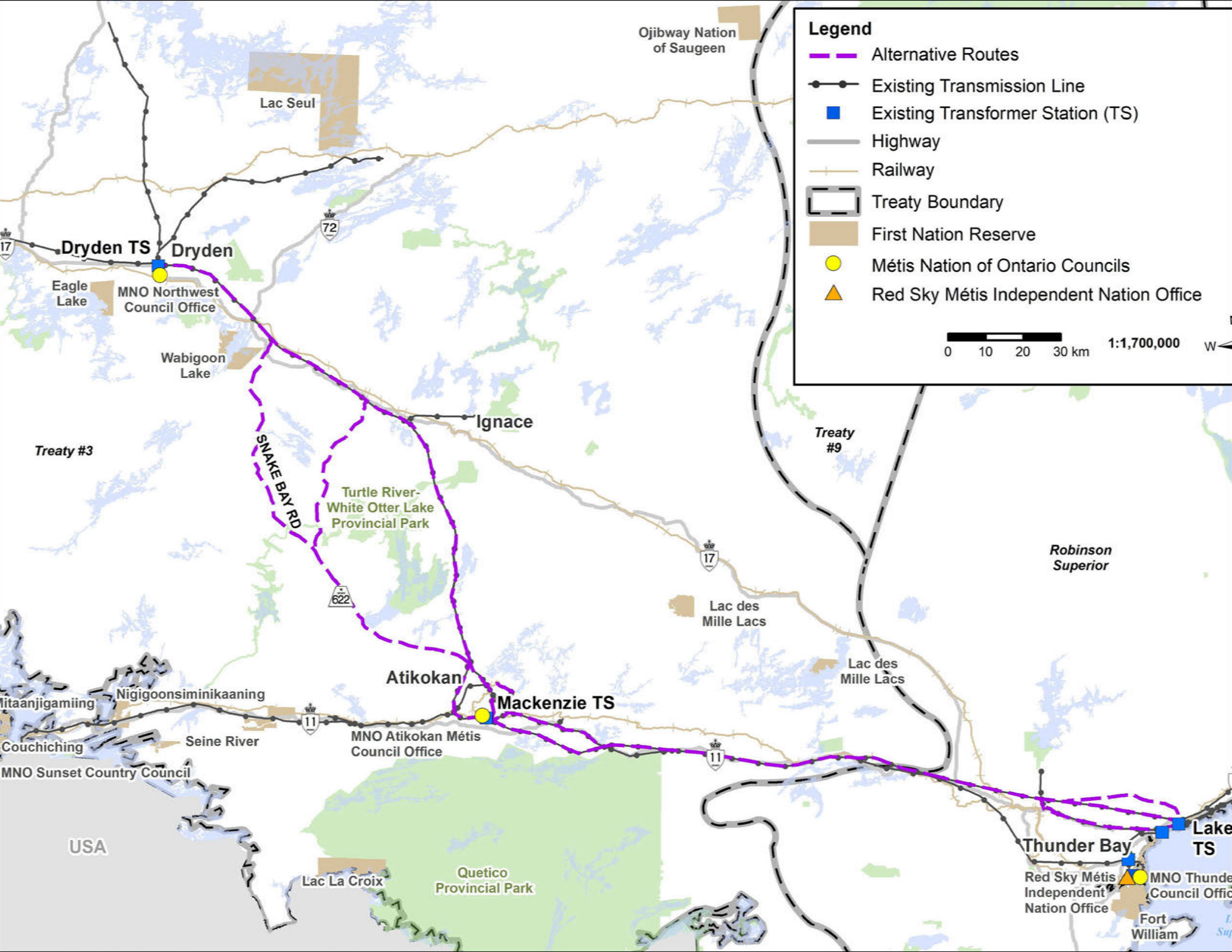
Kind regards,

**Dayna Groom**

Environmental Planner  
Environmental Programs and Approvals  
Hydro One Networks Inc.  
Cell: (807) 358-0849  
Email: [Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com](mailto:Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com)

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**Legend**

- Alternative Routes
- Existing Transmission Line
- Existing Transformer Station (TS)
- Highway
- +— Railway
- Treaty Boundary
- First Nation Reserve
- Métis Nation of Ontario Councils
- ▲ Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office

0 10 20 30 km 1:1,700,000 W

Dryden TS Dryden

Ignace

Atikokan Mackenzie TS

Thunder Bay Lake TS

Lac Seul

Ojibway Nation of Saugeen

Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park

Quetico Provincial Park

Treaty #9

Robinson Superior

Treaty #3

USA

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office  
MNO Thunder Bay Council Office

MNO Northwest Council Office

MNO Atikokan Métis Council Office

MNO Sunset Country Council

Lac La Croix

Lac des Mille Lacs

Lac des Mille Lacs

Wabigoon Lake

Eagle Lake

Nigigoonsiminikaaning

Seine River

Couchiching

Fort William

SNAKE BAY RD

72

17

622

11

11

17

W

**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission  
**Date:** October 20, 2020 3:01:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [Waasigan Transmission Line Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference.pdf](#)  
[MECP Memo to Government Review Team.pdf](#)

---

**From:** COHANIM Sarah  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 4:59 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** HOPPER Bruce <Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com>; McKinnon, Don <dpmckinnon@dillon.ca>; GROOM Dayna <Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com>  
**Subject:** Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission

Good afternoon,

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is submitting a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Waasigan Transmission Line (Project) environmental assessment (EA) for review, as required under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project consists of a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt 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 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Please see attached memo and Notice of Submission of ToR for more information.

You are receiving this email because you were identified as part of the Government Review Team (GRT) for the EA, and we would like to provide you with an electronic copy of the proposed ToR for your review and comment. The ToR will be available for a 30-day review and comment period, from October 16, 2020 to November 16, 2020. The document will be available on the Project website at [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan) on October 16, 2020. The ToR and supporting documents can now be accessed electronically by following this link – [ToR and Supporting Documents](#).

Comments on the ToR must be submitted **by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 16, 2020 to:**

Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer  
Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks – Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
Tel: 416-276-0360  
Fax: 416-314-8452  
E-mail: [Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

If you have requested a hard copy of the document, it will be delivered to the address provided. If you would like a hard copy and have not requested one already, please let me know as soon as possible and provide me with the appropriate mailing address.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to your continued participation in the Waasigan Transmission Line EA process.

Regards,

**Sarah Cohanim**

Environmental Planner

Environmental Programs and Approvals

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Cell: (416) 209-7761

Email: [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)

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# NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

## WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.

October 16, 2020



Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has submitted a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Waasigan Transmission Line (Project) environmental assessment (EA) for review, as required under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project is a proposed new transmission line between Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Dryden. We encourage you to review the ToR and submit comments, as outlined below.

### EA PLANNING PROCESS

The ToR is the first step in the EA process. The ToR incorporates feedback received during the review and comment period for the draft ToR. If approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the ToR will provide the framework for the second step of the process – the preparation of the EA. The EA will evaluate alternative routes to determine a preferred route, as shown on the reverse map, and assess the potential effects of the Project. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA and communicated through newspaper advertisements, mailings and on the Project website [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The Waasigan Transmission Line will consist of a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt 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 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden (please see reverse map). There is anticipated electricity growth in northwestern Ontario and Hydro One is undertaking development work for the Waasigan Transmission Line now to ensure power is available when it is needed.

### HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK TO THE MINISTRY

Indigenous communities and organizations, agencies, elected officials, members of the public and other interested persons are encouraged to provide comments on the ToR between October 16, 2020 and November 16, 2020. Comments must be submitted **by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 16, 2020 to:**

#### Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer

Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks –  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
Tel: 416-276-0360  
Fax: 416-314-8452  
E-mail: [Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

To access the ToR, visit  
[www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan).  
USB flash drives loaded with the  
ToR are available at:

**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

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

Please contact the location closest  
to you for hours and to arrange for  
curbside pickup, as needed.

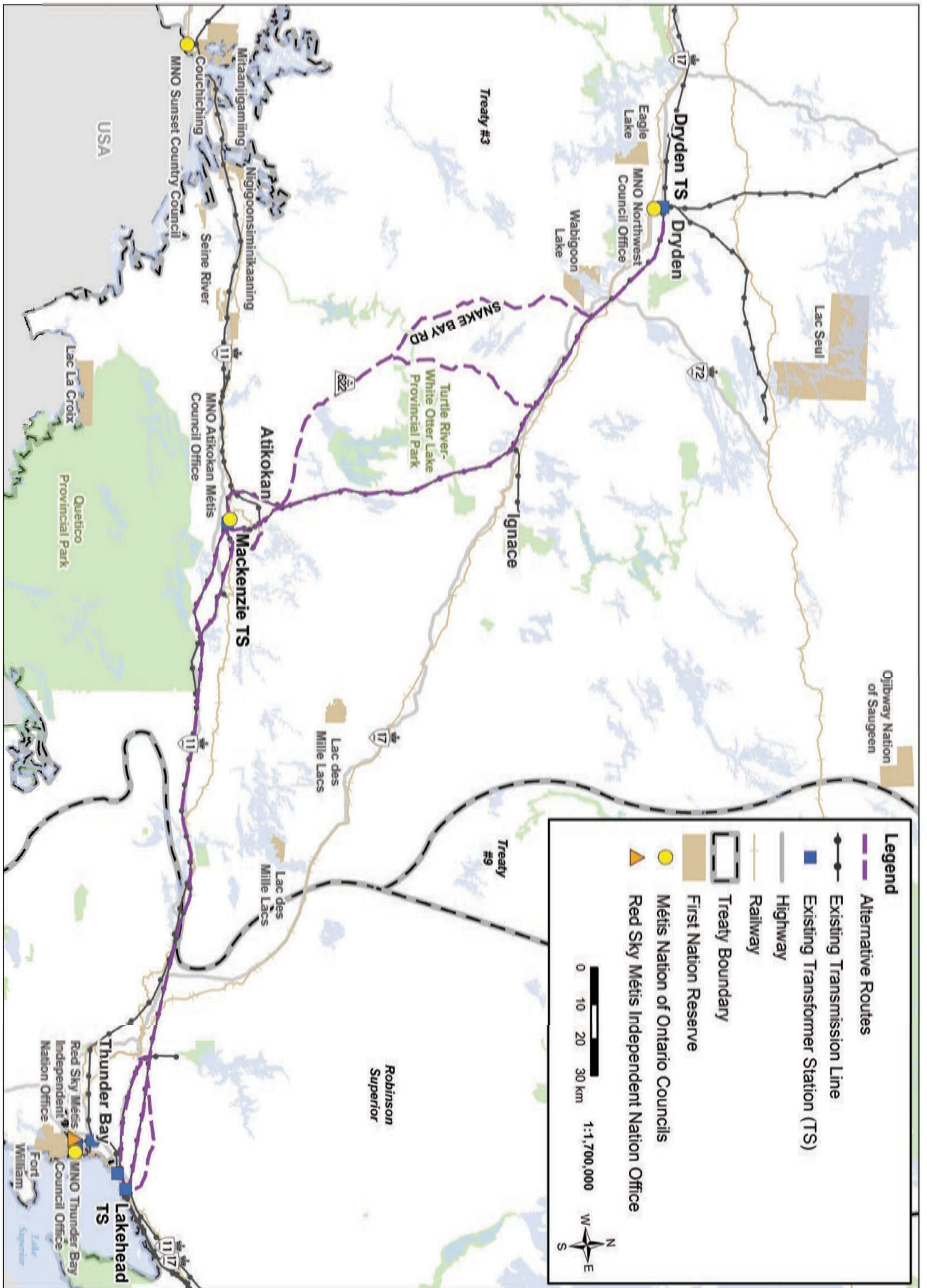
Should the following locations  
re-open during the review period,  
USB flash drives will also be  
available at:

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

**Thunder Bay Public Library –  
Waverley Branch**  
285 Red River Road, Thunder Bay  
807-345-8275

**Thunder Bay Public Library –  
Mary J.L. Black Branch**  
901 S. Edward Street, Thunder Bay  
807-345-8275

For further information about this project, please contact Hydro One Community Relations:  
Tel: 1-877-345-6799 Email: [Community.Relations@HydroOne.com](mailto:Community.Relations@HydroOne.com) Web: [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan)



*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, email address, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.



**Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature  
et des Parcs**

Environmental Assessment  
Branch

Direction des évaluations  
environnementales

1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
135 St. Clair Avenue W  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
**Tel.:** 416 314-8001  
**Fax.:** 416 314-8452

Rez-de-chaussée  
135, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
**Tél. :** 416 314-8001  
**Télééc. :** 416 314-8452

October 5, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Government Review Team

FROM: Carolyn Lee  
Special Project Officer  
Environmental Assessment Branch

RE: Review of Proposed Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project  
Environmental Assessment  
EA Reference No. 16055

---

On October 16, 2020, Hydro One will be submitting a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Environmental Assessment (EA) to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval. The ToR is a framework that sets out how Hydro One proposes to assess the potential environmental effects of this proposal in the EA.

The Waasigan Transmission Line is a proposed new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and the Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between the Mackenzie TS and the Dryden TS in the City of Dryden.

The goal of the ToR is to promote early identification of potential issues relevant to the completion of an EA for the proposed undertaking to ensure that proponents have clear, concise direction with respect to what is required by key regulatory agencies. This step has considerable benefits for review agencies as it allows for early participation and input.

### **Purpose of this Review**

We are interested in knowing whether you feel your agency's mandated responsibilities would be addressed if the EA were to be completed as proposed in the ToR. Given this, you are asked to focus your review on the identification of any concerns your agency may have with the manner in which Hydro One is proposing to complete their EA.

Should you identify any concerns, please indicate how you feel they could be addressed by modifying the existing ToR. Please indicate any specific modifications to this ToR that you think are necessary to address your agency's mandated responsibilities and provide your comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch. Your comments will be provided to Hydro One for its consideration and response.

If your agency does not have an interest in this project please, complete the attached "Acknowledgement of Receipt" form indicating that your agency's involvement is no longer required for this ToR and/or the future EA preparation process.

The following documents are enclosed:

- Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference
- Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Environmental Assessment
- Acknowledgement of Receipt Form.

### **Timing**

In order to ensure consideration within the final decision-making process, please provide your comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch by **November 16, 2020**. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 416-276-0360 or by e-mail at [Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your participation.

*Carolyn Lee*

---

Carolyn Lee

Enclosures

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**  
**For the Waasigan Transmission Line Project EA Terms of Reference**

**UPON RECEIPT, PLEASE COMPLETE  
BOXES/BLANK LINES AND RETURN TO:**

<b>Date Received</b>
----------------------

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
**Attn: Carolyn Lee**  
**Special Project Officer**  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

TEL.: 416-276-0360  
FAX: 416-314-8452  
Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**EA Terms of Reference Title:** Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project

**EA Ref. No.:** 16055

**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel. No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the appropriate box:**

- We will provide comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch by November 16, 2020.
- We are satisfied that the proposed terms of reference will address our mandate, but wish to be involved in the preparation of the environmental assessment.
- We have no comments and do not require any further involvement with this proposal.

**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line Update - ToR Submission and Review Period  
**Date:** October 20, 2020 3:16:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Waasigan Transmission Line Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference.pdf](#)

---

**From:** COHANIM Sarah  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 1:38 PM  
**Cc:** GROOM Dayna <Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com>  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line Update - ToR Submission and Review Period

Good afternoon,

I would like to notify you that the Waasigan Transmission Line proposed Terms of Reference and supporting documents are now available on the Project website: [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan). Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has submitted a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for the Waasigan Transmission Line project

environmental assessment. The ToR is available for a 30-day review period from October 16 to November 16, 2020. Please see the attached notice for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

**Sarah Cohanim**

Environmental Planner

Environmental Programs and Approvals

**Hydro One Networks Inc.**

483 Bay Street | North Tower | 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Toronto, ON | M5G 2P5

Cell: 416.209.7761

Email: [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)

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# NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

## WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.

October 16, 2020



Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has submitted a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Waasigan Transmission Line (Project) environmental assessment (EA) for review, as required under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project is a proposed new transmission line between Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Dryden. We encourage you to review the ToR and submit comments, as outlined below.

### EA PLANNING PROCESS

The ToR is the first step in the EA process. The ToR incorporates feedback received during the review and comment period for the draft ToR. If approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the ToR will provide the framework for the second step of the process – the preparation of the EA. The EA will evaluate alternative routes to determine a preferred route, as shown on the reverse map, and assess the potential effects of the Project. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA and communicated through newspaper advertisements, mailings and on the Project website [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan).

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The Waasigan Transmission Line will consist of a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt 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 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden (please see reverse map). There is anticipated electricity growth in northwestern Ontario and Hydro One is undertaking development work for the Waasigan Transmission Line now to ensure power is available when it is needed.

### HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK TO THE MINISTRY

Indigenous communities and organizations, agencies, elected officials, members of the public and other interested persons are encouraged to provide comments on the ToR between October 16, 2020 and November 16, 2020. Comments must be submitted **by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 16, 2020 to:**

#### Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer

Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks –  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
Tel: 416-276-0360  
Fax: 416-314-8452  
E-mail: [Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

To access the ToR, visit  
[www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan).  
USB flash drives loaded with the  
ToR are available at:

**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

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

Please contact the location closest  
to you for hours and to arrange for  
curbside pickup, as needed.

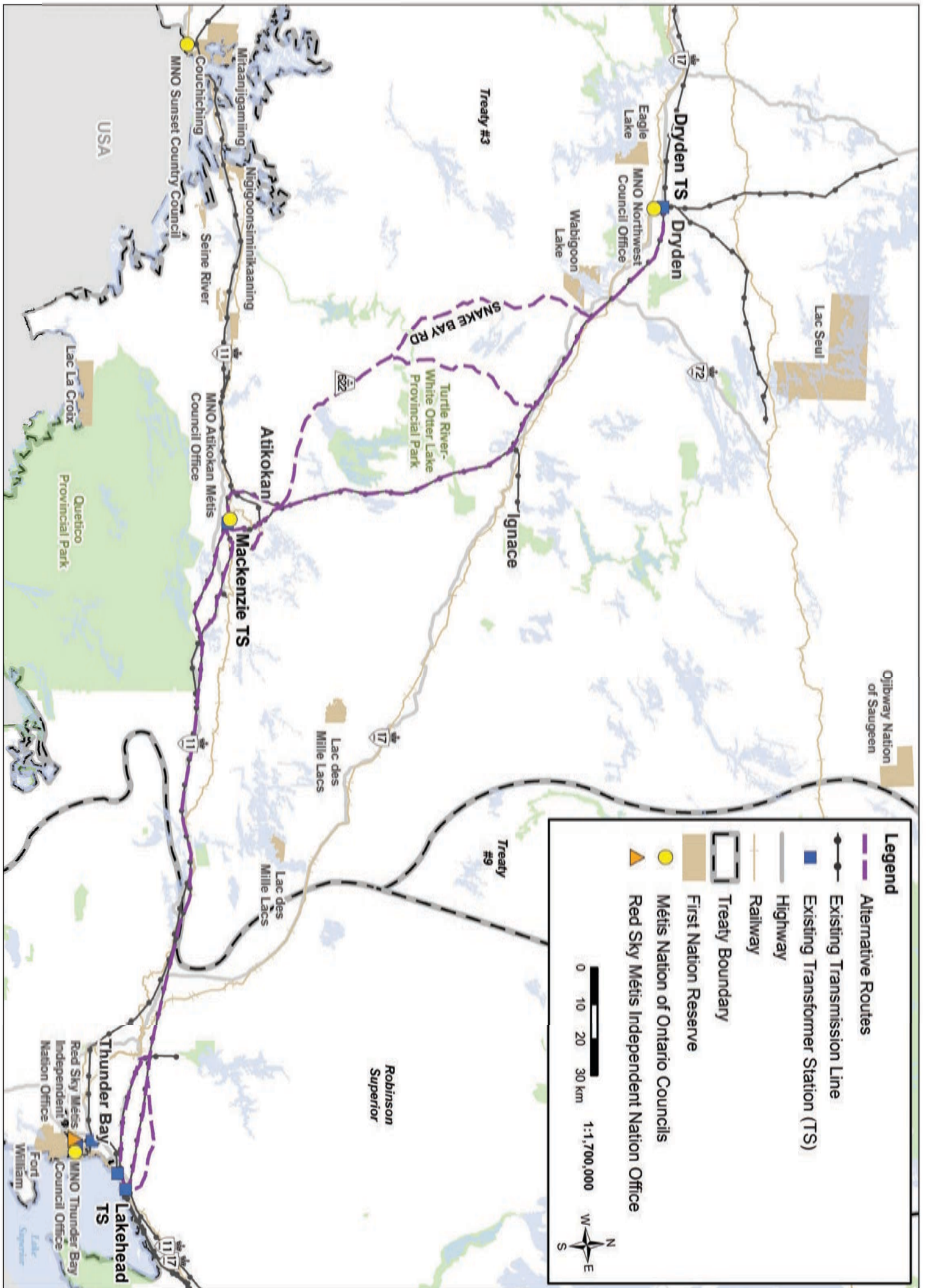
Should the following locations  
re-open during the review period,  
USB flash drives will also be  
available at:

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

**Thunder Bay Public Library –  
Waverley Branch**  
285 Red River Road, Thunder Bay  
807-345-8275

**Thunder Bay Public Library –  
Mary J.L. Black Branch**  
901 S. Edward Street, Thunder Bay  
807-345-8275

For further information about this project, please contact Hydro One Community Relations:  
Tel: 1-877-345-6799 Email: [Community.Relations@HydroOne.com](mailto:Community.Relations@HydroOne.com) Web: [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan)



*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, email address, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission  
**Date:** October 20, 2020 3:11:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [Image\\_20201020\\_151142\\_495.png](#)  
[19-24 MOI Properties in Waasigan Transmission Line Study Area.pdf](#)

---

**From:** Hallen, Frances (IO) <Frances.Hallen@infrastructureontario.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 10:11 AM  
**To:** Lee, Carolyn (MECP) <Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca>; HOPPER Bruce <Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com>; COHANIM Sarah <Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission

**\*\*\* Exercise caution. This is an EXTERNAL email. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. \*\*\***

Good morning,

Thank you for keeping us in communication as part of the Government Review Team (GRT) for the EA for this project, the Waasigan Transmission Line.

I am the coop student assisting with tracking this project at the moment, and I could not find on our records whether we has sent an email addressing provincial government property within the study area. Just in case, I have attached the map of the Waasigan Transmission Line Study area with parcels identified as pertaining to MGCS.

While these were identified, it is ultimately the proponent's responsibility to verify if provincial government property is within the study area. Title documents may identify owners of provincial government property as any of the following:

- His Majesty the King
- Her Majesty the Queen
- Hydro One
- Hydro One Networks Inc.
- Management Board Secretariat (MBS)
- Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI)
- Minister of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI)
- Minister of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS)
- Minister of Infrastructure (MOI)
- Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
- Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal (PIR)
- Minister of Public Works
- Minister of Transportation (MTO)
- Ontario Lands Corporation (OLC)
- Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC)



If provincial government property in the study area is not required for the project, please continue to consult us as a directly affected stakeholder. However, if government property is required for the project, the proponent should contact us so that we can advise about requirements for obtaining government property.

Yours Sincerely,

Frances Hallen



**Frances Hallen** (she, her)  
Infrastructure Ontario  
Co-op Student, Environmental Management

[Frances.Hallen@infrastructureontario.ca](mailto:Frances.Hallen@infrastructureontario.ca)

Mobile: 613-252-7678

<https://ddei3-0-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=www.infrastructureontario.ca&umid=BAC9C404-B1CA-5705-8324-E7A4C0E63851&auth=7c4ba316753dc19277b4cd0bdedce6f0c8e9311b-aabb9d15ad337437ca6256bcb82564ffc8d0ea84>

Follow IO at:   

---

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---

**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com) <[Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2020 4:57 PM

**To:** Ostrowka, Cory (IO) <[Cory.Ostrowka@infrastructureontario.ca](mailto:Cory.Ostrowka@infrastructureontario.ca)>; Brown, Joanna (IO) <[Joanna.Brown@infrastructureontario.ca](mailto:Joanna.Brown@infrastructureontario.ca)>; Davidson, Ainsley (IO) <[Ainsley.Davidson@infrastructureontario.ca](mailto:Ainsley.Davidson@infrastructureontario.ca)>; Yousif, Ramsen (IO) <[Ramsen.Yousif@infrastructureontario.ca](mailto:Ramsen.Yousif@infrastructureontario.ca)>; Notice Review <[NoticeReview@infrastructureontario.ca](mailto:NoticeReview@infrastructureontario.ca)>

**Cc:** [Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com](mailto:Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com); [dpmckinnon@dillon.ca](mailto:dpmckinnon@dillon.ca); [Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com](mailto:Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com)

**Subject:** Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission

Good afternoon,

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is submitting a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of

the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Waasigan Transmission Line (Project) environmental assessment (EA) for review, as required under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project consists of a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt 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 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Please see attached memo and Notice of Submission of ToR for more information.

You are receiving this email because you were identified as part of the Government Review Team (GRT) for the EA, and we would like to provide you with an electronic copy of the proposed ToR for your review and comment. The ToR will be available for a 30-day review and comment period, from October 16, 2020 to November 16, 2020. The document will be available on the Project website at [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan) on October 16, 2020. The ToR and supporting documents can now be accessed electronically by following this link – [ToR and Supporting Documents](#).

Comments on the ToR must be submitted **by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 16, 2020 to:**

Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer

Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks – Environmental Assessment Branch

135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Tel: 416-276-0360

Fax: 416-314-8452

E-mail: [Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

If you have requested a hard copy of the document, it will be delivered to the address provided. If you would like a hard copy and have not requested one already, please let me know as soon as possible and provide me with the appropriate mailing address.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to your continued participation in the Waasigan Transmission Line EA process.

Regards,

**Sarah Cohanim**

Environmental Planner

Environmental Programs and Approvals

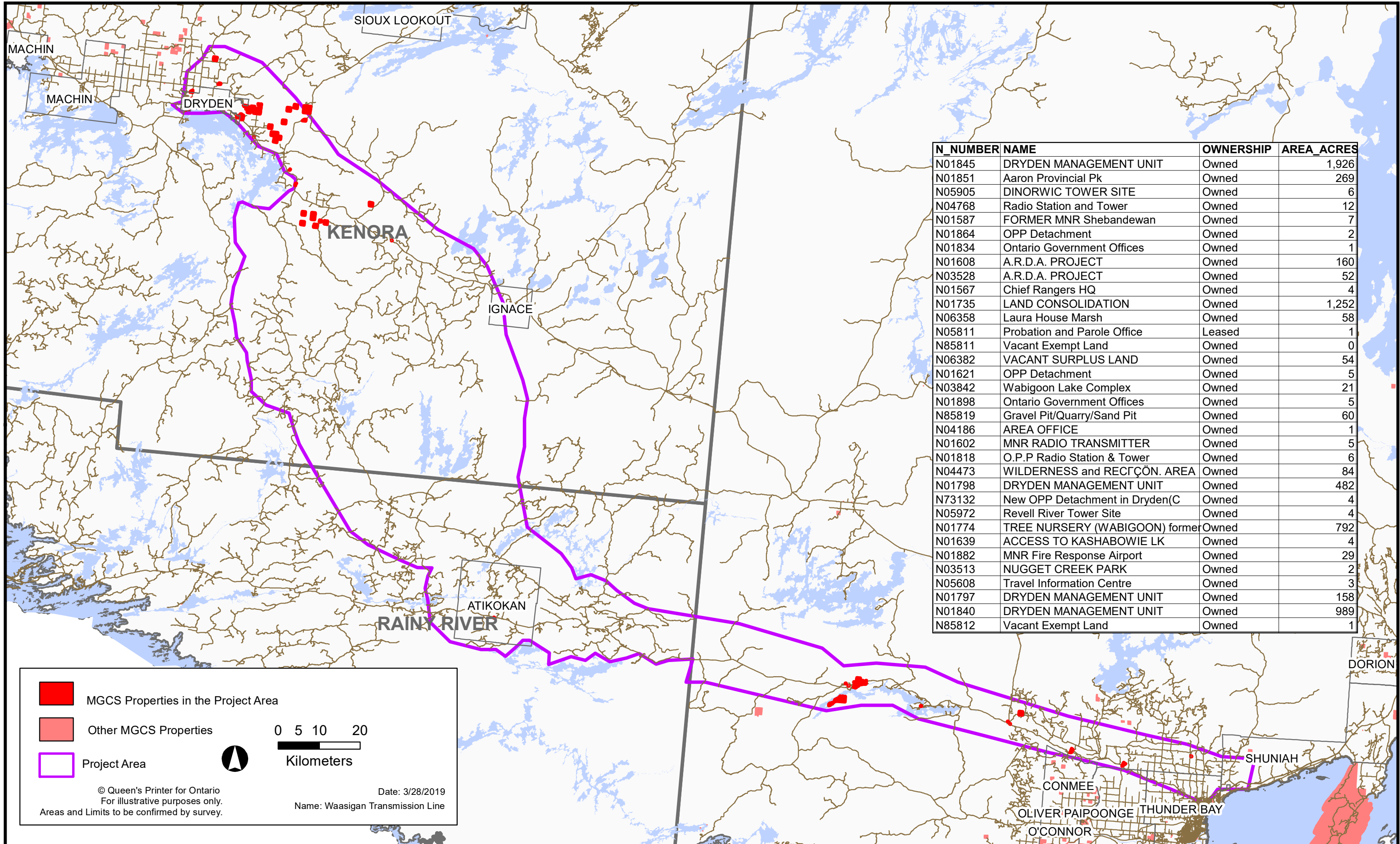
Hydro One Networks Inc.

Cell: (416) 209-7761

Email: [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)

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N_NUMBER	NAME	OWNERSHIP	AREA_ACRES
N01845	DRYDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT	Owned	1,926
N01851	Aaron Provincial Pk	Owned	269
N05905	DINORWIC TOWER SITE	Owned	6
N04768	Radio Station and Tower	Owned	12
N01587	FORMER MNR Shebandewan	Owned	7
N01864	OPP Detachment	Owned	2
N01834	Ontario Government Offices	Owned	1
N01608	A.R.D.A. PROJECT	Owned	160
N03528	A.R.D.A. PROJECT	Owned	52
N01567	Chief Rangers HQ	Owned	4
N01735	LAND CONSOLIDATION	Owned	1,252
N06358	Laura House Marsh	Owned	58
N05811	Probation and Parole Office	Leased	1
N85811	Vacant Exempt Land	Owned	0
N06382	VACANT SURPLUS LAND	Owned	54
N01621	OPP Detachment	Owned	5
N03842	Wabigoon Lake Complex	Owned	21
N01898	Ontario Government Offices	Owned	5
N85819	Gravel Pit/Quarry/Sand Pit	Owned	60
N04186	AREA OFFICE	Owned	1
N01602	MNR RADIO TRANSMITTER	Owned	5
N01818	O.P.P Radio Station & Tower	Owned	6
N04473	WILDERNESS and RECFÇON. AREA	Owned	84
N01798	DRYDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT	Owned	482
N73132	New OPP Detachment in Dryden(C	Owned	4
N05972	Revell River Tower Site	Owned	4
N01774	TREE NURSERY (WABIGOON) former	Owned	792
N01639	ACCESS TO KASHABOWIE LK	Owned	4
N01882	MNR Fire Response Airport	Owned	29
N03513	NUGGET CREEK PARK	Owned	2
N05608	Travel Information Centre	Owned	3
N01797	DRYDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT	Owned	158
N01840	DRYDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT	Owned	989
N85812	Vacant Exempt Land	Owned	1

■ MGCS Properties in the Project Area  
■ Other MGCS Properties  
 Project Area

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 For illustrative purposes only.  
 Areas and Limits to be confirmed by survey.

Date: 3/28/2019  
 Name: Waasigan Transmission Line

**Ministry of Heritage, Sport,  
Tourism and Culture Industries**

Programs and Services Branch  
401 Bay Street, Suite 1700  
Toronto, ON M7A 0A7  
Tel: 416.314-7159

**Ministère des Industries du Patrimoine,  
du Sport, du Tourisme et de la Culture**

Direction des programmes et des services  
401, rue Bay, Bureau 1700  
Toronto, ON M7A 0A7  
Tél: 416.314-7159



November 10, 2020

EMAIL ONLY

Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer

**Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks** – Environmental Assessment Branch

135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor,

Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

[Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

**MHSTCI File : 0010377**  
**Proponent : Hydro One Networks Inc.**  
**Subject : Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference**  
**Project : Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment**  
**Location : Between Thunder Bay, Atikokan and Dryden**

---

Dear Carolyn Lee

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) with the Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line project. The comments below relate to MHSTCI's mandate of conserving Ontario's cultural heritage, which includes:

- Archaeological resources, including land and marine;
- Built heritage resources, including bridges and monuments; and,
- Cultural heritage landscapes.

We have reviewed the Terms of Reference dated October 2020 and, also Hydro One's responses to our August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 comments. Overall, our comments have been addressed and most of our suggested revisions/edits have been incorporated into the Terms of Reference.

That being said, we would like to note Hydro One's advice on the following two items and confirm that MHSTCI is satisfied that these items will be addressed as part of the EA:

1. To our comment #2 where MHSTCI advised that section 4.2.3.7 should also include a reference to possible marine archaeological assessment.  
Hydro One responded: The project is not expected to affect areas with marine archeological potential however it will be further reviewed as part of the EA once additional project-specific information becomes available.
2. To our comment #6 and MHSTCI's offer to provide additional guidance on the content and level of detail to be included in Cultural Heritage Existing Conditions Report (or Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment report).  
Hydro One responded: Comment noted. Scope of technical heritage studies will be discussed with MHSTCI during EA.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Terms or Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line project. We would appreciate being kept informed of this EA and looking forward to reviewing the next phase in due course. If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact me.

Sincerely,

**Rosi Zirger**

A/Heritage Advisor

[rosi.zirger@ontario.ca](mailto:rosi.zirger@ontario.ca)

Heritage Planning Unit

Copy to: Karla Barboza, MHSTCI Team Lead, Heritage Planning Unit  
James Hamilton, MHSTCI Manager, Heritage Planning Unit  
Sarah Cohanin, Environmental Planner, Hydro One Networks Inc.

## **A) INTRODUCTION**

One of the functions of the Ministry's Tourism Policy Unit is to provide strategic tourism policy and planning expertise to industry, other ministries and other levels of government. The Unit also promotes activities that protect, diversify and enhance tourism industry interests on lands and waters in Northern Ontario. As such, our comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project relay a tourism perspective.

## **B) COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The comments are presented in the same chronological order as the sections in the ToR.

### **Section 4.2.3.3 – Economy, Land and Resource Use**

Both the draft and final ToR quote tourism statistics from 2013 for Tourism Region 13c. Our previous comments on the draft ToR provided updated 2017 statistics for the region as per our Ministry's Regional Tourism Profiles. It is unclear why the data was not updated in the final ToR but the following link to the 2017 Regional Profiles is provided to share with the proponent for use going forward - <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/research/rtp/rtp.shtml>

A caution is shared that the 2017 data only includes visitor and spending data for Ontario residents, other residents of Canada and Overseas visitors.

Please note that the quality of the data describing the characteristics of United States (US) visitors to Ontario is particularly low and as such the ministry will not be releasing this information at the sub-provincial level after 2014.

It is also noteworthy that visitors from the US are a key market for many resource-based tourism operations in Northwestern Ontario. This comment was shared during the review of the draft ToR but it is not reflected in the final ToR. Many resource-based tourism establishments across the northwest traditionally have over 90% of their guests coming from the US.

### **Section 7.1 – Potential Effects Assessment**

There is some mixed messaging in this section regarding cumulative effects.

Page 111 indicates that the EA will assess the potential for net effects "of other approved projects" to combine cumulatively with the net effects of the project.

Page 113 highlights that the net effects assessment for the project will generally include a number of actions, including the following.

- “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”

The Tourism Policy Unit (TPU) supports the language on page 113 because it takes a broader approach to cumulative effects assessment.

### **Section 10.3.10 – Record of Consultation**

This section advises that Hydro One will develop an issues resolution strategy for the EA. TPU supports this effort and would encourage the proponent to consider the use of third parties to help mediate issues, where helpful, and the potential for compensation should the project result in losses (i.e. loss of use of facilities or revenue) to businesses such as tourist outfitters.



**Ministry of Transportation**

Northwestern Region  
615 James Street South  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7E 6P6  
Tel: 807-473-2127  
Email: cindy.brown2@ontario.ca

**Ministère des Transports**

Région du Nord-Ouest  
615, rue James Sud  
3<sup>e</sup> étage  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7E 6P6  
Tél: 807-473-2127  
Email: cindy.brown2@ontario.ca



November 9, 2020

Carolyn Lee  
Special Project Officer  
MOECP, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Email: Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca

**Re:** Review of Proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Environmental Assessment EA Reference No. 16055

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has reviewed the Proposed Terms of Reference for the proposed Waasigan Transmission Line Project from Thunder Bay to Dryden.

The following is a summary of permit requirements and potential impacts associated with the project:

**Permit Requirements:**

- Encroachment Permits will be required for transmission lines crossing a provincial highway.
- Entrance Permits will be required for temporary access during construction and permanent access for maintenance of the transmission line.
- Towers will not be permitted within the highway right-of-way (ROW). Towers must be setback a minimum of 14 m from the highway ROW limit. Greater setbacks may be required to accommodate future highway plans.
- A Building and Land Use Permit will be required for transmission lines within MTO's permit control area as defined by the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act (PTHIA). The permit control area for transmission line 400 m from the highway ROW for a Controlled Access Highway and 45 m from the ROW limit and 180 m from the centre of an intersection for a Kings Highway.

Table 11-1 on page 204 of the TOR identifies MTO permit requirements. As a point of clarification regarding the types of permits that would be required, encroachment permits are required for construction within the provincial highway right of way and Building and Land Use permits are required for construction adjacent to provincial highways within the permit control area.

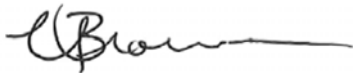
MTO is currently protecting certain corridors within the project area that have been "designated" for proposed future highway needs. One of the designated proposed corridors is on Highway 11/17 west of Thunder Bay, from 1.3 km east of junction of Highway 130 to intersection of Highway 11 at Shabaqua. There is another designated corridor for the future Dryden By-Pass, from the intersection of Highway 17 and 601 to the intersection of Highway 17 and 665. In addition, MTO has future highway plans for

Highway 11/17 through Thunder Bay, to expand the existing four lanes to divided highway with interchanges and a new intersection between Oliver Road and John Street Road.

All permit requirements under the PTHIA that apply to existing highway right of ways will also apply to the above designated corridors.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address or telephone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy Brown, P. Eng.  
Head, Highway Corridor Management Section

Cc: Patricia DeCal, Head, Environmental Section



130 Conservation Road, PO Box 10427  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8  
Phone: (807) 344-5857 | Fax: (807) 345-9156

November 10, 2020

VIA EMAIL: [Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

Ms. Carolyn Lee  
Special Project Officer  
Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M4V 1P5

Dear Ms. Lee:

**Re: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line – Notice of Submission of Terms of Reference  
Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, City of Thunder Bay, Township of Conmee and  
Municipality of Shuniah**

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In response to the Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference Report, dated October 2020 regarding the Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment, Staff provide the following comments.

The project study areas are within the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, City of Thunder Bay, Township of Conmee and the Municipality of Shuniah, which are member municipalities of the Authority. As watershed advisors to our member municipalities, the ability of structures to pass flood flows and potential erosion/sedimentation and impacts are components of our input.

There are various water crossings and wetlands (i.e. Current River, McVicar Creek, McIntyre River, Kivikoski Provincially Significant Wetland, McVicar Creek Provincially Wetland, various Evaluated Wetlands etc.) as shown on the attached map, which may be subject to the Authority's Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations, O. Reg. 180/06. In general, any development (i.e. temporary or permanent water crossings) within or adjacent to the shore-zone and/or watercourse or wetland may require a permit under the Authority's Regulations, within the Area of Jurisdiction of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA).

Please be advised that the if any work is proposed within a wetland regulated by the LRCA, the development will require an Environmental Impact Study by a professional specializing in the appropriate disciplines.

This information is current at the time of writing and may be amended as more accurate information becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Sixsmith, Development Regulations Officer, at the Authority office.

Sincerely,



Michelle Sixsmith  
Development Regulations Officer

Encl: Map

# Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment



**Legend**

- Project Area
- Approximate Regulated Area
- Lake Superior Regulated Area
- LRCA Jurisdiction Boundary
- Flood & Fill Line
- Regional Floodline
- 100 Year Floodline
- Fill Line
- Drainage**
- Water Body
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Evaluated Wetland
- Wetland
- Watercourse
- Stream
- River
- Ditch
- Roads**
- Highway
- Road
- Street
- Utility Line
- Transmission Line
- Pipeline



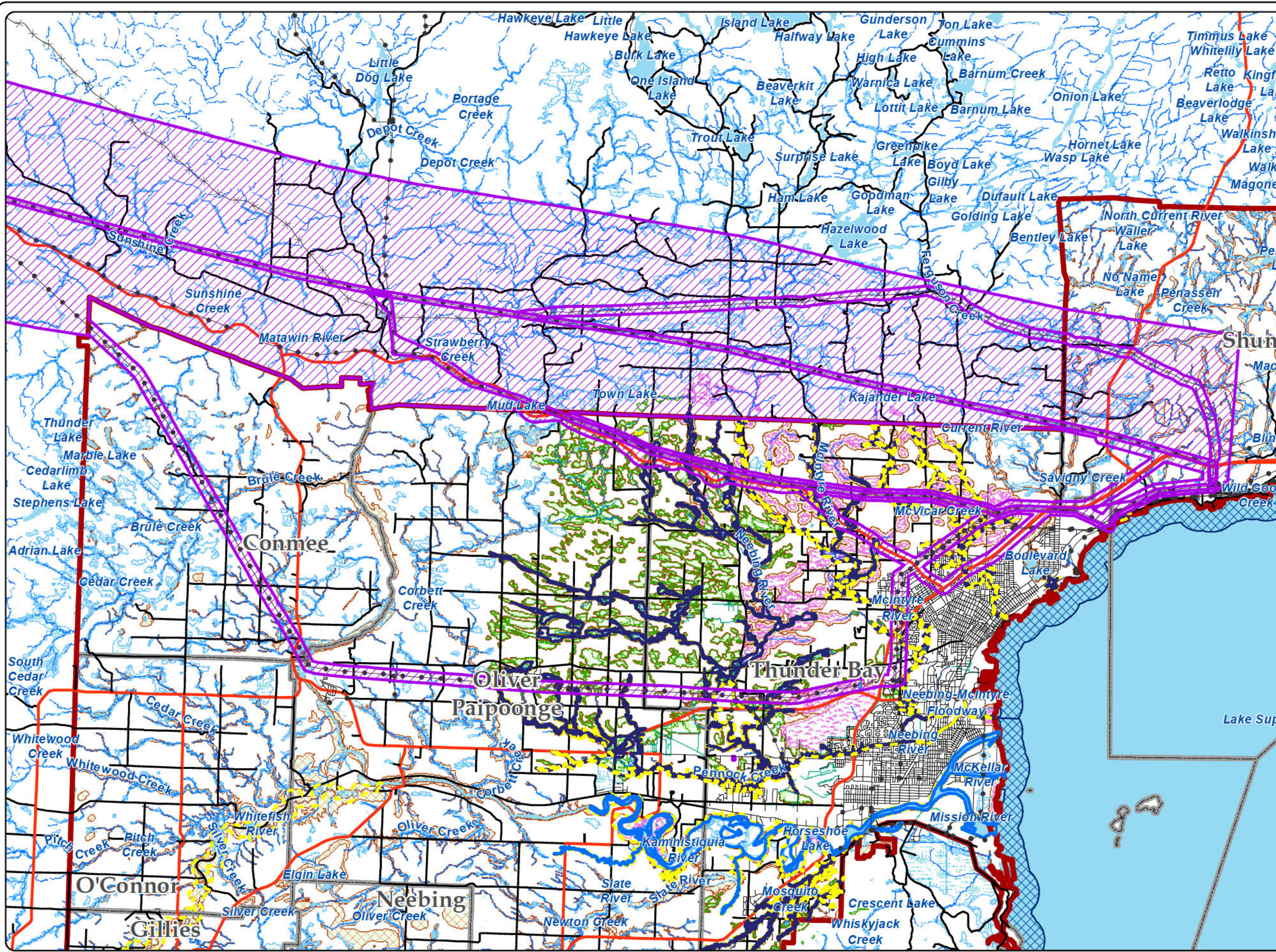
1:160,000

This publication was produced by:  
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority  
130 Conservation Rd.  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7B 6T8

Base data used under license through the members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange.

This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes or features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Datum: NAD 83  
Projection: UTM Zone 18N  
Date: November, 2020  
Created by: scott  
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November 11, 2020

Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

**RE: Feedback for the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference**

Dear Ms. Carolyn Lee,

Treasury Metals is writing the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry) to provide feedback for the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference. Treasury Metals owns the Goliath Gold Project which is located in the Kenora Mining Division in northwestern Ontario, approximately 4 kilometres (km) northwest of the Village of Wabigoon, 20 km east of Dryden and 2 km north of the Trans-Canada Highway 17. The Goliath Gold Project completed its federal Environmental Assessment (EA) with the federal government approval on August 19, 2019 under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) of 2012. Currently, Treasury Metals is commencing the provincial approvals process for the Goliath Gold Project including the regulatory closure plan and construction phase permits and approvals. The Goliath Gold Project is located within the Local Study Area for the proposed Waasigan Transmission Line.

Over the last 10 years, Treasury Metals has been working diligently towards the achievement of several key project milestones based on a Project Study Area (Figure provided as Attachment 1) that may be overprinted by the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Footprint. These milestones include (but are not limited to) federal EA Approval, engineering design studies, agreements with Indigenous communities and completion of environmental studies and predictions. Additionally, Treasury Metals has committed to the CEAA Agency, the provincial regulators and several Indigenous communities and their consultants, that the project features within the Goliath Gold Project Study Area will be designed with a compact footprint. As shown on Attachment 1, to achieve a compact footprint, a number of project features including the mine water pond, tailings storage facility, processing plant, and haul/access roads are located adjacent to the existing transmission line, and therefore have the potential to be overprinted by the proposed project. Furthermore, Treasury Metals has finalized purchases of private property, acquired surface rights, and made several submissions to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines to bring mineral claims and crown parcels to lease. These tenure acquisitions will be to support mining operations of our open pit and underground mine. The lands, owned or leased by Treasury Metals, have been included in key economic studies and projections for the Goliath Gold Project.

Based on the above rationale, the construction of the Waasigan Transmission Line may have meaningful effects on the engineering design, construction, operations and economics of the Goliath Gold Project. Treasury Metals has reviewed the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference (ToR) and has the following questions and comments with respect to the proposed Project:



1. Would Hydro One please confirm the width of the right of way (ROW), its orientation relative to the current transmission line and distance from the current transmission line at the Goliath Gold Project?

It is Treasury Metals understanding that the proposed ROW for the Waasigan Transmission Line is anticipated to be approximately 40-45 m wide, with some sections requiring additional width. However, the following are unclear regarding the proposed transmission line specifically where it intersects with the Goliath Gold Project:

- i. Width of the proposed ROW;
- ii. Orientation of the proposed ROW relative to the current transmission line (i.e. north or south); and
- iii. Offset/width of the proposed ROW relative the current transmission line.

Given that some project features within the Project Study Area for the Goliath Gold Project are located adjacent to both sides of the current transmission line, understanding the Waasigan Transmission Line's width, orientation and offset at the Goliath Gold Project site is of utmost importance to Treasury Metals. While it has been previously communicated to Treasury Metals by Hydro One that these details will be determined during the EA process for the Project, given that Treasury Metals has already received EA approval for the Goliath Gold Project and is now working towards finalizing engineering design and proceeding with construction phase permitting and approvals, Treasury Metals requests that Hydro One work with Treasury Metals to confirm these details in advance of the provincial EA approval. While Treasury Metals has the intention to work with Hydro One to arrange a layout that is suitable to both parties it must be noted that the width, orientation, and offset of the new transmission line is expected to have direct, and potentially significant implications on the engineering design, construction approvals, and future mineral value of our Project.

2. Treasury Metals requests that Hydro One provide shapefiles to Treasury Metals of the realistic ROW at the Goliath Gold Project such that the Waasigan Transmission Line can be appropriately incorporated into engineering designs and regulatory approvals currently underway for the Goliath Gold Project.
3. What is Hydro One's proposed timeline to construction?

Given that the Project Footprint for the Waasigan Transmission Line overprints the Goliath Gold Project's approved Project Study Area, the timeline to construction for both projects will be integral to their developments.

4. With respect to land tenure, what is Hydro One's expectation for compensation to private land owners that will be overprinted by the proposed Waasigan Transmission Line Project?

There are lands owned and/or leased by Treasury Metals specifically for the intention of open pit or underground mining that may be impacted by the overprinting of the proposed transmission line, and therefore unavailable for mining operations. If this occurs, it would have a meaningful effect on the economics of the Goliath Gold Project.





Should any of the information or requests contained within this letter be more suitably discussed by way of a meeting, Treasury Metals kindly requests that the Ministry propose a time that is convenient for them in the near future.

Kind Regards,

Mackenzie Denyes, PhD, P. Geo, QP<sub>RA</sub>  
Manager of Regulatory Affairs  
Treasury Metals Inc.

**Attachment 1: Project Study Area, Goliath Gold Project**

cc.

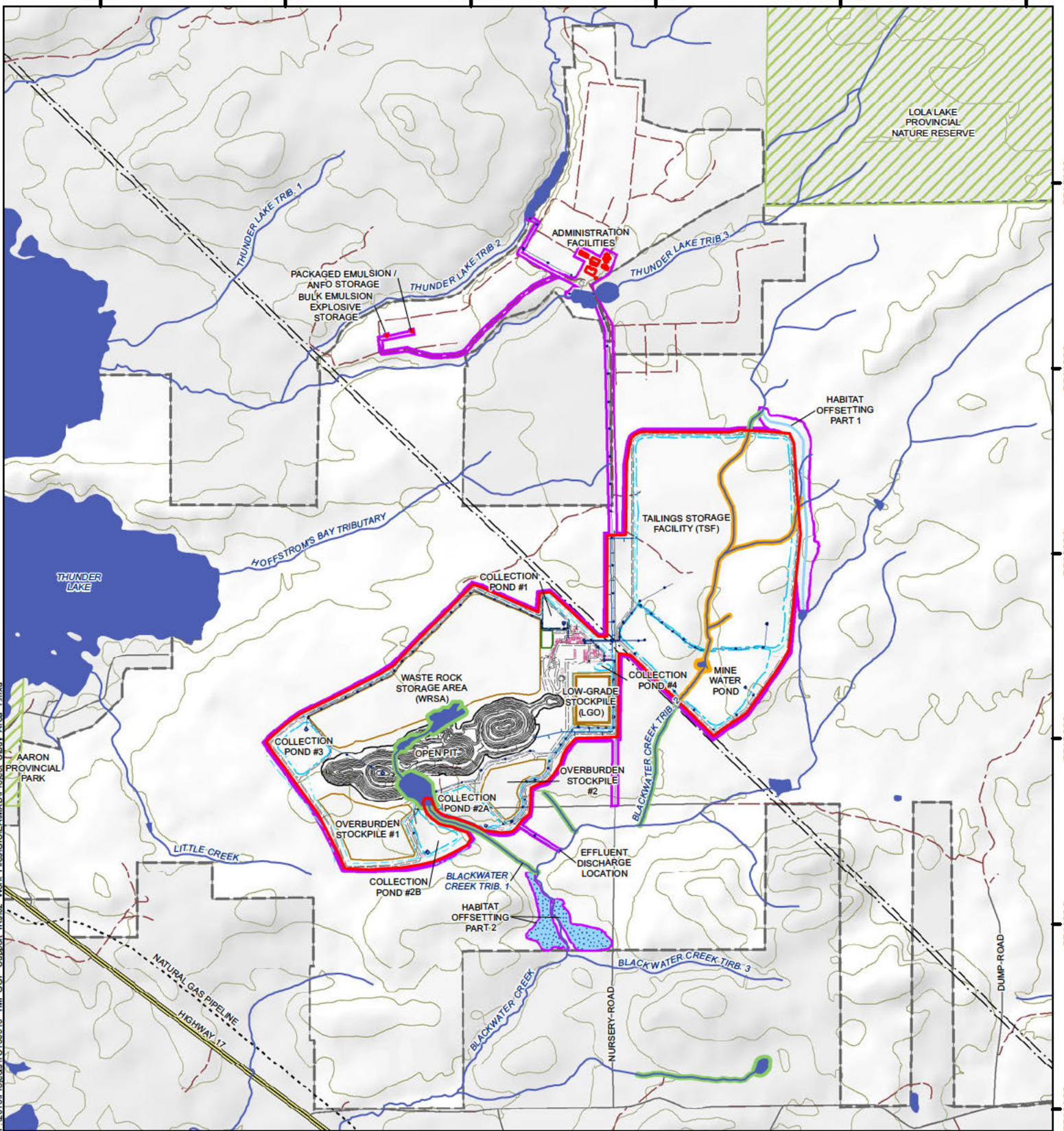
Mark Wheeler, Director of Projects, Treasury Metals Inc.

Mac Potter, Manager of Environment and Community Relations Treasury Metals Inc.

Sarah Cohanim, Environmental Planner, Environmental Programs and Approvals, Hydro One Networks Inc.







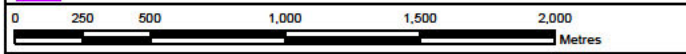
P:\2016\Projects\TC160516\_TMI\_GGP\_Support\_IRa\02\_Wrk\_Files\GIS\EA\MXD\Project\_Study\_Area\_1.mxd

LEGEND		
--- Hydro Line	<b>Site Infrastructure</b>	--- Processing Plant and Ancillary Facilities
--- Natural Gas Pipeline	--- Operations Area	--- Access Haul Roads
--- Highway	--- Access Haul Roads	--- Pipeline
--- Local Street	--- Pipeline	--- Security Fence
--- Resource / Recreation Trail	--- Ditching	--- Stockpile
Provincial Park / Nature Reserve	--- Emergency Spillway	
Watercourse / Waterbody	<b>Fisheries Impacts</b>	
Contours (10 m interval)	--- Schedule 2	--- Section 35
Property Boundary of Claims and Dispositions	--- Habitat Offsetting Options	
Area Beyond Property Boundary	--- Part 1 Blackwater Creek Tributary 2 Diversion (0.3 ha)	
Project Study Area	--- Part 2 Potential New Pond / Basin Along Blackwater Creek (6 ha)	

**NOTES:**  
 - Watercourses represent pre-development conditions based on LIO database, as modified by KBM.

Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N

<b>GOLIATH GOLD PROJECT</b>	
<b>Project Study Area</b>	
PROJECT N°: TC160516	TMI_876-RG(2)-01_Figure_1
SCALE: 1:28,000	DATE: May 2019



Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
**Attn: Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer**  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5

Sent via email: Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca

November 16, 2020

Dear Ms. Lee,

**RE: Waasigan Transmission Line Project - MNRF Response Final Terms of Reference**

---

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has completed its review of the Final Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project, submitted by Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI). We appreciate the opportunity to review this document and provide input that follows up on comments MNRF provided directly to HONI on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on the draft version of this document.

We are providing this letter and accompanying table as the ministry's comments. The table provides our detailed comments and, where possible, recommended actions for each. Please note that many of the items in the table refer to and build on the ministry's earlier comments on the draft ToR; as such, we have also attached a table with those earlier comments on the draft ToR for ease of reference.

Highlighted below are several of the overarching themes that we would like to draw your attention to. These include both commitments that HONI has made in response to our comments on the draft ToR as well as outstanding issues that have not been addressed in the Final ToR or that require further consideration to be fully addressed.

**Commitments:**

The MNRF appreciates the commitments made by HONI to create the following plans as part of the future Environmental Assessment (EA):

- **Access plan:** which will include location and timing of use for all roads that will be used to facilitate the project, length and width of new roads and upgrades to existing roads, ownership, authority to use, permanency and plans for decommissioning.
- **Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan:** which will include detailed information about Hydro One's plans for tree clearing including identification of areas to be cleared permanently vs. areas to be reforested, timing of and methods for clearing, management of cleared timber and brush, etc.
- **Field Work Plans:** which will include survey protocols for ground-based studies of the preferred route.
- **Environmental Protection Plan:** which will be designed to confirm that the assumptions used in the assessment were correct, to determine compliance with project permits/approvals and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.
- **Undocumented values:** which will include plans/protocols HONI will use to address instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values are discovered in the field during construction and/or operation of the project.

#### **Outstanding Concerns:**

- **Field Work Plan:**  
As noted above, MNRF appreciates the commitment to conduct ground-based field surveys to inform the net effects assessment of the preferred route. That said, MNRF reiterates that ground-based field surveys would also benefit the alternative route analysis by verifying/ground-truthing assumptions and conclusions reached using information from desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance.
- **Mitigation Plans for MNRF Values:**  
During the review of the Draft ToR MNRF provided a comment that the EA should assess project-level net effects but also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures.

For clarity, MNRF is not asking for a mitigation plan for each individual feature per se; rather, the ministry is asking that the EA provide different mitigation plans for each type of natural heritage value such as: 1) Significant Wildlife Habitat, 2) Provincially Significant Wetlands, 3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, 4) Protected Areas, 5) Species at Risk, 6) Fish Habitat.

These mitigation plans can then be used at specific value locations to identify the set of mitigation measures that are most appropriate for that type of feature at that location. This would result in a specific mitigation approach for each value.

In addition to helping the MNRF understand the net effects of the various project components on natural heritage values, these plans will help to facilitate efficient issuance of future permits and approvals for this project.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that HONI include a commitment to provide these mitigation plans in the EA.

- **Supporting Infrastructure:**

Several MNRF comments on the draft ToR requested that a commitment be made to provide greater detail in the EA about the project design in order to ensure a thorough accounting of the effects of the project, and to support future MNRF permitting.

While MNRF understands that HONI has been directed by the IESO to only develop the Project and has not yet been awarded construction rights, the EA should describe and assess the impact of ancillary infrastructure required for project construction. This information will help enable MNRF to determine, at the end of the EA process, the feasibility of being able to issue permits and approvals required to implement the project.

MNRF continues to strongly recommend that HONI provide the additional information we have requested during the EA. Lack of project details will result in more information being required at the permitting stage and, potentially, the need to carry out additional consultation with First Nations and with other potentially affected parties. This will lengthen the permitting process and could have implications to construction scheduling.

- **Criteria and Indicators:**

MNRF appreciates that the final ToR expands greatly on the criteria and indicators HONI plans to use for Alternative Route Evaluation (Appendix C) and Net Effects Assessment (Appendix D).

Our comments provide recommendations for additional criteria and refinements of existing criteria to ensure that MNRF's interests are addressed in the EA for the alternative route selection phase of the project.

For example, in the current list of indicators, all "species of conservation concern" (an important component of significant wildlife habitat), have been grouped into one indicator. This indicator should be broken down into separate criteria for each individual species because the impact of the project to species of conservation concern varies depending on whether the species is, for example, a bird, vs. an animal vs. an insect. It is inappropriate to group all these types of species together in one indicator as the impacts and mitigation measures would not be the same.

Further, MNRF notes that the list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) differ in some instances. We would appreciate explanation in the ToR and EA as to the rationale for those.

MNRF would welcome an opportunity to discuss criteria and indicators in greater detail with HONI to ensure that both the alternative route selection, and preferred alternative analysis are determined with an appropriate consideration of the full range of MNRF interests.

- **The Former Steep Rock Mine Site:**

MNRF continues to have concerns about the feasibility of Alternative Route 2A as it is based on the current landscape of the former Steep Rock site mine, not its anticipated future state once rehabilitation is complete.

As HONI's vision of the transmission line in this area may not be achievable re-routing or re-consideration of alternative 2A may be needed. Further, route 2A should not be presented as a

viable alternative route without first assessing how this change of landscape at the Steep Rock site affects route feasibility.

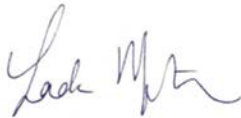
- **Impacts to the Remote Tourism Industry:**

As mentioned in review of the draft ToR, the EA should consider how access in the project area is anticipated to change as a result of the proposed project, and what measures will be taken to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts resulting from access changes (i.e. increases in levels of access or creation of new unwanted access) near remote tourism lakes.

For example, some roads may have access restrictions to protect the tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this when planning how it will carry out the project.

In closing, we trust that the above will be of assistance to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in carrying out its review of the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Terms of Reference. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any inquiries to Heather Nelson at [heather.nelson@ontario.ca](mailto:heather.nelson@ontario.ca).

Yours truly,



Londa Mortson  
Resources Manager  
Northwest Region, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Cc: Bruce Hopper, Hydro One Networks Inc.

Attachments:

- Comment Table: MNRF Review of Final ToR for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project – November 13, 2020
- Comment Table: Waasigan Transmission Line, Draft Terms of Reference, MNRF Comment/Response Table – Working Draft -Sept. 4, 2020

**MNRF Review of Final ToR for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project – November 13, 2020**

\*\* Note: Comment ID Refers to the comment number found within the table entitled: Waasigan Transmission Line, Draft Terms of Reference, MNRF Comment/Reponses Table Working Draft – Sept 4, 2020

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
Main Repot	Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)	<p>The ToR describes the existing environment (Description of Existing Environment) using LandCover data.</p> <p>MNRF recommends that HONI use the Provincial Ecosites that are part of Ontario's Ecological Land Classification when describing the terrestrial environment in the EA. The provincial ecosites are available through Forest Resource Inventories (FRI) and provide finer ecological resolution than the digitally derived LandCover. In addition, the provincial ecosites are the ecological units employed to describe and confirm Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) when using Ecoregional Criteria Schedules.</p> <p>Related: MNRF recommends that the FRI be used to stratify the study area into ecological units at the Provincial Ecosite scale. Stratification can then be used to develop a field program to describe the baseline conditions of the environment and to identify natural resource values to be considered in the EA. The field program should contain an appropriate number of surveys (e.g. vegetation, breeding bird) to adequately describe the environment of the study area, as well as areas that may contain SWH.</p> <p>Data obtained will enable HONI to distinguish different types of vegetation and habitats at a finer scale in order to more accurately delineate SWH and other natural heritage values, and to ensure that impacts to values are identified and accounted for.</p>	<p>MNRF recommends that the EA describe terrestrial environment baseline conditions using the Provincial Ecosites in order to better capture variation across the landscape, and to better identify natural heritage values (e.g. SWH).</p> <p>The MNRF strongly recommends that a stratified field sampling method be employed to achieve appropriate field surveys / coverage that will better describe baseline conditions, supplement existing wildlife and vegetation values, and assess, consider and mitigate the net effects of the proposed project.</p>
Main Report	Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)	<p>As part of the review of the Draft ToR the MNRF provided several comments relating to the need for field plans/studies in order to inform the future EA. (Comment ID #6, 15)</p> <p>A field plan containing additional information about proposed field studies was provided to MNRF (Technical Memorandum – Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan, prepared by Golder Associated Ltd, dated August 21, 2020). MNRF has reviewed this document within the context of the Terms of Reference review and remains concerned that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HONI continues to propose that only information from aerial reconnaissance (and desktop analyses) will be used in the Alterative Route Evaluation and determination of the preferred route. Field studies should be conducted to ground-truth assumptions made based on desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance; and</li> <li>2. the lack of detail about the proposed 2021-2022 field work program and methodologies does not allow MNRF to evaluate whether the proposed field program (including ground-based studies), will enable HONI to accurately characterize conditions along the preferred route, identify potential impacts of the</li> </ol>	<p>MNRF reiterates its earlier recommendation that field work be conducted to inform both the Alternative Route Evaluation (and selection of the preferred route), and the Impact Assessment for the preferred route.</p>

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
		proposed project and, therefore, develop effective avoidance and/or mitigation measures to minimize those impacts.	
Main Report	Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)	<p>Related to the above comment on fields plans, and as previously stated, MNRF does not consider aerial reconnaissance an adequate tool to assess the distribution and current state of fish and fish habitat. (Comment ID #16)</p> <p>MNRF is encouraged that fish community and water quality sampling, as well as fish habitat assessment will be completed for a subset of water crossing sites. However, the field plan seen to date does not indicate how water crossing sites will be selected. MNRF has several recommendations associated with the selection of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNRF's principal interest regarding water crossings is in sites where there will be work in water, or below the high-water mark. As a result, surveying sites where a clear-span bridge will be used is not necessary and may not be an effective use of survey resources.</li> <li>• MNRF is particularly interested in short-reach small watercourses connected to cold water streams, which may provide critical young-of-year habitat for brook trout. Many of these are seasonal and will not appear in a fall survey; those that do may not have fish present in a fall field survey. For this reason, a single fall field survey will not be considered definitive / adequate to support future permitting.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, a reminder that beaver dams are transient and that the presence of a beaver dam on a watercourse does not necessarily indicate that there are no fish upstream of the dam.</p>	MNRF recommends focusing water crossing sampling on sites that may require working in water or below the high-water mark. In addition, the timing of a survey or specific conditions of a waterbody may not enable the EA to accurately characterize a system as having an absence of fish. Additional work to confirm a true absence of fish (or fish species) may be needed where work is planned outside of the timing window.
Main report	Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use (Pg. 49)  Section 4.2.4 Summary of study to be completed during EA  Table 4-4 (Pg. 64)	<p>MNRF comments on the draft ToR noted that remote tourism is an important part of the economy in the area of the proposed transmission line and, as such, the EA should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consider how access is anticipated to change (e.g. creation of new access roads as well as the transmission line corridor itself) as a result of the project; and</li> <li>- identify measures proposed to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts of those changes particularly as it relates to remote tourism</li> </ul> <p>(Comment ID# 35, 36).</p> <p>MNRF appreciates that HONI provided a general response to these comments; however, MNRF wishes to emphasize the following aspects of those original comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some roads may have access restrictions to protect tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this in planning how it will implement the project.</li> <li>- <i>The EA should consider how access is anticipated to change, and what measures would be taken to limit increases in / unwanted access.</i></li> </ul>	<p>MNRF reiterates its previous recommendation that:</p> <p><i>"Where any changes in access are proposed to implement the project, effects of these changes on tourism operations (and other factors) must be addressed in the EA."</i></p> <p>Further, the EA should identify proposed avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures to limit negative impacts.</p>
Main report	4.2.3.4 Aesthetics	The following comment was provided as part of the draft ToR review :	Use viewshed and/or viewscape analysis to model aesthetic impacts on remote tourism lakes and operators and consider measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate those impacts.

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
	Table 4.4 (Pg. 68)	<p><i>Consider using viewshed/ viewscape analysis to depict impacts to aesthetics and find ways to mitigate these impacts.</i> (Comment ID #38)</p> <p>The draft response to this comment stated that viewshed and/or viewscape analysis would be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route.</p> <p>MNRF agrees that that this is a reasonable approach but notes that this is not what is described in the final ToR.</p> <p>The Final ToR limits viewshed and/or viewscape analysis to only assessing aesthetic impacts to Provincial Parks or Conservation Reserves. MNRF considers that the viewshed and/or viewscape analysis should be used toward determining the impacts of the project on remote tourism lakes and operators as well.</p>	
Main Report	Section 4.2.3.3 Forestry (Pg. 50)	<p>MNRF's comments on the draft ToR identified that the project area passes through six different Forest Management Planning (FMP) areas, run by different Sustainable Forest Licence Holders (SFL). (Comment ID # 43)</p> <p>MNRF is encouraged by HONI's subsequent commitment to consult with the SLF holders for each of these forests and to review these FMPs.</p> <p>MNRF would, however, like to emphasize that a key part of this comment is to encourage HONI to work with the SFLs to find efficiencies that will decrease the impact of the transmission line project on the environment:</p> <p><i>"In addition, there may be opportunities to coordinate and find efficiencies between the Waasigan project and forest operations related to road construction, harvest, and investment into renewal that will reduce impacts on natural values. For example, there may be a planned forest access road that might be beneficial to the Waasigan project during the construction period – aligning the construction of this road to suit both purposes may be warranted."</i></p>	MNRF strongly recommends that HONI work with Sustainable Forestry Licence Holders to find efficiencies that will reduce the overall impacts on the environment (for example: shared use of existing or new/planned roads and water crossings).
Main Report	Section 4.3.1 (Pg. 70)	<p>During review of the Draft ToR MNRF provided a comment that the EA should assess project-level net effects and also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures (Comment ID #12):</p> <p><b><i>"Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</i></b> <i>Please update the ToR to specifically identify that the EA will address sites specific effects and mitigation measures, as well as the cumulative net effects following mitigation measures at the project level."</i></p> <p>MNRF appreciates HONI's response to this comment but would like to clarify the comment as it appears that the intent of it may not have been understood.</p> <p>MNRF was not asking for a mitigation plan for each individual value/feature per se; rather, the ministry strongly advises that the EA provide a mitigation plan specific to each <u>type</u> of natural heritage value, such as: 1) Significant Wildlife Habitat, 2) Provincially Significant Wetlands, 3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, 4) Protected Areas, 5) Species at Risk, 6) Fish</p>	<p>To enable full understanding of the net effects of the project on natural heritage values and to support future permit discussions, include in the EA mitigation plans for each of the following types of natural heritage values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Significant Wildlife Habitat</li> <li>2) Provincially Significant Wetlands</li> <li>3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests</li> <li>4) Protected Areas</li> <li>5) Species at Risk</li> <li>6) Fish Habitat.</li> </ol>



Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
		<p>Habitat. These mitigation plans can then be used / referred to at each specific value location to identify the set of mitigation measures that are most appropriate for that type of feature at that location. This would result in a specific mitigation approach for each value.</p> <p>In addition to helping the MNRF understand the net effects of the various project components on natural heritage values, these plans will help to facilitate efficient issuance of future permits and approvals for this project.</p>	
Main Report	<p>Section 6.2.2.1</p> <p>Section 1 – City of TBay to Town of Atikokan</p> <p>(Pg. 92)</p>	<p>Upon review of the draft ToR the MNRF inquired about the preference to twin the existing 230 kV line for the approx. 100 km stretch from West of the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake and why twinning of the 115 kV line where it diverges from the 230 kV line was not considered in this stretch. (Comment ID #54)</p> <p>MNRF is of the view that twinning of both the 230 kV and of the 115 kV lines should be considered as options for evaluation within this stretch given that consideration of alternatives to determine and rationalize the selection of the preferred route is a key component of the EA.</p> <p>HONI's response to this comment on the draft ToR was "TBC" which we understand to mean "to be confirmed."</p> <p>As such, MNRF is reiterating this comment on the formal ToR submission.</p>	<p>The EA should evaluate additional alternative routes in Section 1 (Thunder Bay to Atikokan) within the section from the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake, including the option of twinning along the existing 115 kV line where it deviates from the 230 kV line, or provide discussion/rationale as to why this is not possible.</p> <p>This evaluation will help to support conclusions presented in the EA about the impacts of the preferred route relative to others considered including, for example, impacts to natural heritage and other MNRF interests.</p>
	<p>Section 6.2.2.2</p> <p>Section 2 - Town of Atikokan</p> <p>(Pg. 98)</p>	<p>As raised during the draft ToR review (Comment ID # 59; Original MNRF comment #53), the feasibility of Alternative Route 2A will need to consider not only the current landscape around the Steep Rock site, but also its future state following site rehabilitation.</p> <p>We reiterate that the proposed transmission line location and transmission line infrastructure must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the current site and future landscape of the former Pit Lakes (Errington, Hogarth, and Caland) and adjoining waterbodies.</li> <li>• the estimated final pit lake elevations 394.00 m (occurring by 2070 or possibly earlier depending on the MNRF rehabilitation strategy)</li> <li>• the estimated lake outline, based on the contour 394.00 m,</li> <li>• the proper flood hazard limit offsets (to be determined using MNRF flood limits policy documents).</li> <li>• Dam structures located within the Steep Rock site</li> </ul> <p>Failure to recognize the current and future conditions may lead to costly impacts to Hydro One's transmission line infrastructure.</p> <p>HONI has not yet responded as to how this information will be used to modify the Alternative Route Evaluation process in this area (the response simply states that HONI will consult with the MNRF during the EA on this matter).</p>	<p>Fully consider and then provide details within the EA describing to how Route 2A takes into account the future landscape changes at the former Steep Rock Mine area.</p>

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
		<p>The current vision for the transmission line in this area may not be possible given future lake size (approximately 4.5 km north to south; 1,200 ha).</p> <p>MNRF advises that Route 2A should not be presented as a viable alternative route without first assessing how this change of landscape at the Steep Rock site affects its viability/location/constructability.</p>	
Main Report	<p>Section 11.0 Other Permits, Approvals and Authorizations  (Pg. 199)</p>	<p>MNRF reiterates it earlier comment on the draft ToR that providing sufficient information in the EA about all components of the project will enable more efficient and timelier issuance of future permits. (Comment ID # 73)</p> <p>MNRF understands from HONI that the IESO has directed HONI only to develop the Project, and that HONI has not yet been awarded construction rights. However, to present a full accounting of the effects of the project in the EA, and to enable MNRF to determine the feasibility of being able to issue permits and other authorizations required to implement the project at the end of the EA, details must be provided in the EA about access roads and all other ancillary infrastructure proposed on Crown lands or that involve the use of Crown resources to implement the project.</p> <p>To this end, MNRF appreciates that HONI has committed to providing information in the EA about the where, how and when access roads and trails will be needed, how temporary access roads will be decommissioned and restored, and rationale for same.</p> <p>MNRF strongly recommends that similar information be provided for proposed water crossings i.e. identify the type of crossing that HONI proposes to use at key crossing locations (e.g., temporary bridges, culverts, ice bridges, etc.) and, for all other crossings, identifies the types of structure/crossings that it proposes to use for crossings under varying scenarios. Details on mitigation measures for each type of installation to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, decommissioning and rehabilitation measures (where applicable for temporary access) should also be provided.</p>	<p>In addition to, or as part of, the access plan, provide information on water crossings that identifies the types of water crossing structures may be used for the project at different types of locations/scenarios, mitigation measures for each type of installation in order to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, and how these water crossing will be decommissioned and areas restored once construction is complete and they are no longer required.</p>
Main report	<p>Table 11-1  (Pg. 203)</p>	<p>Thank you for clarifying this section of the table as it relates to MNRFs mandate. (Comment ID # 74, 75, 76)</p> <p>We suggest additional edits to further clarify and organize permit and authorization requirements by legislation.</p>	<p>MNRF suggests that Table 11.1 is modified as follows:</p> <p>Agency: MNRF</p> <p>Other Relevant Provincial Legislations, Permit, Approvals and Authorization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Lands Act, 1990 (PLA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work Permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shoreland work on private or Crown lands</li> <li>▪ Within waterbodies on private or Crown lands</li> <li>▪ Roads, trails and water crossings</li> <li>▪ Construction or placement of a building</li> <li>▪ Any other activities that require a work permit as per O reg 239/13: Activities on Public Lands and Shore Lands- Work Permits and Exemptions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Occupational Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land Use Permits (construction camps, laydown areas, temporary accommodation camps, aggregate exploration activities etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Other forms of tenure for ROW (easement, lease, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Areas for other project requirements that cannot meet the requirements as set in Ontario Regulation 161/17: Occupation of Public Lands under section 21.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Other           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Letters of Authorization</li> <li>▪ Travel Permits</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1990           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work permit               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ for clearing within 300m of a forest or woodland,</li> <li>▪ work and burn authorization for clearing and burning of cleared vegetation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 (FWCA)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Licence to Collect Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collection Permit to allow for the taking and transferring of fish or wildlife</li> <li>○ Authorization should the Project affect nesting areas, beavers or black bears.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994 (CFSA)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forest Resource Licence to harvest timber on Crown lands and private lands where trees are owned by the Crown</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Aggregate Resources Act, 1990           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permit for the extraction of aggregate on Crown land</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, 1990 (LRIA)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water Crossings on private land, as applicable</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Amendments to CLUPA policies as required.</li> </ul>
Main Report	Section 5.2.2 (Pg. 83)	<p>During the operation phase of the project is it likely that structure replacements and structure maintenance will also be required? This is not mentioned in the ToR as a type of maintenance activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, maintenance and replacement of structures typically requires the re-establishment of access roads and water crossings. These roads and water crossing may require permits and authorization from the MNR prior to their construction/use.</p> <p>This should be mentioned and considered within the ToR and future EA as part of the operational phase of the project.</p>	<p>Identify and consider maintenance and replacement of structures, including those which may require the re-establishment of access roads and water crossings, in the ToR and future EA as part of the operational phase of the project. Note in the EA documentation that roads and water crossing may require permits and authorization from the MNR prior to their construction.</p>

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
Main Report	Section 6.2.2.3  Figure 6-7 Route 3B  (Pg. 103)	<p>The description of route 3B within the ToR does not acknowledge that this route would include a small greenfield portion where Turtle River White Otter Lake Provincial Park is crossed to link up Highway 622 and the Snake Bay Road.</p> <p>As greenfield lines are strongly not preferred based on the results of the route selection workshop, it should be acknowledged that a small portion does exist as part of alternative 3B for transparency and explain why this option was still considered as an alternative as it 'presented highly from a natural heritage perspective....' (pg. 101)</p>	<p>Please edit the description of Route 3B to mention this greenfield portion, to ensure transparency, and provide reason why given this alternative route 3B is still considered as a viable alternative.</p>
Appendix C	Pg. C-12	<p>Trappers, bait harvesters and bear management area operators may be impacted by the proposed project.</p> <p>The MNRF requests that the following indicators be added to the draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation within the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and area (ha) of traplines within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bait Harvest Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bear Management Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> </ul> <p>This addition will help to make clear and transparent how the alternative routes may impact these operations and how these impacts are considered in the Alternative Route Selection process. (These groups of potentially impacted stakeholders are referenced in Section 4.2.3.1 of the Main Report (top of page 47).)</p> <p>MNRF data is available for these tourism values that will enable inclusion of these indicators in the Alternative Route Evaluation.</p>	<p>Include the following indicators in the List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation within the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and area (ha) of traplines within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bait Harvest Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bear Management Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> </ul> <p>so that the potential impacts of the project on those operators are clearly considered as part of the route selection process.</p>
Appendix C	Pg. C-7	<p>Appendix C in the ToR includes a reference to an indicator called "EcoRegion 3W Criteria Schedule." The MNRF would like to see a complete listing of the specific indicators this includes as related to 1) Wildlife and wildlife Habitat and 2) Vegetation and Wetland criteria so that any omissions can be identified and added to the set of criteria to be evaluated.</p> <p>For the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria, please include the full list of features within the 3W Schedule to be included in Area (ha) of mapped wildlife related SWH crossed by the alternate routes (as identified in the EcoRegion 3W criteria schedule) rather than listing a few examples, as the full list provides an opportunity to identify any omissions.</p> <p>For the Vegetation and Wetlands criteria, please include the full list of features within the 3W Schedule to be included in Area (ha) of impacted vegetation to be crossed by the alternate routes in order to identify any omissions.</p> <p>This information will help to ensure that the alternative route selection process more clearly considers the effect of the project on all components SWH when selecting the preferred route.</p>	<p>Break down the list of indicators in Appendix C that are based on the "EcoRegion 3W Criteria Schedule" indicator into the species/components found within this Schedule to include, amongst other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bald Eagle and Osprey Nesting Habitat, and</li> <li>- Aquatic Feeding Habitat</li> </ul> <p>within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rare Treed Types,</li> <li>- Regionally Rare Plant Species and</li> <li>- Wild Rice Stand</li> </ul> <p>within the Vegetation and Wetlands criteria</p> <p>And note: Old Growth and Significant Woodlands are not criteria in the 3W Schedule.</p> <p>These changes will help to ensure that the alternative route selection process more clearly considers the effect of the project on all components of SWH with this area (3W) when selecting the preferred route.</p>

Document	Section/Page/ Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
Appendix C	Pg. C-6	<p>Within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria, an indicator exists which groups all S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences as one group.</p> <p>As the impact of the project to conservation concern species varies if it is, for example, a bird, vs. an animal vs. an insect, it is inappropriate to group all these types of species together in one indicator.</p> <p>MNRF requests that this indicator be broken down into the individual species, based on species listed within Table 4.3 (Sec 4.2.2.8 of the Main Report) on page 38.</p>	<p>Break down the S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences indicator into the individual species, based on species listed within Table 4.3 (Sec 4.2.2.8 of the Main Report) on page 38.</p>
Appendix D	General Comment	<p>MNRF notes that the list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) differ in some instances.</p> <p>We would appreciate explanation in the ToR and EA as to the rationale for those differences e.g. the metrics used to quantify / measure particular criteria.</p>	<p>Provide an explanation of how the criteria and indicators used in Appendix C and Appendix D relate to each other.</p>
Appendix D			<p>The MNRF requests the following changes be made to the net effects Table in Appendix D:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Amend wording in vegetation and wetlands from “species of special concern” to “species of conservation concern”.</li> <li>2) Recommend adding ‘species of conservation concern’ as an indicator for wildlife to better reflect potential project impacts on our mandated interests.</li> </ol>

Ministry of Agriculture, Food  
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**POLICY DIVISION  
FOOD SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT POLICY BRANCH  
LAND USE POLICY AND STEWARDSHIP UNIT**

November 16, 2020

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
Attn: Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer  
135 St. Clair Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

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**Re: Hydro One Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project**

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**EA Ref. No: 16055**

**Scope of Review**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has completed a review of Terms of Reference and Appendix C - Draft List of Evaluation Criteria for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project. The scope of this review was limited to the goals and objectives of this Ministry.

**Key Comments**

There is a small amount of agricultural land and agricultural uses in the study area as acknowledged in the Terms of Reference (page 47). Given the generally limited agricultural land in this area of the province, it is important to consider the local significance of the areas that do exist. OMAFRA offers the following recommendations for the draft criteria:

- The Draft List of Evaluation Criteria includes 'productive soil' within the Natural Environment Factor. It should be clarified what measurement or classification tool will be used to determine 'productive soils'. Are productive soils determined by use e.g.

cultivated land and pasture land? Will the Canada Land Inventory or other soil mapping be used to look at soil in the broader area? Some basic information and additional weblinks on using soil data are available here:

[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/gis/soil\\_data/nts.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/gis/soil_data/nts.htm) . This indicator should also extend beyond a simple size measure to include the uniqueness of the soil type in the area.

- Socio-economic Environment Factor includes Land Use as a criterion. One of the indicators is area of land in various land use designations. Please add agricultural and rural designations and zoning to this list, recognising that there may be none. Also, please add overall impact to the local agricultural and agri-food sector through economic and operational changes (i.e. how loss of agricultural land or use would impact the sector in the area such as through loss of access to local food, livestock infrastructure and supplies, farm infrastructure, etc.).

### **Closing Comments/Next Steps**

This concludes OMAFRA comments on the Terms of Reference. Please continue to include OMAFRA in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

If you have any questions about the comments outlined here please contact me at [omafra.eanotices@ontario.ca](mailto:omafra.eanotices@ontario.ca) or 519-827-6040.

Kind regards,

*Anneleis Eckert*

Anneleis Eckert  
Rural Planner

## ENDM Comment Form Template

### Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**Ministry Section, Branch, and Division:** MMD, OGS, RGP

**Commenter Name and Job Title:** Sarah Ferguson (Regional Land Use Geologist – NW)

<b>Comment #</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Critical Comments and Rationale</b>	<b>Proposed Action or Solution</b>	<b>Additional Comments for Proponent</b>
1.	Pg 26, Sec 4.2.2.1, 1 <sup>st</sup> paragraph	“These rocks are typically granite and gneiss, but basalt, greenstone, and many other mineral types also occur.” Description requires more clarity.	Change to, “These rocks are typically granites, gneisses, and greenstone belts made up of metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks, as well as younger volcanic and sedimentary rocks (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011).”	
2.	Pg 28, Lake Nipigon Ecoregion (3W)	“This Ecoregion is underlain by granite bedrock as well as basalt and other volcanic rocks, greenstone,	Change to, “This Ecoregion is primarily underlain by granites, gneisses, greenstone belts, and younger sedimentary, volcanic and mafic intrusive rocks (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale	



Comment #	Reference	Critical Comments and Rationale	Proposed Action or Solution	Additional Comments for Proponent
		siltstone, and shale.”	Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011).”	
3.	Pg. 29, Pigeon River Ecoregion	“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.”	Change to, “The Pigeon River Ecoregion is located on the Precambrian Shield and the bedrock is dominated by very low-base granites 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).”	
4.	Pg 204, ENDM	Add statements regarding mining hazard legislation and requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitated mine hazard features must be protected; disturbance requires Minister consent, under the <i>Mining Act, 1990</i>.</li> <li>• Legislation regarding the responsibility for the rehabilitation of mine hazards is included in the <i>Mining Act, 1990</i>, and the requirements for</li> </ul>	

Comment #	Reference	Critical Comments and Rationale	Proposed Action or Solution	Additional Comments for Proponent
			rehabilitation are included in <i>Ontario Regulation 240/00</i>	
5.	Pg 24, Key Records Reviewed Table	Additional ENDM resources should be included in the table.	Add these under Records Reviewed beside ENDM in table: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedrock Geology of Ontario (MRD 126-Rev 1, 1:250,000 scale Bedrock Geology of Ontario, OGS, 2011)</li> <li>• Abandoned Mines Information System (AMIS) Database</li> </ul>	
6.				
7.				

**Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks  
Comments on the EA Terms of Reference**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line Project  
**Proponent:** Hydro One  
**Date:** November 16, 2020

**Contents**

Land and Water Division: Species at Risk Branch (SARB) .....	- 1 -
Land and Water Division: Ontario Parks (OP) .....	- 4 -
Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division: Northern Region .....	- 10 -
Environmental Assessment and Permission Division: Environmental Assessment Branch .....	- 12 -

**Land and Water Division: Species at Risk Branch (SARB)**

#	Reference	Comment	Response
1.	<p><b>Section 4.2</b> Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology Pg. 21-22</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #6</i></p>	<p>The aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes has already been completed. This should be reflected accurately in the final ToR to recognize this work was undertaken prior to completion of the Terms of Reference, as per comments provided in August 2020.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Section 5.1.1.2</b> Access Roads</p>	<p>Wording concerning the restoration of temporary access roads is ambiguous.</p> <p>Provide clarification that access roads will be restored to a natural state using principles of ecological restoration (i.e., tree planting or vegetation will be used to restore the roads)</p>	
3.	<p><b>Section 5.1.1.3</b> Equipment/Material Laydown Areas Pg. 79</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #20</i></p>	<p>The ToR continues to identify that permits and/or authorizations for laydown areas will be obtained prior to their <u>use</u>, as applicable</p> <p>As per previous comments provided on the draft ToR in August 2020, section 5.1.1.3 needs to be updated to clearly identify that permits and/or authorizations will be obtained prior to the <u>construction</u> of equipment and material laydown areas.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Section 5.1.1.3</b> Equipment/ Material Laydown Areas</p>	<p>States laydown areas and other features will be "restored". However, it does not specify to a natural state.</p> <p>Provide clarification that laydown areas and other temporary features will be restored to a natural state.</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
5.	<b>Section 5.1.1.4</b> Construction Offices	Features will be "restored". However, it does not specify to a natural state.  Provide clarification that laydown areas and other temporary features will be restored to a natural state.	
6.	<b>Section 7.1</b> Potential Effects Assessment Pg. 111  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #25</i>	As per previous comments provided on the draft ToR in August 2020, the proposed approach to evaluation of the alternative routes and selection of a preferred route using existing data/databases and the 2020 aerial reconnaissance flight undertaken in October 2020 is considered by MECP SARB to be insufficient to adequately inform the effects of each alternative route on species at risk. This is based on the details provided in the draft <i>Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan</i> provided to MECP-SARB on August 26, 2020, including MECP-SARB comments provided to the Project Team and the meeting held on September 17, 2020; and subsequent updated <i>Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan</i> provided to MECP – SARB on October 19, 2020.	
7.	<b>Appendix C –</b> Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #29</i>	The list of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators presented in Appendix C should be more explicit about the species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment (i.e., specifically identify each species at risk potentially impacted by the project).  As per comments provided on the draft ToR provided in August 2020, the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the Net Effects Assessment should include an evaluation of <i>all</i> species at risk and their habitat protected by the ESA (as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR) and potentially impacted by each alternative route.  Appendix C should specifically identify the species at risk that will be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria.	
8.	<b>Appendix D –</b> Draft List of Net	The list of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators presented in Appendix D should be more explicit about the	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
	Effects Assessment Criteria	<p>wildlife species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment (i.e., specifically identify each species at risk potentially impacted by the project).</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the Net Effects Assessment should include an evaluation of <i>all</i> species at risk and their habitat potentially impacted by each alternative route.</p> <p>Appendix D should specifically identify the species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment Criteria.</p>	
9.	Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria	<p>It is not clear how estimates of survival and recruitment will be calculated for SAR affected by the project.</p> <p>Please indicate how survival and recruitment estimates will be determined for SAR and how these data will be used in the net effects assessment.</p>	
10.	Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators Pg. 6-7	<p>Indicators under “Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat” identify habitat distribution and survival and recruitment. However, they do not specify species at risk occurrences and distribution.</p> <p>Update the table to include distribution and occurrences of species at risk under the indicator column.</p>	
11.	Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators Pg. 7-8	<p>Indicators under “Fish and Fish Habitat including Fish SAR” identify fish habitat distribution and survival and recruitment. However, they do not explicitly specify species at risk fish occurrences and distribution.</p> <p>Update the table to include distribution and occurrences of species at risk fish under the indicator column.</p>	

**Land and Water Division: Ontario Parks (OP)**

#	Reference	Comment	Response
1.	<p><b>Appendix C – Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation</b></p> <p>(Criteria: Land Use Pg. C-8)</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #3</i></p>	<p>Please add the Area (ha) of species at risk values as an indicator under the Natural Environment Factor and Protected Areas Criteria as requested in the draft review.</p> <p>Please update the Appendix C table to include Terrestrial Biodiversity as a Criteria under Natural Environment Factor using the area and number of underrepresented L/V associations as requested in the draft review.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Appendix C – Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation</b></p> <p>(Criteria: Recreation and Tourism, Pg. C-13)</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #27</i></p>	<p>Ontario Parks requested the consideration of other recreational features including the existence of canoe routes, portages, backcountry campsites and other recreational features for addition to the indicator column under the Recreation and Tourism criteria.</p> <p>Please add portages as an indicator to the Recreation and Tourism criteria.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Appendix C – Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation</b></p> <p>(Criteria: Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Pg. C-1)</p>	<p>Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is listed as an indicator for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. This is a community based environmental agency and is not regulated under MECP.</p> <p>Please remove Lakehead Region Conservation Authority from the Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and ANSIs Criteria.</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
4.	<p><b>Appendix C – Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation</b></p> <p>(Criteria: Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Pg. C-2)</p>	<p>Provincial Parks are no longer referred to as ‘Provincial Nature Reserves’</p> <p>Please remove ‘provincial nature reserves’ and change to provincial parks as these are all referred to as provincial parks.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Section 4.2.4</b> Summary of Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment, <b>Table 4-4</b></p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #9</i></p>	<p>Please add sensitive landscapes in Table 4-4 as well under “Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and ANSIs”, “Aesthetics” or “Cultural Heritage Resources” baseline components.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Section 4.2.4</b> Summary of Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment, <b>Table 4-4</b> (Baseline Component: Aesthetics)</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #11</i></p>	<p>Given the importance of maintaining a wilderness experience free of views of built infrastructure in Quetico Provincial Park please explicitly add Parks and Conservation reserves as key areas to have aesthetics considered.</p> <p>Please commit to viewscape analysis for consideration of the full spectrum of impacts.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Section 4.2.4</b> Summary of Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment, <b>Table 4-4</b> (Baseline Component: Aesthetics)</p>	<p>The recreational features (e.g. canoe routes, campsites, shore lunch sites, designated access points) within provincial parks and conservation reserves should be included with the definition of ‘key areas’, and viewscape analysis completed, as noted.</p> <p>Further to the original comment, please add that Ontario Parks staff will be engaged with during the viewscape analysis for the route to identify features</p>	



#	Reference	Comment	Response
	<i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #12</i>	such as recreational features and key viewpoints within Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. Publicly available data may not provide full details about certain 'key areas'. Pickerel Lake and French Lake are examples of "key areas" within Quetico Provincial Park as these have many backcountry sites and are gateway waterbodies into Quetico for Canadian users. If infrastructure is visible from anywhere on these lakes it would have significant negative impacts on park users and wilderness values of the park.	
8.	<b>Section 4.2.4</b> Summary of Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment, <b>Table 4-4</b> (Baseline Component: Provincial Park, Conservation Reserves, ANSIs and Other Protected Areas)	Please remove "Other protected areas" as the relevant protected areas have been listed (Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and ANSIs)	
9.	<b>Section 4.3.1</b> Preliminary Potential Effects to the Natural Environment, <b>Table 4-5</b> (Feature 'Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves and ANSIs)  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #13</i>	The environmental impacts and mitigations must be documented and provided to Ontario Parks for assessment as required in s. 20 & s. 21 of the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act</i> (PPCRA)  Ontario Parks requests that the details and considerations under PPCRA s. 20 & s. 21 be presented in a separate appendix within the EA. Will this information be presented as a separate appendix in the EA?	
10.	<b>Section 5.1.1.2</b> Access Roads  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #15</i>	Please add reference to s. 20 & s. 21 of the PPCRA. This is a legislative precondition for permits within Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. To ensure efficiency within the permitting process, s. 20 & s. 21 conditions should be included early in the planning stages (i.e., EA). To ensure this information is communicated to support these requirements, it is	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
		requested that these are provided in a separate appendix to the EA.	
11.	<p><b>Section 5.1.1.2</b> Access Roads Pg. 78-79</p>	<p>Says that "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 authorizations to construct access roads and water crossings on crown land will be obtained prior to construction, as applicable."</p> <p>Please add that <b>required</b> permits and/or authorizations to construct access roads and water crossings on crown land and <b>provincial parks or conservation reserve land</b> will be obtained.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Section 5.1.1.2</b> Access Roads Pg. 79</p>	<p>Says that "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 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".</p> <p>Ontario Parks has legislative requirements under the PPCRA for the development of roads and infrastructure.</p> <p>Please consider rephrasing this to "Ontario Parks has legislative requirements under the PPCRA for development of new access roads and infrastructure in provincial parks and conservation reserves. Development of new access roads is not supportive in most provincial park and conservation reserve management plans. Development should be minimized and avoid protected area lands. If crossing through provincial parks and conservation reserves is</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
		unavoidable, Hydro One will consider s. 20 & s. 21 requirements under the PPCRA at the EA stage for roads within a provincial park or conservation reserve.”	
13.	<p><b>Section 7.1</b> Potential Effects Assessment, <b>Table 7-1</b> (Socio-economic Environment factor)</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #18</i></p>	<p>Please add the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected areas (including provincial parks, conservation reserves)</li> <li>• Hiking trails</li> <li>• Canoe routes and portages</li> <li>• Campsites</li> <li>• Other recreational infrastructure (boat launches, shore lunch sites, etc.)</li> </ul>	
14.	<p><b>Section 7.1</b> Potential Effects Assessment, <b>Table 7-1</b> (Socio-economic Environment factor)</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #25</i></p>	<p>Ontario Parks requested the consideration of provincial parks and conservation reserve values from a recreational and social aspect (e.g. visitor experience, viewscape, etc), which also may vary by time of use/seasonality, and not only from a natural feature perspective.</p> <p>Please add visitor experience and viewsapes under the socio-economic factor.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Section 11.1.5</b> Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p> <p>Table 11-1 (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks)</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR OP Comment #26</i></p>	<p>Comments have been addressed for required permits under the PPCRA (i.e., work permits, research authorizations) as per draft ToR comment no. 26.</p> <p>Please identify in Table 11-1 under MECP that the conditions in s. 20 and s. 21 under the PPCRA will be considered at the EA stage for any roads within provincial parks and conservation reserves. These are legislative requirements under the PPCRA that must be met.</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
16.	<b>Appendix K-L</b> Indigenous Community Contact Lists and Record of Consultation Pg. 7	<p>Ogemawahj Tribal Council is listed as a contact in the contact lists.</p> <p>Based on the community's geographical location, why was this community added as a contact for consultation?</p>	

**Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division: Northern Region**

#	Reference	Comments & Rationale	Response
1.	<p><b>Section 4.2.2.9</b> Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases</p>	<p>The ToR indicates that air quality data from ECCC National Air Pollution Surveillance Program (NAPS) air monitoring stations will be used to characterize baseline air quality for the project study area, but no detailed information was provided. It should be noted that the baseline air quality established/estimated from existing monitoring stations should be representative of the study area. It is not clear which existing monitoring stations will be used, what parameters are available, and how monitored concentrations from the existing air monitoring stations can be representative of the air quality for the study area. More information on baseline air quality for the study area should be provided in the air quality work plan.</p> <p>Five contaminants, total suspended particulate (TSP), particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>), particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) will be included in the air quality assessment as indicated in the ToR. In addition to TSP, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>, other pollutants will also likely to be emitted as a result of construction activities, i.e., sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions from construction equipment and vehicles. A justification or rationale should be provided as to why some pollutants are not included in the assessment. As a minimum, SO<sub>2</sub> should also be included in the assessment, in addition to the five contaminants listed in the ToR.</p> <p>In addition to the predicted concentrations of contaminants, the cumulative air quality impacts</p>	

#	Reference	Comments & Rationale	Response
		(predicted concentrations plus background concentrations) should also be assessed and compared against the applicable ambient air quality criteria, standards, or guidelines.	
2.	<p><b>Section 11.1.5</b> Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p>	<p><b>Work Camp Sewage</b> The proponent should ensure that applications to MECP for Sewage Works approvals (<i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i>) are submitted well in advance of the anticipated use date. MECP Approvals now has a one-year service standard for new applications, and the necessary Northern Region Technical Support reviews required during pre-consultation can take a significant portion of time depending on system complexity. In addition, it should be considered that 300m is a more low-risk buffer for a camp sewage system to a water body, as contrasted by the 30m mentioned in section 5.1.1.4 (Temporary Construction Camps) of the ToR.</p> <p><b>Permits to Take Water (PTTW)</b> The proponent should ensure that applications to MECP for PTTW approvals (<i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i>) are also made well in advance of the required date. Also, as mentioned in section 5.1.1.4, an EASR cannot satisfy water takings beyond those required for construction dewatering. Other water taking needs will require a conventional PTTW.</p> <p><b>Solid Non-Hazardous Waste Disposal</b> Does the proponent plan to utilize local approved waste disposal sites for any solid waste the project produces? This is not explicitly stated in the ToR. It would be pertinent to confirm with local communities or municipalities that there are facilities willing to accept waste.</p>	

**Environmental Assessment and Permission Division: Environmental Assessment Branch**

#	Reference	Comment	Response
1.	<p><b>Section 1.6</b> Outline of the Terms of Reference Pg. 7</p>	<p>It is unclear why subsections 6(2)(c) and 6.1(3) of the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) are referenced here as they do not outline EA requirements. The generic EA requirements are outlined in subsection 6.1(2) of the EAA.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Section 2.1</b> <i>Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990</i> Pg. 9</p>	<p>The two documentation requirements (ToR and EA) for an application for approval is outlined in subsection 5(2) the EAA, not subsection 5(1).</p>	
3.	<p><b>Section 4.2</b> Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology Pg. 21-22</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #2</i></p>	<p>The ToR still notes that “Field work may be undertaken to support the alternative route evaluation during the EA.” and that “Field work is planned during the EA once a preferred route is selected and the additional Project components are determined.”</p> <p>MECP understand that Hydro One has already carried out an aerial reconnaissance survey of alternative routes to collect data to support the alternative route evaluation, in addition to ground-based surveys for historic mine workings to determine if they have potential to support bat hibernaculum as part of the 2020 field work program. MECP would like to comment there may be additional EA requirements that may arise from the ToR review process based on comments received from the government review team, Indigenous communities and the public. Therefore, supplemental field work may be necessary to support the evaluation of alternative routes.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Section 4.2.4</b> Summary of Study to be Completed during the</p>	<p>Other than the development of field work plans and a noise work plan, it is unclear what other work plans will</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
	<p>Environmental Assessment, <b>Table 4-4</b></p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #6</i></p>	<p>be developed during the EA in consultation with government review team ministries and agencies.</p> <p>Work plans are not limited to field studies. Proponents often prepare work plans for environmental components under consideration (air quality, groundwater/surface water, socio-economic etc.) that detail how baseline conditions will be characterized as well as the methodology and analyses that will be completed for the evaluation of alternatives and the impact assessment of the preferred undertaking/project.</p> <p>The ToR is the framework or overall work plan for what is going to be studied in the EA. Some proponents append preliminary work plans to the ToR. Other proponents who have not developed work plans at the ToR stage provide a list of work plans that will be prepared at the beginning of the EA process in consultation with government agencies, Indigenous communities, and stakeholders. Please clarify what work plans Hydro One will prepare for the Waasigan Transmission Line EA.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Section 6.2.1</b> Identification of Alternative Corridors Pg. 87</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #9</i></p>	<p>Section 6.2.1 references a siting model that would be used the guide the identification of alternative routes and that Hydro One will be offering workshops and other engagement activities to Indigenous communities throughout the EA process. Does the siting model refer to EPRI-GTC and will this model continue to be used during the EA?</p>	
6.	<p><b>Section 6.3</b> Alternative Route Evaluation Pg. 109</p>	<p>The ToR should describe the multi-criteria analysis approach and the routing principles in Appendix B</p>	



#	Reference	Comment	Response
	<p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #9</i></p>	<p>(Siting Report) that will be followed for alternative route evaluation.</p> <p>The ToR says that “While potential mitigation to be implemented will be described in the EA Report, a full net effects assessment including identification of mitigation is not proposed to be completed to support the alternative route evaluation.”</p> <p>Section 4.1.4 of the Code of Practice for Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (2014) (ToR Code of Practice) instructs proponents to “effectively evaluate alternatives in light of their advantages and disadvantages developed through a net effects analysis.”</p> <p>Section 5.2.7 of the ToR Code of Practice provides an example of a process for the evaluation of alternative methods which consists of determining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential environmental effects;</li> <li>• Impact management measures;</li> <li>• Net effects; and</li> <li>• Advantages/disadvantages.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, during the environmental assessment process, where alternatives are evaluated, the net effects associated with any alternative (the potential environmental effects after impact management measures have been applied) must be clearly identified. The examination of the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative on the environment occurs after the determination of net effects.</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
		Please provide additional information on the methodology or process for evaluating alternative routes for the Waasigan Transmission Line EA.	
7.	<b>Section 7.1</b> Potential Effects Assessment Pg. 113	The ToR states that climate change adaptation will be considered as part of the assessment; however, will climate change mitigation (reducing a project's impact on climate change) also be considered? The guide for Considering climate change in the environmental assessment process (2017) outlines approaches for considering and addressing climate change in project planning.	
8.	<p><b>Section 9</b> Consultation on the Terms of Reference Pg. 117</p> <p><b>Section 9.4.6</b> Summary of Indigenous Community Input Received prior to Draft ToR, <b>Table 9-7</b> (Summary of Comments Received at Indigenous Community Information Centres)</p> <p><b>Section 9.5</b> Draft Terms of Reference Release Pg. 164-165</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #12</i></p>	<p>Please clarify why the ToR only documents consultation and engagement activities up to September 11, 2020. The ToR and Record of Consultation should document all input received during the preparation of the ToR which was submitted to the MECP on October 9, 2020.</p> <p>Section 5.3.1 of the ToR Code of Practice and section 3.1.3 of the guide to Consultation in Ontario's Environmental Assessment Process (2014), indicates that the ToR should describe: the proponent's response to concerns; how concerns were considered in the development of the ToR; and to describe any outstanding concerns.</p> <p>Table 9-7 provides a summary of comments received at Indigenous Community Information Centres, which according to the Record of Consultation were held with Mitaanjigamiing, Nigigoonsiminkaaning, Lac des Mille Lacs, Lac La Croix and Seine River First Nations. It would have been more appropriate to summarize input received through all methods (corridor workshops, other meetings, etc.) to be comprehensive of all communities and opportunities.</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
		<p>Table 9-7 should also summarize how the comments received at Indigenous Community Information Centres were addressed in the final ToR or will be addressed in the EA.</p> <p>Section 9.5 of the proposed ToR provides a summary of Indigenous community comments on the draft ToR. It is also not apparent that all comments from Indigenous communities on the draft ToR have been incorporated into the proposed ToR. For example, the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) comments on the draft ToR included suggestions for medicine plants that are important to communities (hemlock, sweetgrass, sage and cedar). It would have been preferred if Hydro One included these in section 4.0 (e.g. section 4.2.2.6) and/or Appendix D (Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators). Similarly comments from the GLP review of the draft ToR related to the impacts of the workforce on communities/community well-being does not appear to have been included in Appendix D.</p> <p>The bullet-point summary (in Section 9.5) of the draft ToR comments received from municipalities and agencies, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders on the draft ToR does not include a description of how the comments were addressed in the final ToR.</p> <p>A more effective way of documenting consultation is to summarize consultation activities and results for each party (ministry/agency, municipality, Indigenous community etc.) separately.</p> <p>it is important that all comments, questions and concerns raised are considered/addressed, recorded in</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
		the Record of Consultation and comprehensively summarized in the main body of the ToR.	
9.	<p><b>Section 6.3</b> Alternative Route Evaluation in the EA Pg. 109</p> <p><b>Section 9.4.6</b> Summary of Indigenous Input Received Prior to the draft ToR Pg. 160</p>	<p>It is not clear how comments from the Métis Nation of Ontario on the draft criteria and indicators were considered in the proposed ToR.</p> <p>Section 6.3 of the ToR mentions that “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.”</p> <p>Section 9.4.6 of the ToR also mentions that “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”</p> <p>Section 9.0 of the ToR should provide a summary of the results of the workshops and provide details as to how MNO input on the net effects criteria were incorporated in the draft list of net effects assessment criteria and indicators in Appendix D.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Record of Consultation</b></p> <p><b>Appendix K-L</b> Indigenous Community Contact Lists and Record of Consultation</p> <p><b>Appendix L1</b></p>	<p>In the September 3, 2020 monthly meeting between MECP and Hydro One, MECP clarified that it would like to see a summary of consultation, as well as key issues and how they have been addressed in the ToR. A table format would be suitable to show this, including commitments made. The accompanying Record of Consultation should show more of a chronological and detailed summary of consultation, with proof of consultation (e.g., meeting minutes, letters, email</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
	<p>Indigenous Communities Record of Consultation Supporting Documents</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #12</i></p>	<p>comment submissions, community information centre (CIC) summaries).</p> <p>Appendix K-L presents a contact list and correspondence log without the supporting proof/records of consultation.</p> <p>The only meeting minutes included in Appendix L1 are for a meeting with Seine River First Nation and two with Red Sky Métis Independent Nation. None of the meeting minutes or notes from the CICs within Indigenous communities or Corridor Workshops with Mitaanjiigaming First Nation, Lac des Milles Lacs First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario Regions 1 and 2, and Red Sky Independent Métis Nation appear to be included in the Record of Consultation or its appendices.</p> <p>Although Appendix B (Siting Report) mentions that the siting criteria weights shared by the Indigenous communities at the Corridor Workshops are confidential, a record of the meeting (e.g. minutes) should have been included in the Appendix L1 of the Record of Consultation.</p> <p>The Métis Nation of Ontario seems to be missing from Appendix L1. The MECP notes that the report submitted to Hydro One titled "Métis-Nation of Ontario Preliminary Criteria Report – Waasigan Transmission Line – Region 1 and Region 2" was not included Appendix L1.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Section 10.2</b> Stakeholder Consultation Plan, <b>Table 10-1</b> Overview of EA Regulatory Process and</p>	<p>As mentioned previously, the seven-week EA inspection period is a regulated timeline. There is flexibility for the comment period for the draft EA.</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
	<p>High-Level Consultation Activities</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #13</i></p>	<p>Hydro One's response to draft ToR comment #13 indicated that section 10 of the ToR will be revised to include a timeline for draft EA review. The comment period for draft EA review is not specified.</p> <p>Table 10-1 notes "Additional MECP Inspection to be held, as required". Please clarify what this means as the five-week Ministry Review inspection period is also a regulated timeline.</p> <p>The 13-week timeline for the Minister's decision starts after the end of the five-week Ministry Review inspection period. Cabinet concurrence is required after a Minister's decision which is not subject to a regulated timeline. Please note that the EA Notice of Approval is issued and posted on the Ontario.ca site after Cabinet concurs with the Minister's decision (e.g. an Order in Council is made).</p>	
12.	<p><b>Section 10.3</b> Anticipated Consultation and Engagement Activities</p>	<p>The key consultation milestones include two rounds of CICs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIC#1 will present planned field studies, methods for the evaluation of alternatives, proposed study areas, and criteria and indicators</li> <li>• CIC#2 will present the results of field studies, effects assessment, mitigation measures and monitoring program</li> </ul> <p>When will stakeholders be provided with the opportunity to provide input on the results of alternative route evaluation, preliminary project designs (the preferred undertaking), and proposed impact assessment criteria?</p>	

#	Reference	Comment	Response
		Also when will government review team ministries and agencies have the opportunity to provide input on EA work plans?	
13.	<b>Section 10.4</b> Indigenous Community Engagement Plan  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #14</i>	Overall the Indigenous Community Engagement Plan for the EA (ToR Section 10.4) seems comprehensive and appropriate. Please continue to listen to communities and adjust the plan as appropriate.	
14.	<b>Section 10.4</b> Indigenous Community Engagement Plan  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR EAB Comment #20</i>	It is important that all comments, questions and concerns raised will be considered/addressed, recorded in the Record of Consultation and comprehensively summarized in the main body of the EA report.	
15.	<b>Glossary</b> (See: Negative Environmental Effects, Net Effects)	<p>The glossary should use the definition of “environmental effect” from the ToR Code of practice rather than “Negative Environmental Effects” as environmental effects can be positive or negative. Environmental effect is the “effect that a proposed undertaking or its alternatives has or could potentially have on the environment, either positive or negative, direct or indirect, short- or long-term.”</p> <p>The definition of “Net Effects” as noted in the glossary is also linked to negative environmental effects. As environmental effects can be positive or negative, there can also be positive net effects.</p>	

**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission - MHSTCI Sport Rec and Community Programs Comments  
**Date:** November 16, 2020 10:53:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [Image\\_20201116\\_105402\\_205.png](#)

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**From:** Lee, Carolyn (MECP) <Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 10:51 AM  
**To:** COHANIM Sarah <Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission - MHSTCI Sport Rec and Community Programs Comments

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Hi Sarah,

Please find below comments from MHSTCI's Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division.

Regards,

**Carolyn Lee**  
Special Project Officer  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
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***If you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats, please let me know.***

***Si vous avez des besoins en matière d'adaptation, ou si vous nécessitez des aides à la communication ou des médias substitués, veuillez me le faire savoir.***

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**From:** Dempster, Ray (MHSTCI) <[Ray.Dempster@ontario.ca](mailto:Ray.Dempster@ontario.ca)>  
**Sent:** November-16-20 10:40 AM  
**To:** Lee, Carolyn (MECP) <[Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca)>  
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**Subject:** RE: Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission

Hello Carolyn,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Terms of Reference for this project.

Staff of the Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) have reviewed the ToR and offer the following comments:

- The Ministry works with Indigenous communities within the geographic scope of the Waasigan Transmission Line project to deliver community-based sport and recreation opportunities, through programs including the Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator (CARA) program and the Youth Cultural Camps (YCC) initiative.
- Access to a reliable power supply would support the operational capacity of the Ministry's current program delivery partners and potentially facilitate program delivery.
- Should the Ministry be in a position to expand its programs in the future, access to a reliable power supply would potentially enable more communities to participate.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important project.

Ray Dempster

**Raymond Dempster**

Acting Manager, Policy  
Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division  
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries  
**Office:** 416.314.7673 **Mobile:** 647.527.9070



*If you have any problem accessing attached documents, please let me know and we will provide it in a format that works for you.*

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**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com) <[Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)>

**Sent:** October-08-20 4:57 PM

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**Subject:** Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line - Notice of Terms of Reference Submission

**CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.**

Good afternoon,

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is submitting a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Waasigan Transmission Line (Project) environmental assessment (EA) for review, as required under Ontario's *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Project consists of a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt 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 kilovolt transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Please see attached memo and Notice of Submission of ToR for more information.

You are receiving this email because you were identified as part of the Government Review Team (GRT) for the EA, and we would like to provide you with an electronic copy of the proposed ToR for your review and comment. The ToR will be available for a 30-day review and comment period, from October 16, 2020 to November 16, 2020. The document will be available on the Project website at [www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan](http://www.HydroOne.com/Waasigan) on October 16, 2020. The ToR and supporting documents can now be accessed electronically by following this link – [ToR and Supporting Documents](#).

Comments on the ToR must be submitted **by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, November 16, 2020 to:**

Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer

Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks – Environmental Assessment Branch  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Tel: 416-276-0360

Fax: 416-314-8452

E-mail: [Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@Ontario.ca)

If you have requested a hard copy of the document, it will be delivered to the address provided. If you would like a hard copy and have not requested one already, please let me know as soon as possible and provide me with the appropriate mailing address.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to your continued participation in the Waasigan Transmission Line EA process.

Regards,

**Sarah Cohanim**

Environmental Planner

Environmental Programs and Approvals

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Cell: (416) 209-7761

Email: [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)

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Ontario Region  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Région de l'Ontario  
600-55 rue York  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

November 27, 2020

Sent by email

Sarah Cohanin  
Environmental Planner  
Hydro One Networks Inc.  
584 Bay Street  
North Tower 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G2P5  
sarah.cohanin@hydroone.com

Dear Sarah Cohanin:

**Subject: Non-applicability of the *Impact Assessment Act* to the proposed Hydro One Wassigan Transmission Line**

Thank you for your correspondence, dated October 8, 2020, and October 16, 2020, regarding the proposed Hydro One Wassigan Transmission Line.

The *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) outlines a process for assessing the impacts of certain major projects, including the assessment of positive and negative environmental, economic, health and social effects that are within the legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada. The *Physical Activities Regulations* (also known as the Project List) describe those projects that have the greatest potential to cause adverse effects in those areas and are subject to the requirements of IAA. Proponents of those projects are required to submit an Initial Project Description to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency).

Based on the information available to the Agency, your project does not appear to be described on the Project List. **Kindly review the requirements of IAA, including the Project List.**

If you believe that your project is not subject to IAA, and do not intend to submit an Initial Project Description, we kindly request that you remove the Agency from your distribution list.

.../2



- 2 -

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [iaac.ontarioregion-regiondontario.aeic@canada.ca](mailto:iaac.ontarioregion-regiondontario.aeic@canada.ca).

The attachment that follows provides web links to useful legislation, regulation, and guidance documents.

Sincerely,

Anjala Puvananathan  
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Useful Legislation, Regulation, and Guidance Documents

## **Attachment – Useful Legislation, Regulation, and Guidance Documents**

For more information on the *Impact Assessment Act*, please refer to the following links:

Legislation and Regulations:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/corporate/acts-regulations/legislation-regulations.html>

Impact Assessment Process Overview:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/impact-assessment-process-overview.html>

Practitioner's Guide to Federal Impact Assessments under the *Impact Assessment Act*:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act.html>

Compendium of Policies and Guidance Documents:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance.html>

Government of Canada News Release dated August 8, 2019:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/news/2019/08/better-rules-for-impact-assessments-come-into-effect-this-month.html>

## HONI-MECP-ENDM: Waasigan

Waasigan Transmission Line

**Meeting Date:** December 9, 2020      **Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Purpose:** Meeting to discuss December 1, 2020 letter from Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP)

**Attendees:** **Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM)**  
 Jason McCullough (Senior Advisor, Indigenous Energy Policy)  
 David Johnston-Weiser (Indigenous Energy Policy Intern)

**Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)**  
 Carolyn Lee (Special Project Officer)  
 Joseph Tyance (Senior Advisor)  
 Peter Brown (Senior Advisor)

**Hydro One**  
 Bruce Hopper (Manager, Strategic Projects)  
 Penny Favel (VP, Indigenous Relations)  
 Sarah Cohanim (Environmental Planner)  
 Steven Mantifel (Senior Manager, Community Relations)

**Issue By:** Sarah Cohanim

**Distribution:** All attendees

**Note:** Please advise if additional items are required to complete the discussion within five business days of issuance.

Item	Description	Action
1.	<b>Introduction</b>  Roundtable introductions were conducted.	n/a
2.	<b>Background</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydro One provided background on the formation of the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) and on the status of the commercial negotiations with Hydro One.</li> </ul>	n/a

Item	Description	Action
3.	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) asked what was Hydro One’s stance on incorporating Indigenous knowledge (IK) gathering (e.g., Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land Use Studies) earlier in the EA process.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hydro One has committed to integrating IK at any stage of the project, as it is received. Hydro One has provided funding and approval for IK collection studies to begin based on a work plan and budget developed by GLP consultants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hydro One asked what the MECP would like from Hydro One in response to the letter.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– MECP confirmed that the GLP comments will be addressed as part of the Terms of Reference process, and requested that Hydro One provide a response to the second and third bullet via email, including any commitments that can be made at this stage to accommodate the GLP requests.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MECP asked about “drop dead” dates and what would happen if the project was paused for six months.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hydro One is working towards key milestones, such as identifying a preferred route in time to avoid missing field seasons.</li> <li>– Hydro One explained that they have been tasked with completing the development work for the project, and this work must be completed in time for when the load materializes. Any consequences resulting from the project not being ready for when it is needed, will need to be discussed with the IESO.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MECP asked about the GLP’s IK work plan as they had not seen it as part of the Terms of Reference submission.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hydro One confirmed that the GLP consultants had completed a IK gap analysis and identified where additional TK/TLRU studies would be required. This work plan and budget was not included as part of the Terms of Reference submission as it contained sensitive information related to IK and costing information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In reference to the GLP’s stance in their letter that “little to no direct engagement with the First Nations has occurred due to [COVID-19] restrictions”, the MECP expressed that this appears to be inconsistent with what Hydro One had been sharing at their regular Indigenous engagement update meetings.</li> </ul>	



Item	Description	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One agreed that this was an unexpected statement as meetings have continued to be held virtually or via teleconference with GLP member communities and the GLP Protection Committee. Hydro One also had not received comments directly on the proposed Indigenous Community Engagement Plan provided in the Terms of Reference and, therefore, was not in the position to update it, as the GLP had requested.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MECP requested that Hydro One provide additional information related to the second and third bullet in the letter. This will help MECP frame their conversations with the GLP.</li> <li>• MECP and the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) will coordinate a meeting with the GLP to discuss the concerns expressed in the letter.</li> <li>• A formal response in the Terms of Reference comment/response tracker will be required at a later date.</li> </ul>	<p>Hydro One to provide information to MECP.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 11:50.



# Meeting Notes

## MHSTCI Meeting – Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Approach

Waasigan Transmission Line Project

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**Meeting Date:** March 31, 2021                      **Time:** 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Conference Call

**Purpose:** Hydro One and MHSTCI to discuss the approach for the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment for the Waasigan Transmission Line project.

**Attendees:**    **MHSTCI:** Rosi Zirger, Paige Campbell, Kathryn Bryant  
                         **Hydro One:** Bruce Hopper, Sarah Cohanin, Dayna Groom.  
                         **Golder Associates Ltd.:** Callum Squires, Michael Teal, Lafe Meicenheimer

**Regrets:** None

**Issued By:** Callum Squires, Golder

**Distribution:** All attendees and invitees

**Note:** Please advise if additional items are required to complete the discussion within five business days of issuance.

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Item	Description
1.	<b>Introductions</b>
2.	<b>Waasigan Transmission Line Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hydro One started the Terms of Reference (ToR) process in 2019. The ToR was submitted in October 2020 and Hydro One is currently awaiting ToR approval.</li><li>- Multiple Indigenous communities are engaged on the Project. The Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) was formed by eight of the First Nation communities being engaged on the Project.</li><li>- During the ToR process, Indigenous communities indicated a desire for Indigenous knowledge (IK) to feed into the alternative route evaluation to select a preferred route and to be involved in this process. As a result, Hydro One moved up the timing of the Stage 1 Archaeology Assessment (AA) to coincide with the alternative route evaluation.</li></ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One made offers to the Indigenous communities for community involvement throughout the Stage 1 AA that would include funds to hire their own archaeologist to work with Hydro One and contribute to the Stage 1 AA throughout the entire process, rather than just providing the draft Stage 1 AA report for review.</li> <li>- The GLP has indicated that they intend to complete their own Stage 1 AA with a separate archaeological consultant. Hydro One's understanding is that there will be an opportunity to incorporate the GLP Stage 1 AA information into Hydro One's Stage 1 AA.</li> <li>- GLP's rationale for this approach is a desire for IK to feed into their study, training opportunities such as capacity building for youth, and to develop their own relationship with an archaeology consultant.</li> <li>- It is Hydro One's understanding that the GLP's archaeological consultant will take their own Project Information Form (PIF) and provide a report that complies with the MHSTCI standards and guidelines. Hydro One will work with GLP to create consistency between the two reports.</li> <li>- Hydro One wanted to make MHSTCI aware of this approach and to request any feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MHSTCI asked who the GLP archaeological consultant is.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hydro One has not yet been informed of the selected consultant.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSTCI noted they have not seen this approach before where a First Nation and a proponent prepare separate reports for the same study area. MHSTCI has seen two reports for the same project, from two licensees and for the same project area, but these were related to contractual issues where a proponent selects a new archaeological consultant, if someone buys a property and completes a second assessment, or if there is a significant gap in time from when the first report was completed.</li> <li>- Hydro One asked if MHSTCI had to compare differences between those reports.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MHSTCI indicated they are typically similar reports, and they would review the most recent report if the assessments were completed at separate times.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSTCI asked if the GLP's archaeology consultant will be a licensed archaeologist.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o It is Hydro One's understanding that the GLP's archaeological consultant would be a licensed archaeologist.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSTCI noted that one component of the Stage 1 AA is local knowledge and not enough attention is always paid to it. MHSTCI noted that this is a good way for Indigenous communities to contribute that local knowledge. MHSTCI</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<p>also noted that it might result in more areas recommended for Stage 2 AA field work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golder asked how both reports will be reviewed considering they both have PIFs.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MHSTCI indicated that both reports will have equal standing in the register because they both have PIFs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSTCI noted that the Project covers a large area from Thunder Bay to Dryden, which includes 11 First Nation communities. MHSTCI asked if the GLP will be targeting a specific area that represents the GLP communities or assessing the entire Project.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hydro One noted that the GLP represents First Nations from Thunder Bay (i.e., Fort William First Nation) to Dryden (i.e., Eagle Lake and Wabigoon Lake First Nations). The GLP has indicated that their study area will be the same study area used in Hydro One’s Stage 1 AA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSTCI noted that one challenge will be resolving conflicts in the assessments between the GLP and Hydro One, as well as the GLP and other Indigenous groups.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hydro One noted they are committed to working with all Indigenous communities to try to resolve these conflicts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MHSTCI noted that this is a new situation and that all parties will need to work through the process together, especially how conflicts are resolved and documented. MHSTCI acknowledged that it is positive that Hydro One is embracing this new approach.</li> <li>- MHSTCI asked that Hydro One keep them informed as the process evolves.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Hydro One confirmed that MHSTCI will be kept informed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Next meeting on: TBD.

**Waasigan Transmission Line Project****Reference No. GAL-022-20137728**

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**DATE** 17 September 2020 **TIME** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

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**LOCATION** WebEx Conference Call

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<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One):</b>	Sarah Cohanim, Dayna Groom, Bruce Hopper
	<b>Golder Associates Ltd. (Golder):</b>	Callum Squires, Tamara Skillen, Kevin Seel, Nancy de Rojas, Erin Greenaway, Craig DeVito, Jill LaPorte, Ashley Morton
	<b>Dillon Consulting (Dillon):</b>	Don McKinnon
	<b>Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF):</b>	Nancy Berglund, Heather Nelson, Melissa Mauro, Virginia Thompson, Bill Greaves, Steve Bobrowicz
	<b>Ministry of Environment, Climate and Parks (MECP):</b>	Carolyn Lee, Nikki Boucher, Kevin Green, Lindsay McColm (joined after introductions)

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**FIELD WORK 2020**

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**1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS****1.1 Welcome**

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of the 2020 Field Work Plan for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project (the Project) and introduce the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.

**1.2 Health, Safety and Environment Share**

Hydro One share: With schools restarting this week, please be mindful to follow street signs, respect speed limits and school buses transit.

**1.3 Introductions**

Each attendee introduced themselves and explained their role with regard to the Project.

**Hydro One**

- Sarah Cohanim – Environmental Planner and Environmental Assessment (EA) Lead for the Project.
- Dayna Groom – Environmental Planner supporting the EA.
- Bruce Hopper – Project Manager for the Project.

**Dillon**

- Don McKinnon, technical leading for the Terms of Reference.

**Golder**

- Callum Squires – Environmental Specialist and Golder Project Manager.
- Tamara Skillen – Senior Environmental Impact Assessment Specialist and Golder Project Director.
- Kevin Seel – Senior Environmental Specialist, technical lead for the Alternatives Evaluation.
- Nancy de Rojas – Environmental Specialist, Project Coordinator.
- Erin Greenaway – Senior Ecologist, technical lead for the Terrestrial component.
- Craig DeVito – Water Resources Engineer, technical lead for the Surface Water component.
- Jill LaPorte – Aquatic Biologist, technical lead for the Fish and Fish Habitat component.
- Ashley Morton – Senior Aquatic Biologist, supporting the Fish and Fish Habitat component.

**MECP**

- Carolyn Lee – Special Project Officer, coordinating the review of the Terms of Reference.
- Nikki Boucher – Species at Risk Specialist
- Kevin Green – Norther Species at Risk Specialist

**MNRF**

- Nancy Berglund – Regional Planner for the Waasigan project but has been assigned to a different project
- Heather Nelson – Regional Planner, who will take over from Nancy
- Melissa Mauro – Regional Land Use Planning Supervisor
- Virginia Thompson – Biologist and Fish Component Lead
- Bill Greaves – Regional Planner for the Northwest Region, Natural Heritage Component Lead
- Steve Bobrowicz - Regional Fisheries Specialist

**2.0 2020 FIELD WORK PLAN****2.1 Overview**

Golder provided an overview of the 2020 Field Work Plan. Golder is currently reviewing desktop data collected as part of the Terms of Reference process.

- Project field work in 2020 will include an abandoned mine survey to identify bat hibernaculum and an aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes (4 to 5 days).

- The aerial reconnaissance information will be used to inform and site locations for the field surveys to be planned for 2021 and 2022 for the preferred route.
- The 2021-2022 Field Work Plan is under development and will comprise fields surveys on the preferred route, which include:
  - Wildlife surveys
  - Vegetation surveys
  - Fish and fish habitat surveys
  - Surface water surveys
- Golder will work closely with Indigenous communities to identify species and natural features of interest.
- Engagement
  - The 2021-2022 Field Work Plan will be submitted to agencies and Indigenous communities to gather and incorporate their feedback and also to help select candidates to participate in the field surveys.
  - The findings of the field surveys will be communicated to the public and Indigenous communities through engagement events and Projects updates.

## 2.2 Questions, Comments and Discussion

### Habitat Mapping

- MNRF asked if Species at Risk (SAR) habitat mapping would be completed in preparation for the aerial reconnaissance. MNRF indicated that the work plan should be clearer about species-specific mapping in relation to the desktop review.
- Golder explained desktop analysis in being undertaken of the available spatial data and that this level of information matches the requirements of the aerial reconnaissance process.
- Golder will further carry out of interpretation of aerial imagery prior to the aerial reconnaissance to identify vegetation communities and will generate habitat mapping as a tool for the aerial reconnaissance.
- SAR habitat suitability modelling (e.g., using habitat suitability index models to rank habitat quality) will not be completed at this stage but will be undertaken further into the development of the EA.

### Preferred Route

- The agencies cautioned against using existing data alone, and asked what the SAR considerations will be for the preferred route selection. They suggested that the work plan spell out what will be done for each species. MNRF expressed concern that the selection of the preferred route would rely only on known occurrences and an “as encountered” data survey.
- Golder explained that the selection of the preferred route would be based on available spatial data (e.g., Land Information Ontario layers) and the additional information collected during the aerial reconnaissance as

part of a staged process, which is typical for the development of linear projects. The preferred route would be refined, including site specific route refinements to avoid sensitive habitat/features where possible, as further information is collected during the development of the EA.

## Methods

- MNRF indicated that they would like further description in the 2020 Field Work Plan of the work that Golder will carry out to inform the aerial reconnaissance, including methods (e.g., number of passes, height, corridor width, species, the types of queries and features that Golder will use to identify values).

## Acoustic Monitoring

- MNRF would like the 2020 Field Work Plan to include further detail about acoustic monitoring, such as timing, weather conditions, and the type of information that Golder intends to draw from the monitoring.
- Golder noted that this will level of detail would be incorporated in the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.

## Field Surveys

- MNRF asked what the difference between field survey and aerial reconnaissance is, and how each informs the EA.
- Golder explained that determination of the preferred route is a staged process and as more information is collected, the route can be refined, including site-specific route refinements to avoid sensitive habitat/features where possible.
- The aerial reconnaissance supports the selection of the preferred route. For example, with regard to the Fish and Fish Habitat component, the aerial reconnaissance would be aiming to confirm the presence of mapped waterbodies and watercourses (as identified during the preliminary desktop review), and to further identify any water features not detected through the desktop review (e.g., pools, runs, other habitat features visible from the air). Field surveys in 2021 and 2022 on the other hand, would be used to refine the preferred route, such as avoidance of specific water features and/or assessing water crossings.
- Since the Project does not have four end-to-end routes to assess and compare, the goal is to select the best 'overall full route'.

## Limit of Work

- MNRF asked if a Limit of Work has been defined for the Project and how this is different from the 500 m buffer.
- A Limit of Work is a distance defined to give the Proponent flexibility to move Project components within this area after EA approval. As an example, for the Wataynikaneyap Phase 1 project, the Limit of Work was set as 200 m on each side of the right-of-way. A Limit of Work has not been defined for the Project yet, but if planned, it will be discussed further with agencies after the commencement of the EA.
- In the Terms of Reference, the Local Study Area (LSA) is defined as a 500 m buffer on each side of the Project footprint. This LSA is used for background data collection and to identify environmental effects for the



preferred route. Discipline specific, and possibly species-specific, study areas will be developed during the EA stage.

### Species at Risk

- MECP asked what the considerations are to evaluate potential SAR habitat in each route segment.
- Golder explained that the overall approach is to carry out habitat mapping prior to the aerial reconnaissance to identify vegetation communities with potential to host SAR. If the aerial reconnaissance confirms that there is SAR potential this becomes a constraint for the selection of the preferred route.
- Field surveys in 2021 and 2022 would confirm SAR potential and can then be used for route refinements if appropriate.
- MECP indicated that additional SAR species need to be added in the Terms of Reference.

### Alternatives Evaluation

- MNRF asked how the Alternatives Evaluation will progress from the Terms of Reference stage to the EA stage. What will be the timing of the selection and what will be “locked down” in the process, at which stages, to select the preferred route.
- Golder noted that this process would be explained during the Alternative Routes Evaluation presentation in the second portion of the meeting.

### Other

- MNRF noted that it has several review comments on the 2020 Field Work Plan and these would be provided in the text day or two.
- The agencies indicated that they would like to be involved in the consultation on the Criteria and Indicators for the EA, as well as on the study areas.

## 3.0 ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION

### 3.1 Overview

Golder provided an overview of the approach to the Alternative Routes Evaluation and how it fits into the overall EA process. Golder noted that this is a proposed method and that agency feedback would be incorporated to refine it.

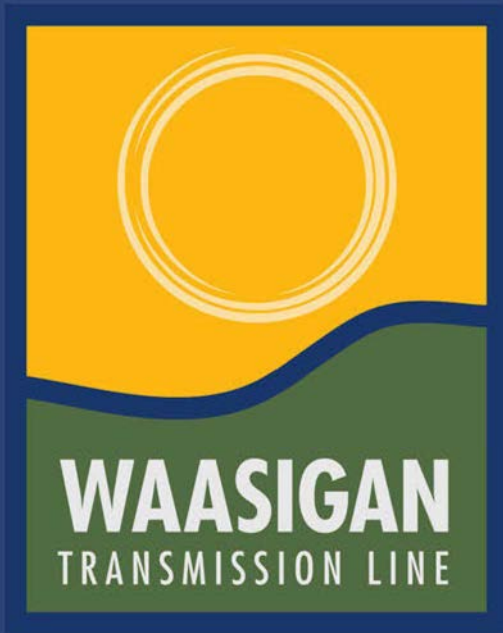
- Golder uses a tool named GoldSET. GoldSET is a multicriteria analysis platform to support the decision-making process for complex problems that include multiple criteria, perspectives, and trade-offs. GoldSET is primarily driven by spatial data. GoldSET is systematic, repeatable, defensible, and transparent.
- Corridor Selection: Since there are multiple segments proposed, it is not possible to assess four end-to-end alternative routes for the Project; instead, alternative route segments are analyzed. Some segments do not have alternatives. Nodes points are established at the beginning and end of segments without alternatives, and groups are formed for the segments with multiple alternatives. Available data layers are queried and a preferred option is selected for each group. The results are depicted graphically for easier visualization of the

findings. The output of this process is the preferred route corridor. The preferred route would then be sited using this corridor as a guide.

- Detailed Routing: Detailed routing is completed in collaboration with design engineers and includes weighing multiple criteria to determine the preferred route. There are multiple opportunities throughout the project to consider route refinements including after ground-based surveys and Indigenous Knowledge studies are completed.

### **3.2 Questions, comments, and discussion**

- The agencies asked if features such as access roads, laydown yards, and camps factored into the assessment. Golder explained that some natural features important to engineering in general, such as wetlands and water crossings, are included to ensure that the preferred route is feasible. The purpose of GoldSET is to identify the preferred route corridor. Infrastructure design occurs later in the overall development of the Project and therefore is not factored in.
- The agencies also asked how qualitative factors are assessed. Golder typically uses a five-point rating scheme where alternatives are weighted against each other based on subject matter consensus, and are assigned a position along a qualitative scale (e.g., very high, high, medium, low, very low). These positions are then assigned values (e.g., 1 to 5 points) that are entered to the model.
- The agencies inquired how feedback from engagement activities is included. Golder organizes the feedback by topics/constraints such as protection of wildlife and paralleling existing infrastructure, among others, and these constraints are assigned values and can be included in the analysis if appropriate.
- Golder noted that agencies will be consulted during several points of the Alternatives Evaluation process.



# ALTERNATIVE ROUTE EVALUATION VERIFICATION FIELD PROGRAM

November 2020

POWERING NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO



# FIELD PROGRAM PURPOSE

- Ground truth to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation.
  - As identified during desktop review and aerial reconnaissance completed in fall 2020
- Focus only on data to support the criteria/indicators to be used for the alternative route evaluation
- Full 2021/2022 field surveys still planned to support the net effects assessment of the preferred route
  - To be discussed in early 2021 with proposed 2021-2022 Field Work Plan
- Approach balances agency requests with the available time and resources



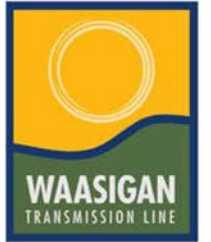
# WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION



- We are currently refining and updating the potential SAR habitat and SWH mapping along the alternative routes with the data collected during the aerial reconnaissance
- Objective of the planned field verification program is to:
  - Validate the data collected during the aerial reconnaissance with a ground-based assessment
  - Confirm the presence/absence of potential SAR habitat and SWH



# WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION (continued)



- Methods:
  - Visit a representative selection of potential SAR habitats along each alternative route to confirm the qualitative data collected from the air. For example:
    - Visual assessment of anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds (e.g., remnant nests of barn swallow on culverts or structures)
    - Confirm the presence of mature cavity trees/snags in FRI ecosites screened as potential bat maternity roost habitat
    - Visual assessment and characterization of FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat
    - Verify areas of blow-down, recent harvests or recent forest fires that were observed in the air support those microhabitat features that are used by SAR and other wildlife (e.g., brush/slash piles and upended tree roots that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox or Wolverine)
  - The ground-based surveys will occur within the 150 m alternative corridor.
  - Approximate one-week survey in the spring (e.g., May - after snow melt).



# WATER

- Surface water and fish/fish habitat to be surveyed together
- Visit approximately 5% of crossings including:
  - Suspected areas where a channel is not present
  - A selection of small, medium and large watercourses in each of the tertiary watersheds
- Spring surveys (e.g., May 2021)
- Total of ~990 crossings across all route alternatives
  - Survey ~50 crossings (total) distributed across all route alternatives
  - Survey ~4 sites/day



# SURFACE WATER

- Evaluate existing mapping compiled from desktop review and aerial reconnaissance to identify features warranting additional ground-based investigation
  - Ground-based surveys will be focused on evaluating the presence / absence of water crossings and estimating the approx. crossing size by conducting visual surveys of the following:
    - Approx. wetted width and depth
    - Approx. bank full width and height
    - Visual inspection of the water feature to determine if it is permanent, ephemeral, etc.
- Spring surveys will look to capture high flows and water levels, and therefore would address some MNRF comments





# FISH AND FISH HABITAT

- Confirm:
  - Presence/absence of fish habitat
  - Area of fish habitat (i.e., bankfull width)
  - Sensitive habitat indicators (determined by the presence of suitable habitat)
    - Significant aquatic habitat
    - Known Lake Trout presence in lakes
    - Fish sanctuaries
    - Known Brook Trout presence
    - Nursery areas
    - Spawning areas
  - Presence and type of Lake Sturgeon habitat observed from the air
- Spring surveys will address some MNRF comments regarding Brook Trout habitat



# NEXT STEPS

- Review data collected during verification program
- Determine if results could affect the selection of the preferred route completed in March 2021
- Continue to collect detailed biophysical field data for the preferred route and modify footprint as needed to minimize effects



# AGENCY INPUT OPPORTUNITIES



- 2020 Field Summary Memo
- 2021-2022 Field Work Plan
- Government Review Team Project Update Meetings (3 in 2021)
  - Alternative Route Evaluation and EA methodology (criteria/indicators, weights, data sources)
  - Present preliminary alternatives evaluation results
  - Present 2021 field program results
- Workshops in Q1 2021
  - 2021-2022 Field Work Plan and Alternative Route Evaluation
- Notifications – e.g., selection of preferred route, development of complete Project footprint
- 2021 Field Program Memo
- Draft and Final EA Review



# QUESTIONS?



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# Meeting Notes

## MECP Monthly Meeting

Waasigan Transmission Line Project

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**Meeting Date:** February 22, 2021      **Time:** 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

**Location:** Conference Call

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the Waasigan Alternative Route Evaluation and field program.

**Attendees:** **MECP:** Carolyn Lee, Kevin Green, Lindsay McColm, Brandan Norman  
**MNRF:** Heather Nelson, Melissa Mauro, Nancy Berglund  
**Hydro One:** Sarah Cohanim, Bruce Hopper, Dayna Groom  
**Golder Associates Ltd.:** Callum Squires, Tamara Skillen, Nancy de Rojas, Erin Greenaway, Ashley Morton, Craig DeVito

**Regrets:** None

**Issued By:** Callum Squires, Golder

**Distribution:** All attendees and invitees

**Note:** Please advise if additional items are required to complete the discussion within five business days of issuance.

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Item	Description	Actions
1.	<b>Introductions</b> <b>Hydro One</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Cohanim – Environmental Planner and Environmental Assessment (EA) Lead for the Project</li> <li>Dayna Groom – Environmental Planner supporting the EA</li> <li>Bruce Hopper – Project Manager</li> </ul> <b>Golder</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Callum Squires – Project Manager</li> <li>Tamara Skillen – Project Director and Senior Advisor</li> <li>Nancy de Rojas – Project Coordinator</li> <li>Erin Greenaway – Terrestrial Ecology Lead</li> </ul>	N/A

Item	Description	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley Morton – Fish and Fish Habitat Lead</li> <li>• Craig DeVito – Surface Water Lead</li> </ul> <p><b>MECP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carolyn Lee – Project Officer with EA Branch</li> <li>• Kevin Green – Northern Species at Risk (SAR) Specialist</li> <li>• Lindsay McColm – SAR Biologist</li> <li>• Brandan Norman – SAR Policy Intern</li> </ul> <p><b>MNRF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Nelson – Regional Planner leading this Project until the end of February 2021</li> <li>• Nancy Berglund - Regional Planner to lead the Project from March 2021 onwards</li> <li>• Melissa Mauro – Regional Supervisor</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Safety Share</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be mindful of extreme winter temperature and driving conditions.</li> </ul>	N/A
3.	<p><b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydro One (Sarah) provided a brief summary of project progress to date and status.</li> </ul>	N/A
4.	<p><b>Alternative Route Ground-truthing Field Surveys</b></p> <p>Golder shared a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the key points, as outlined below.</p> <p><b>Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The previously discussed approach was to carry out verification surveys that would collect data to validate a subset of the data used to select the preferred route, after it had been selected. This approach was proposed as a compromise to address agency comments, while trying to fit the additional field work into the overall EA schedule.</li> <li>• The overall schedule for the EA has now been adjusted, allowing for changes to the proposed approach.</li> <li>• The new proposed approach is to postpone the alternative route evaluation and selection of the preferred route in order to carry out ground-truthing field surveys. The data collected would be input for the alternative route evaluation and support the selection of the preferred route.</li> <li>• Data collection for the ground-truthing field surveys would focus on the criteria and indicators (C&amp;I) for the alternative route evaluation.</li> </ul>	N/A

Item	Description	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ground-truthing field surveys do not replace the detailed field surveys that will be carried out on the preferred route once selected, to collect baseline data. These detailed field surveys are described in the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Schedule</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposed schedule was presented assuming an approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR) by end of February 2021. This “aspirational” date has been used for planning purposes, but it is recognized that ToR approval may not be achieved by then and other scenarios are being evaluated on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>• Ground-truthing surveys would commence in May 2021 to be in the appropriate seasonal window.</li> <li>• The selection of the preferred route would occur towards the end of June 2021 and would use the data collected during the ground-truthing surveys.</li> <li>• Golder is developing a detailed spreadsheet of C&amp;I to provide to agencies for review and comment, to incorporate their feedback.</li> <li>• Golder is also preparing a summary of the results from the field work completed in 2020, which would likely be provided to agencies for review along with the C&amp;I spreadsheet as they are complementary.</li> <li>• Golder and Hydro One are keen to issue the two draft field plans to agencies for review very soon (i.e., the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan). A prompt submission would enable two rounds of four week-review periods and that would allow the timely incorporation of agency feedback. Ground-truthing field surveys would commence in May 2021.</li> <li>• Golder noted that even if the preferred route is selected by the end of June 2021, Project design will be further refined based on additional information as it becomes available during the development of the project, such as Indigenous knowledge studies and SAR field studies.</li> <li>• The focus of field surveys in 2022 would be to collect data that was not possible to collect in 2021, as well as to collect new data to support design refinements for the preferred route.</li> <li>• Per the proposed schedule, Hydro One is aiming to file the Draft EA report in early 2023.</li> </ul>	

Item	Description	Actions
	<p><b>Criteria and Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golder provided a summary of the proposed changes to C&amp;I based on ToR review comments by the MECP SAR Branch, using bats as an example. Each SAR is now identified as a separate criterion with species-appropriate indicators to inform the alternative route evaluation and selection of a preferred route.</li> <li>• Golder explained that the C&amp;I used for the alternative route evaluation tend to be quantitative to allow direct comparison among route alternatives; whereas the EA effects assessment C&amp;I will include both quantitative and qualitative indicators.</li> <li>• The C&amp;I are intended to be preliminary and will be further refined following review with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site-Specific Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydro One is taking a new approach by bringing engineering contractors into the process much earlier than for previous projects.</li> <li>• The benefit of early engineering and construction contractor involvement is that more design certainty can be incorporated to the EA and more site-specific detail can be included, informing both the identification of site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures. For example, the availability of more detailed information on watercourse crossings would allow the identification of crossing types and selection of suitable mitigation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Proposed dates to provide deliverables for agency review are listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan – February 26</li> <li>• 2021-2022 Field Work Plan – February 26</li> <li>• 2020 Field Work Summary – March 5</li> <li>• Detailed Criteria and Indicators Spreadsheet – March 5</li> <li>• A four-week agency review period would follow for each of these deliverables.</li> <li>• In addition, an Alternative Route Evaluation Workshop is proposed to be held at the end of March. The goal would be a collaborative discussion with agencies on the approach for the</li> </ul>	



Item	Description	Actions
	alternative route evaluation, and in particular, the C&Is and the data selected to support them.	
5.	<p><b>Questions, Comments and Final Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MECP stated that it is highly unlikely that the ToR will be approved by the end of February.</li> <li>• Golder asked whether there were any concerns with releasing the field work plans for review now. MECP indicated that they are not able to commit to specific dates to review the field plans. However, the SAR Branch noted that that the sooner the field plans are provided for review, the better.</li> <li>• Golder remarked that Hydro One and Golder want to work collaboratively with the agencies; they have listened to agency feedback and modified the field survey approach and the project schedule accordingly. Golder reiterated that Hydro One is aiming to file the EA report in early 2023.</li> <li>• Hydro One also noted their need to be responsive to any changes from the IESO, who is continually reviewing load growth and could modify timing for the need for the project at any time.</li> </ul>	Golder to provide presentation to agencies today.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Next meeting on: To be determined.



# TERMS OF REFERENCE COMMENTS AND FIELD PROGRAM UPDATE

February 2021

**POWERING NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**



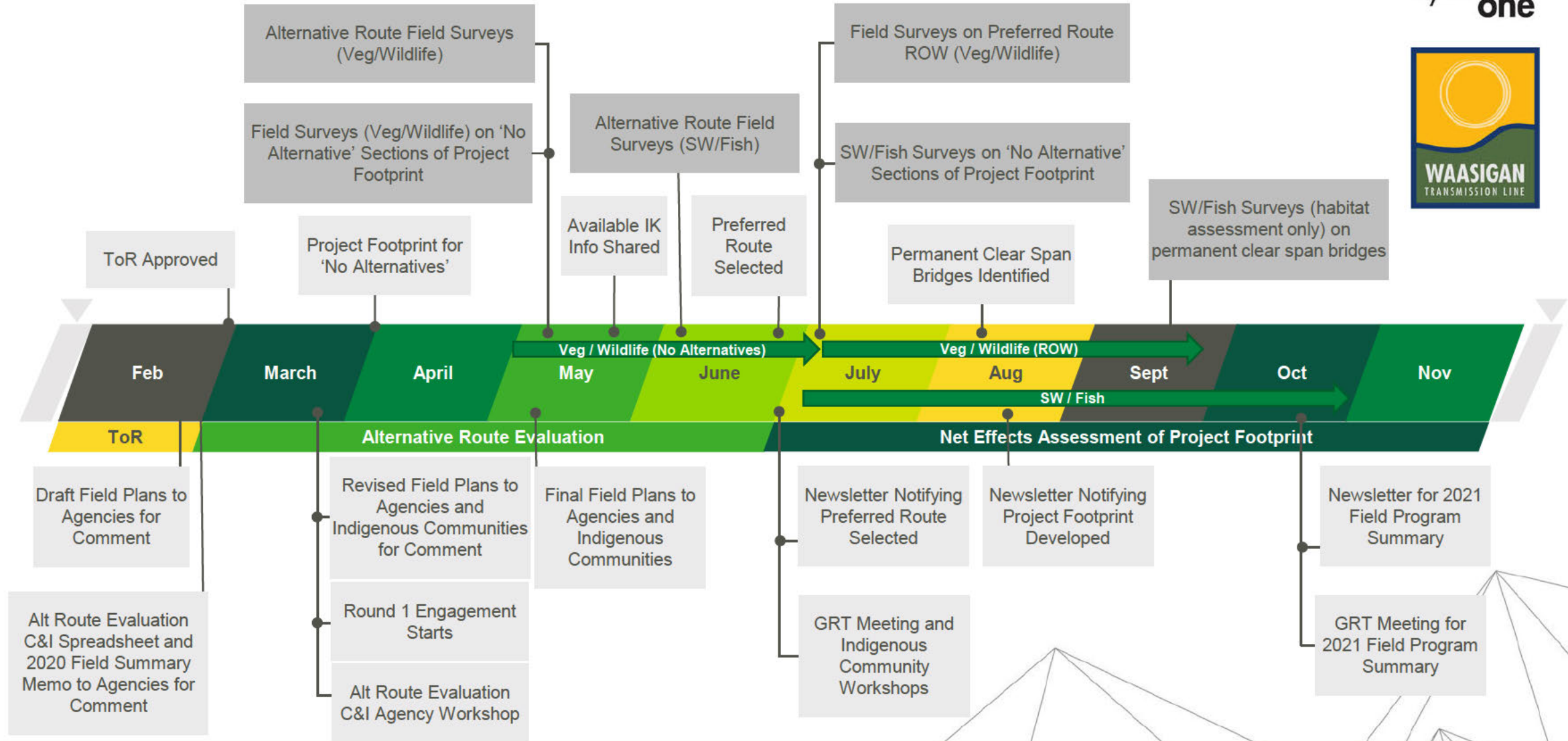
# ALTERNATIVE ROUTE GROUND-TRUTHING FIELD SURVEYS



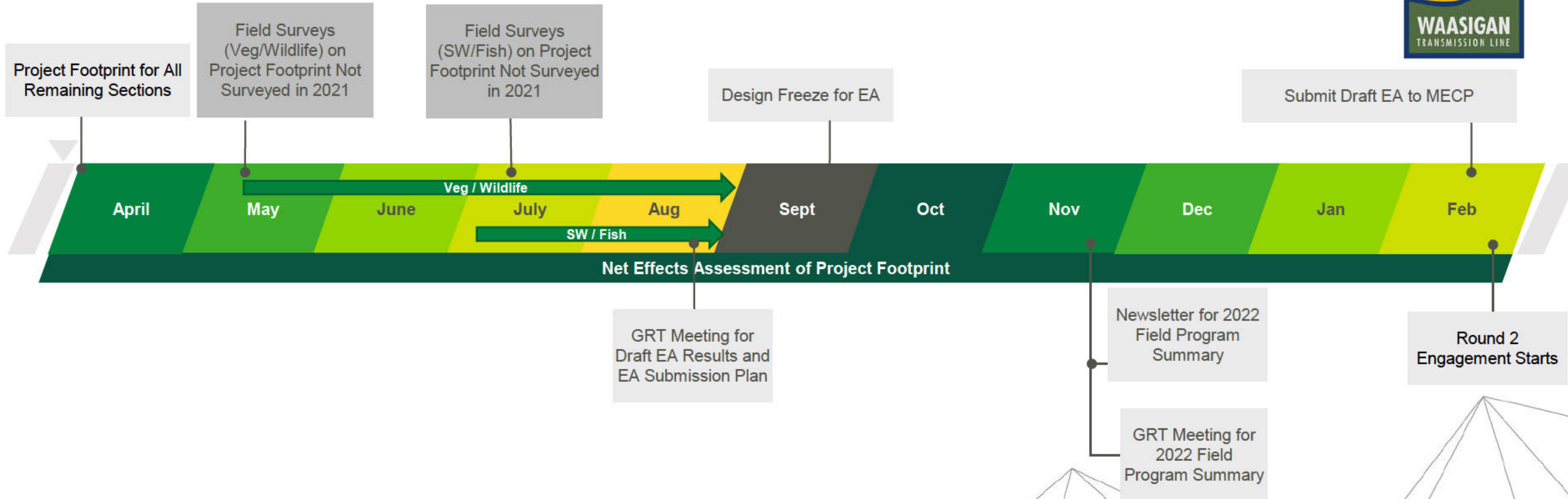
- Have revised schedule to allow surveys prior to route evaluation.
  - No longer “verification” surveys.
- Updating proposed Alternative Routes Ground-Truthing Field Work Plan to reflect revised SAR Criteria and Indicators.
- Will ground truth a subset of data to inform the route evaluation.
  - To be outlined in early 2021 with proposed Alternative Routes Ground-Truthing Field Work Plan.
- Will complete full 2021/2022 field surveys to support the net effects assessment of the preferred route.
  - To be outlined in early 2021 with proposed 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.



# SCHEDULE – 2021



# SCHEDULE – 2022



# CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

- Will split the SAR criteria for the alternative route evaluation by species.
- Indicators will rely on available data, aerial field studies and ground-based field studies. For example:

Criterion	Indicators	Data Development
Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis	Number of known occurrence records within the Route Alternative	-SAR datasets
	Area (ha) of candidate or known hibernacula impacted within the Route Alternative	-SAR datasets -AMIS dataset screened for candidate hibernacula characteristics -base mapping analysis and aerial surveys to identify natural features (e.g., caves/crevices) as candidate hibernacula -ground based survey to further determine candidate site suitability
	Area (ha) of candidate maternity roost habitat impacted within the Route Alternative	-FRI ecosites screened for candidate SAR bat maternity roost habitat -aerial surveys to confirm screened ecosites contain large diameter cavity trees and snags for maternity roosting -ground-based snag density surveys

# CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

- Criteria and Indicators for alternative route evaluation tend to be more quantitative.
- Will complete detailed species-specific field surveys on the preferred route.
  - This information will support additional and more complex Criteria and Indicators and analysis, both quantitative and qualitative.
  - These surveys will support design refinements (e.g., avoidance) and development of mitigation to limit adverse effects to SAR.



# SITE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT

- Engineering contractors brought on earlier compared to previous projects. Expected to provide more design certainty and can allow more site-specific detail in the EA.
- Draft EA methodology to be consulted on during EA.
- Additional discussions with MNRF and MECP will occur during EA (e.g., to identify significant values).





# NEXT STEPS

- Alternative Routes Ground-Truthing Field Work Plan and 2021-2022 Field Work Plan for agency review – February 26, 2021.
  - Propose Agency review March 1 – March 26.
- 2020 Field Summary Memo for agency review – March 5, 2021.
  - Propose Agency review March 8 – April 2.
- Detailed Criteria and Indicators Spreadsheet for agency review – March 5, 2021.
  - Propose Agency review March 8 – April 2.
- Alternative Route Evaluation Workshop – Approx. end of March 2021.



# QUESTIONS?



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**From:** [Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@hydroone.com)  
**To:** [Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca); [Nancy.Berglund@ontario.ca](mailto:Nancy.Berglund@ontario.ca)  
**Cc:** [Callum\\_Squires@golder.com](mailto:Callum_Squires@golder.com); [Dayna.Groom@hydroone.com](mailto:Dayna.Groom@hydroone.com); [Bruce.Hopper@hydroone.com](mailto:Bruce.Hopper@hydroone.com)  
**Bcc:** [hydroone+pj-00133@mh.boreal-is.com](mailto:hydroone+pj-00133@mh.boreal-is.com)  
**Subject:** Waasigan - 2020 Field Summary and Criteria & Indicators for review  
**Date:** March 12, 2021 4:55:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [Waasigan 2020 Field Work Summary Report 12Mar2021.pdf](#)  
[Waasigan Meeting Minutes Alternative Routes Field Program Update 20210222.pdf](#)  
[Responses MECP SARB Comments on 2020 FWP 12Mar2021.pdf](#)  
[Responses MNRF Comments on 2020 FWP 12Mar2021.pdf](#)  
[Waasigan Alt Route Eval Metrics Method 20210312.xlsx](#)

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Good afternoon Carolyn and Nancy,

Please find attached the following documents for MECP and MNRF review:

- 2020 Field Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report;
- Responses to MNRF comments on the final 2020 Field Program;
- Responses to MECP comments on the final 2020 Field Program;
- Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria and Indicators Spreadsheet; and
- Minutes from the Alternative Routes Field Program Update meeting on February 22, 2021.

We have discussed previously how the ToR approval is a critical milestone for us as it allows us to progress other aspects of the project, in particular engagement such as sending field work plans to Indigenous communities. Hydro One believes that all outstanding agency comments on the ToR have been sufficiently resolved, as demonstrated at our February 22 meeting. If possible, we would ask that the first priority be confirming that your comments on the ToR have been resolved.

It is important to Hydro One that we do our best to address your concerns and work collaboratively with the agencies on this project. Notably, we recognize that four-week review periods have been requested for each of the draft and final field work plans. We would appreciate any opportunity to expedite this review, in order for us to better achieve the project plan we have described, including completing important field work during the appropriate seasons in 2021.

Thank you in advance for your review. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, and have a great weekend!

**Sarah Cohanim**

Environmental Planner  
Environmental Programs and Approvals  
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**Comments Table**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line – Draft 2020 Workplan – Round 2 review

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**Agency:** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Species at Risk Branch

**Commenter Name and Job Title:** Kevin Green, Northern Species at Risk Specialist; Lindsay McColm, Species at Risk Recovery Biologist; Brandan Norman, Species at Risk Policy Intern.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
1.	General	<p>The updated 2020 Field Work Plan was only provided to MECP on October 15, 2020 with an indication from the Proponent that they had already completed the Desktop Review and intended to undertake the Aerial Reconnaissance during the week of October 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</p> <p>Providing regulatory agencies less than a week to review and provide meaningful input into the proposed methodology is inadequate, and as a result, the Aerial Reconnaissance may be determined to be insufficient to inform the proposed Alternative Route Assessment, selection of a preferred route, and/or the Net Effects Assessment of the preferred route.</p> <p>MECP strongly encourages the Proponent to provide regulatory agencies sufficient time (e.g.,</p>	<p>Commit to providing regulatory agencies a minimum of four weeks to review and provide input on future Work Plans, including between each review period (i.e., draft, revised and final).</p>	<p>Hydro One has committed to provide regulatory agencies four weeks to review and provide input on future work plans, including the draft and revised versions.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan were provided to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021, with the intention that there will be two rounds of review; one on the draft plans and one on the revised plans, with four weeks per round of review, prior to finalizing the field work plans to allow the MECP SARB to provide input.</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		minimum of four weeks) to review Work Plans to avoid potential delays.		
2.	General	<p>As per comments on the draft ToR provided on August 6, 2020, the draft 2020 Field Work Plan provided on September 22, 2020 and discussed during the meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the proposed approach to conducting a through a Desktop Review using existing information combined with information from the Aerial Reconnaissance to inform the selection of a preferred route is considered insufficient. This is based on the limited information that currently exists for much of the Project area and concerns listed below with the proposed Aerial Reconnaissance.</p> <p>MECP-SARB strongly recommends ground-based investigations be conducted to appropriately inform the selection of a preferred route.</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.	Hydro One has committed to an additional ground-based field program to support the alternative route evaluation as documented in the draft Alternative Routes Field Work Plan that was submitted to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021.
3.	Pg. 16 / Section 4.1 – Desktop Review	Additional information sources for the Desktop Review should be referenced, including iNaturalist and eBird.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.	Additional information sources, including iNaturalist and eBird, were considered during desktop review as listed in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report submitted to MECP

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
				<p>and MNRF along with these responses.</p> <p>Additional data sources for the alternative route evaluation are cited in the Criteria and Indicators spreadsheet that are submitted to MECP and MNRF along with these responses.</p>
4.	Pg. 17 / Section 4.1 – Desktop Review	<p>Additional clarity is required where the updated 2020 Field Work Plan indicates that “<i>mapping of documented habitat features or element occurrences that suggest sensitive habitat (e.g., nest sites) for other SAR.</i>”</p> <p>The Desktop Review should map all <i>potential</i> habitat features for <i>all</i> species at risk potentially impacted by the project and assessed during the proposed Aerial Reconnaissance; and subsequent 2021/22 Field Studies, as appropriate.</p> <p>Additionally, as per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, in addition to bat and Eastern Whip-</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.	<p>Additional details about how potential SAR habitat features were identified for the Project are provided in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report and the Criteria and Indicators spreadsheet that are being submitted to MECP and MNRF along with these responses.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify SAR</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>poor-will habitat the draft 2020 Field Work Plan should include approaches to mapping species at risk habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- structures that may provide suitable roosting sites for bats;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting sites for Chimney Swift;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting habitat for Barn Swallow;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox;</li> <li>- rock piles or brush/slash piles that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox or Wolverine;</li> <li>- potential nesting habitat for Bobolink;</li> <li>- potential connecting corridors, staging areas, nursery areas, and overwintering areas for Lake Sturgeon;</li> </ul>		<p>habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.</p>
5.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020, the updated 2020 Field Work Plan should include a map illustrating the planned transects.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include a map of the planned transects.	The objectives of the aerial reconnaissance flights were to assess the terrestrial and aquatic features that were mapped based on the desktop analysis. As such this type of assessment of point and

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
				<p>polygon features was not conducive to a transect flight method. Instead, the surveys were completed by meandering throughout the 1,150 m wide terrestrial study area associated with each alternative route. Flying height and speed were varied throughout the reconnaissance in an effort to view specific features and assist in the characterization or confirmation of habitats being assessed.</p> <p>The study area for terrestrial field surveys was defined as the alternative routes' 150 m wide corridor, with a buffer of 500 m on either side for a total of a 1,150 m wide corridor for each route. The routes are depicted on Figure 2-1 in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report.</p>
6.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	Insufficient information is provided to rationalize the proposed areas to be assessed during the Aerial	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include the rationale and justification	As illustrated in the Criteria and Indicators spreadsheet, each SAR



Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>Reconnaissance (i.e., within 500 metres of alternative route centerlines) for species at risk.</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during the meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the proposed aerial reconnaissance should be designed to adequately assess all species at risk habitat that may potentially be impacted by the Project, including the ROW and associated Project infrastructure (e.g., aggregated sources, access roads, etc.). The design should also consider each species habitat requirements and appropriate distances in which impacts from the Project may be realized, recognizing this may vary by species.</p>	<p>for the proposed survey area for each species at risk identified in Attachment A.</p>	<p>occurrence/candidate or known SAR habitat was buffered by appropriate distances to account for the SAR specific General Habitat Descriptions (MNR, various dates). For instance, eastern whip-poor-will observations are buffered by 500 m radius. SWH features were also buffered by ecoregion criteria schedule (3w) recommendations for each feature. Then these buffered features were overlain by the 1,150 m wide terrestrial study area to determine which buffered features intersected the study area. In this way, we accounted for the full extent of the SAR species-specific habitats and the SWH feature specific extents that could potentially be impacted by the route alternatives.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
				2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify SAR habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.
7.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The updated 2020 Field Work Plan does not include any consideration in the proposed survey area (i.e., within 500 metres of alternative route centerlines) for potential changes to the location of the proposed ROW and/or associated project infrastructure (e.g., aggregate sources, access roads, etc.). As such, the proposed survey area is insufficient to meet the objectives of the Aerial Reconnaissance as defined in the updated 2020 Field Work Plan (i.e., assess desktop findings for each of the alternative routes and identify any additional unmapped features).</p> <p>As discussed during the meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the proposed aerial reconnaissance should be designed to adequately assess all species at risk habitat that may potentially be</p>	<p>Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include an appropriate extent for the Aerial Reconnaissance that considers potential future changes to the location of the ROW and includes associated project infrastructure.</p> <p>Alternatively, update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include the rationale and justification for the proposed survey area, including a description of why the proposed survey area is sufficient to assess all species at risk habitat potentially impacted by all Project components.</p>	<p>The alternative route 150 m wide corridor intentionally includes a 75-m buffer on each side of the alternative route centreline to accommodate the transmission line right-of-way (ROW, approx. 40 m wide), allowing flexibility in the exact siting of the transmission line within the corridor and still achieving adequate survey coverage. The conservative corridor was further buffered 500 m each side, for a total of a 1,150 m wide corridor, to capture sensitive features (e.g., SAR habitat) that may fall outside the corridor but require disturbance setbacks and therefore influence the</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>impacted by the Project. Recognizing that the detailed project design has not been completed, identifying appropriate survey extents, which may vary by species, should consider potential changes to the location of the ROW and associated project infrastructure (i.e., concept similar to Limits of Work applied to other large transmission projects). This will ensure that all potential species at risk habitat potentially impacted by the alternate routes will be identified and considered in the Alternative Route Evaluation, selection of a preferred route, and the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>We note the response to similar comments provided on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan on September 22, 2020 from the Proponent provided to MECP-SARB on October 15, 2020 with the updated 2020 Field Work Plan, that <i>“Limits of Work will not be applied to the alternatives prior to selecting a preferred route. A Limits of Work, if required, will be identified during the EA and then applied to the preferred route. Hydro One will engage with applicable agencies to discuss if a Limits of Work can be included for this Project similar to</i></p>		<p>evaluation of alternatives. These details are provided in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report and in the Criteria and Indicator spreadsheet.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify SAR habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p><i>other recent large transmission projects in northern Ontario</i>". However, it is unclear why previous advice was not incorporated into the design of the updated 2020 Field Work Plan as no rationale was provided with this response.</p>		
8.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance		<p>Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to reflect a more appropriate survey altitude and/or number of transects.</p> <p>Alternatively, update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include the rationale and justification for the proposed methods.</p>	<p>A meandering flight approach was ultimately selected for the aerial reconnaissance. The objectives of the aerial reconnaissance flights were to assess the terrestrial and aquatic features that were mapped based on the desktop analysis. As such this type of assessment of point and polygon features was not conducive to a transect flight method. The methodology described in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report reflects this revised approach.</p>
9.	Pg. 21 / Section 4.2.2 – Mine Site Survey	Insufficient information is provided to rationalize the proposed single transect down the centerline of the route alternatives as being sufficient to	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.	<p>See response to comment #8 regarding survey approach.</p> <p>Flying height and speed</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>survey all areas within 500 metres of the route alternatives.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed target height (i.e., 6 to 15 metres), is insufficient to meet the objectives of the proposed aerial reconnaissance (i.e., confirm desktop findings and identify additional unmapped features) within the proposed extent to be assessed (i.e., 500 metres of the route alternatives centreline).</p> <p>Based on these two factors, it is highly unlikely surveyors will be able to adequately assess known/suspected species at risk habitat, nor identify additional unmapped features with a single transect line down the centerline of the route alternatives flown at 6 to 15 metres altitude. As such, the proposed methodology is likely to miss important species at risk habitat that must be considered in the EA.</p> <p>MECP-SARB strongly recommends increasing the number of transects flown at an increased altitude, while still incorporating the proposed 6 to 15 metres target height where greater detail is required to properly assess</p>		<p>were varied throughout the reconnaissance in an effort to view specific features and assist in the characterization or confirmation of habitats being assessed. This methodology is detailed in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP and MNR for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify SAR habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.</p> <p>Detailed assessment of SAR habitat to inform the EA will be completed along the preferred route.</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		the species at risk habitat features and other values as necessary.		
10.	Pg. 21 / Section 4.2.2 – Mine Site Survey	The initial draft 2020 Field Work Plan provided to MECP-SARB identified five abandoned mine features within 500 metres of the Project ROW through the Desktop Review of the AMIS database. This detail has been removed from the updated 2020 Field Work Plan. Clarity is required on the number of potential abandoned mine features that will be assessed during the Mine Site Survey.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.	Additional detail about the abandoned mine features surveyed, and the methods used to identify them, are provided in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report submitted to MECP and MNRF along with these responses.
11.	Pg. 12 Mine Site Survey	<p>The proposed surveys indicate hibernacula will be visited; however, does not acknowledge or propose precautions for potentially spreading White Nose Syndrome (WNS) fungal spores between potential hibernacula or actions to manage the risk of infecting bats with SARS-CoV-2.</p> <p>While we recognize the Proponent has indicated surveyors will not be handling bats or entering the mine features, should there be any contact with the entrance of the hibernacula, the 2020 Field Work Plan should include additional details on any precautions that will be taken to mitigate the risks identified above. The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) has developed guidance with</p>	Provide clarity how surveys will mitigate the spread of WNS and/or SARS-CoV-2; and what disinfection protocols will be put in place.	Additional details about the mitigation implemented to limit the spread of WNS and/or SARS-CoV-2 (i.e., COVID-19) are provided in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report submitted to MECP and MNRF along with these responses. This mitigation will also be included in the Health, Safety and Environment Plan that will be developed for 2021 field studies.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>respect to WNS and SARS-CoV-2 which the Proponent is encouraged to review and reference in the 2020 Field Work Plan.</p> <p>For your reference:  <a href="http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/covid-19.php">http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/covid-19.php</a>  <a href="http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/decontamination_protocols.php">http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/decontamination_protocols.php</a></p>		
12.	Pg. 22 / Section 5.0 – 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>General Comment – the following comments associated with <i>Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys</i> should be considered preliminary and it is expected that MECP – Species at Risk Branch will be provided detailed Work Plans in advance of proposed 2021-2022 field surveys for review and comment.</p>	<p>Consider in the development of the 2021-2022 Field Surveys Work Plan.</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. Please refer to response to Comment #1.</p>
13.	Pg. 22 / Section 5.0 – 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>As per comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan provided on September 22, 2020, the updated 2020 Field Work Plan does not identify species-specific surveys planned for some species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray Fox</li> <li>• American Badger</li> <li>• Wolverine</li> <li>• Bobolink</li> <li>• American White Pelican</li> <li>• Least Bittern</li> </ul>	<p>Consider in the development of the draft 2021-2022 Field Surveys.</p>	<p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP and MNR for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify SAR habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.</p> <p>The species-specific surveys planned for the</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chimney Swift</li> <li>• Lake Sturgeon</li> </ul> <p>Where the 2020 Desktop Review, Aerial Reconnaissance and/or Mine Site Survey identifies potential habitat, and species information is limited to inform an assessment of potential impacts from the proposed Project, species-specific surveys are likely to be required.</p>		preferred route are detailed in the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.
14.	Attachment A – Bat Hibernacula (Pg. 1)	The proposed desktop mapping approach only addresses known or suspected mine features and documented hibernacula. Additional detail is required on how the Proponent will identify potential anthropogenic structures that may provide suitable hibernacula.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.	The focus of the 2020 field work was to assess features that were mapped based on the desktop analysis, focusing on anthropogenic historic mine sites. In addition, Section 4.2.1 of the 2020 Field Work Plan indicates caves and crack/crevices in bedrock features identified in the field would also be investigated for potential use as bat hibernacula.
15.	Attachment A – Eastern Whip-poor-will breeding habitat (Pg. 2)	<p>The proposed Desktop Mapping Approach for Eastern Whip-poor-will is insufficient to identify all potential breeding habitat.</p> <p>Where available, the query should be developed using the current</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to incorporate additional considerations in the proposed query for mapping Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat; and an additional step to review	Eastern whip-poor-will desktop habitat mapping approach was revised to address this concern. The revised approach is detailed in the 2020 Field Work Summary and



Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>Ecological Land Classification (ELC) ecosite codes, not the older Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC) ecosite codes, in part because the newer ELC codes incorporate substrate specific characteristics which should be considered in the identification of Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat; and not all relevant ecosites are addressed through the previous FEC codes (i.e., anthropogenic or field and shrub ecosites).</p> <p>In developing the query and selecting ecosites, consideration should be given to the spatial arrangement of forested areas suitable for nesting and open areas suitable for foraging, which combined create suitable edge habitat. As such, the query should include all relevant ecosites, focussing on substrate characteristics (i.e., depth, texture, moisture regime), composition/structure (e.g., species composition/structure, canopy closure, understory) and suitable open areas.</p> <p>To assist in the development of an appropriate query, ecosites that meet the following characteristics should be included:</p>	<p>aerial imagery to confirm results of proposed query and map additional potential habitat not identified through the query.</p>	<p>Ongoing Desktop Analysis report.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify SAR habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.</p> <p>The species-specific surveys planned for the preferred route are detailed in the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan.</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>1. <b>Appropriate spatial arrangement of the following nesting and foraging habitat areas which provides suitable edge habitat</b> (e.g., nesting habitat is within 30 metres of open habitat):</p> <p>a. <u>Forested areas suitable for nesting</u>, such as:</p> <p>i. Conifer, deciduous, mixedwood forest stands 10 – 40 years;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very shallow, dry to fresh ecosites;</li> <li>• Dry, sandy ecosites;</li> <li>• Fresh sandy or dry to fresh coarse loam ecosites;</li> <li>• Dense forest cover (e.g., canopy closure &gt; 75%);</li> <li>• Sparse to moderate shrub and</li> </ul>		

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>herbaceous ground cover (e.g., understory <math>\leq</math> 50%).</p> <p>b. <u>Open areas suitable for foraging</u>, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Bedrock and sand barren ecosites;</li> <li>ii. Conifer, deciduous, mixedwood forest stands 0-10 years (e.g., recent cutovers and/or burns);               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparse forest cover (e.g., canopy closure <math>\leq</math> 25%);</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. Field and shrub ecosites (e.g., meadow, sparse shrub, shrub, etc.);</li> <li>iv. Anthropogenic clearings (e.g., agricultural fields, aggregate pits, etc.);</li> <li>v. Linear features (e.g., roads,</li> </ul>		

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>transmission lines, etc.);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Wetland ecosites (e.g., marsh, swamp, bog, fen, etc.);</li> <li>vii. Waterbodies (e.g., lakes, rivers, etc.).</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Habitat suitable for both nesting and foraging:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conifer, deciduous, mixedwood forest stands 10 – 30 years (i.e., young regenerating forests);               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Very shallow, dry to fresh ecosites;</li> <li>ii. Dry, sandy ecosites;</li> <li>iii. Fresh sandy or dry to fresh coarse loam ecosites;</li> <li>iv. Sparse to moderate forest cover (e.g., canopy closure ≤ 75%);</li> <li>v. Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous ground</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>cover (e.g., understory <math>\leq</math> 50%).</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, identification and mapping of Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat should also include a review of aerial imagery to confirm initial query and identify additional potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat.</p> <p>For more information on suitable habitat for Eastern Whip-poor-will, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) in Ontario</u></a> (MECP 2019)</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Eastern Whip-poor-will General Habitat Description</u></a> (Ontario 2013)</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Home Range Use, Habitat Selection, and Stress Physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (<i>Antrostomus vociferous</i>) at the Northern edge of their Range</u></a> (Rand 2014)</li> </ul>		

Thursday, November 12, 2020

**Comments Table**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line – Draft 2020 Workplan – Round 2 review

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**Agency:** Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Northwest Region

**Commenter Name and Job Title:** Londa Mortson, Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Response
1.	General	<p>Thank you for providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) with Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (HONI) responses to the ministry's comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project, and the updated 2020 Field Work Plan (both dated October 15, 2020).</p> <p>Our understanding is that the 2020 field work is already partially complete, and that reconnaissance flights are planned to occur next week (Oct. 20-24).</p> <p>Given that the reconnaissance flights are imminent, the ministry is providing comments today focused on the methodology for the reconnaissance work; we may also provide additional comment on other information in the updated 2020 Field Work Plan in the future.</p> <p>MNRF understands that HONI plans to conduct these flights using a single transect at a height of 6-15m above the tree tops, with crews viewing the landscape 500m either side of the flight line. As you may be aware, MNRF has extensive experience in conducting aerial inventories for various species / habitat features</p>	<p>The objectives of the aerial reconnaissance flights were to assess the terrestrial and aquatic features that were mapped based on the desktop analysis. As such this type of assessment of point and polygon features was not conducive to a transect flight method. Instead, the surveys were completed by meandering throughout the 1,150 m wide terrestrial study area associated with each alternative route. Flying height and speed were varied throughout the reconnaissance in an effort to view specific features and assist in the characterization or confirmation of habitats being assessed. The methodology described in the 2020 Field Work Summary and Ongoing Desktop Analysis report reflects this revised approach.</p> <p>Since receipt of these comments, Hydro One has also committed to an additional ground-based field program to support the alternative route evaluation as documented in the draft Alternative Routes Field Work Plan that was submitted to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021.</p> <p>The Alternative Routes Field Work Plan and the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, which were provided to MECP</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Response
		<p>and is concerned that employing this methodology to assess features will result in values / potential values being missed. For example, moose aerial inventories are flown at an average height of 150m above ground level and at this height observers are looking to thoroughly survey an area approximately 250m on either side of the machine. Flying at decreased heights will provide a greater level of detail for the immediate flight area but will limit the range of observations significantly.</p> <p>The 2020 Field Work Plan, draft Terms of Reference and additional detail and explanation provided by HONI state that HONI intends to rely solely on desktop analyses and information from aerial reconnaissance to inform its identification of the preferred transmission line corridor (i.e. no ground-based field studies to verify or further inform the analysis); as such, the potential shortcomings of the planned aerial reconnaissance methodology are significant. MNRF's ability to understand and validate any conclusions presented in the Environmental Assessment on the basis of information collected via aerial reconnaissance will be considerably constrained.</p>	<p>and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021, include additional approaches that will be used to identify species at risk habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project.</p>
2.	General	<p>As mentioned above, we are providing these comments today given that flights are planned to occur next week. Should HONI wish to discuss these comments in consideration of making changes to its reconnaissance methodology, we would be happy to do so.</p>	<p>Hydro One has committed to an additional ground-based field program to support the alternative route evaluation as documented in the draft Alternative Routes Field Work Plan that was submitted to MECP and MNRF for review on February 26, 2021.</p>



Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Response
		<p>We also wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our earlier comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan and draft Terms of Reference that aerial reconnaissance and desktop analysis are not sufficient to inform the selection of the preferred corridor given the lack of existing data points / information in the project area, and that on the ground surveys should be used to help fill in data gaps in order to better inform the preferred route selection.</p> <p>In closing, we trust that the above will be of assistance to Hydro One when conducted field work to be used during preparation of the EA, and selection of the preferred route. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any inquiries to Heather Nelson at <a href="mailto:heather.nelson@ontario.ca">heather.nelson@ontario.ca</a>.</p>	



# Meeting Notes

## Waasigan Transmission Line ToR Amendments Discussion

Waasigan Transmission Line Project

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**Meeting Date:** April 29, 2021                      **Time:** 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Conference Call

**Purpose:** Hydro One/MECP/MNRF to discuss the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference

**Attendees:**    **MECP (EAB):** Carolyn Lee, Andrew Evers, Kiran Anwar  
                         **MECP (SARB):** Kevin Green, Lindsay McColm, Nikki Boucher, Brandan Norman  
                         **MNRF:** Nancy Berglund, Melissa Mauro  
                         **Hydro One:** Bruce Hopper, Sarah Cohanim, Dayna Groom.  
                         **Golder Associates Ltd.:** Callum Squires, Tamara Skillen, Heather Kyer, Ashley Morton, Erin Greenaway  
                         **Dillon Consulting:** Don McKinnon

**Regrets:** Craig De Vito, Golder

**Issued By:** Heather Kyer, Golder

**Distribution:** All attendees and invitees

**Note:** Please advise if additional items are required to complete the discussion within five business days of issuance.

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Item	Description
1.	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Environmental Assessment Branch (EAB) scheduled this meeting to advance the discussion on key commitments and issues raised by the MECP Species at Risk Branch (SARB) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) that remain unresolved in the Terms of Reference (ToR).</li></ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MECP highlighted that key comments pertain to the approach to the alternative route evaluation, proposed field work, and the stepwise approach to be taken to evaluate alternatives using the proposed criteria and indicators (C&amp;Is) needed to select the preferred alternative.</li> <li>MECP (EAB) indicated that it has raised concerns and would like commitments integrated into the ToR, in addition to the ongoing discussions about the work plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>MECP SARB Comment Table</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MECP EAB walked through the MECP SARB comment table [SAR Branch Follow-up Comments on the EA Terms of Reference/February 16, 2021] and indicated that a main concern is regarding the field work with respect to presence/absence of SAR associated with the alternative routes.</li> <li>MECP SARB indicated that refinements to the C&amp;Is will be key to adequately address the net effects, in particular for potential SAR. From previous discussions, the proposed alternative route evaluation field work should be based on a SAR presence/absence approach.</li> <li>Golder mentioned that the field work plans are not required for the ToR and indicated that Hydro One has added commitments that it is willing to work with the agencies to progress the field work plans outside the ToR process. Golder also outlined the significant changes Hydro One has made to-date based on the agency comments, such as adding field work on the alternative routes and delaying the preferred route selection, which were significant modifications to the approach and overall project schedule. The hope was that the commitments in the comment/response tables would be sufficient to keep the ToR progressing in parallel with the field plans.</li> <li>MECP SARB recognizes that there has been much progress made on field planning; however, the wording of commitments is still of concern due to a lack of clarity. MECP SARB wants to see clarity about the commitments to do the field work as part of the alternative route evaluation process. Key concern is the lack of commitment in the ToR to more detailed presence/absence field studies on all alternative routes that would be undertaken as part of the route evaluation that would be detailed in field plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>MNRF Comment Table</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MECP EAB walked through the MNRF comment table [Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Table 1: Government Review Team Comment Summary Table MNRF Comments/Reviewed by: MNRF January 27, 2021] and indicated that the MNRF's comments were primarily about the field program, similar to MECP SARB concerns.</li> <li>MECP EAB stated that ideally any comment/response commitments will be incorporated into the commitments table going forward in the EA.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MECP EAB noted that Section 4 of the ToR provides high-level information so there is an opportunity to improve it by including the commitment for the alternative route field studies and what those would entail.</li> <li>• MNRF indicated that it would appreciate seeing a commitment for ground-based field work to support the alternative route evaluation. MNRF's concern is about filling in data gaps because there is not a lot of existing natural environment value information in that area, so being able to tease the information apart to see which route is preferred from a natural environment perspective will be challenging.</li> <li>• Golder mentioned the need to try to keep comments on the field work plans separate from the ToR process since the main items that were previously requested have been largely addressed in the commitments that Hydro One has made to-date.</li> <li>• MNRF acknowledged that Hydro One has incorporated ground-based field work into the alternative route analysis and has updated the field schedule to accommodate the ground-based field work, but indicated that the outstanding piece is the nature of field work that is proposed. Hydro One's current field plan is the confirmation of existing values. MNRF is interested in the identification of new values as a means to fill in data gaps. MNRF questioned whether this discussion on the nature of field work is best positioned to the field plan or the ToR.</li> <li>• MECP SARB reiterated that from a SARB perspective, the concerns are similar.</li> <li>• MECP SARB recognize that several steps have been taken, but the issue at hand is the filling of data gaps. From a ToR commitments perspective, although workplans have now been received, added clarity is still required in the ToR. It is not necessary to include the specific methodological details, but the types of field work that would be covered. They are looking for the ToR to provide a clearer description of the ground-based surveys (e.g., types of field work, their purpose and how the information will be used, but not methodologies) that will be completed to inform the alternative route evaluation.</li> <li>• MNRF stated that it is looking for the field work to align with the C&amp;Is; that is currently missing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion of ToR Sections and Amendment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dillon mentioned that ToR Section 6.3 does not specify a commitment to do the field work, but the commitment has been made in correspondence and discussions with the agencies. The necessity of the ToR to refine these details is not clear. The field plan specifics should not be required as part of the commitments in the ToR. Hydro One expressed that the ToR is the first step in the larger EA process and that this is not the only opportunity to feed into the process.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MECP EAB indicated that, as an example, Section 4 of the ToR indicates that field work <i>may</i> be undertaken and provides a preliminary list of surveys, but comments and responses have been raised since this and commitments should be included in the final ToR. MECP is looking for greater clarity on: what are the steps, what information will be collected, and a commitment that the field work plans will be finalized with the agencies.</li> <li>• MECP EAB indicated that the ToR should reflect a step-wise process of how the alternative analysis will work, e.g., desktop study informs data gaps to identify the field work, explain how it applies to the C&amp;Is, including concurrent engagement. There is a difference between the stepwise process and the details that will be documented in workplans.</li> <li>• Golder suggested that a revised version of the diagram presented to MECP and MNRF last fall could be added to the ToR. This diagram clearly shows how the alternatives assessment does not end until the EA is submitted and that the selection of the preferred 150 m wide alternative is just the first step in the overall consideration of alternatives.</li> <li>• MECP EAB indicated that MECP field work plan review typically occurs at the beginning of an EA after ToR approval. The ToR is the approved framework for how the EA will be prepared and is used it as a reference checklist when reviewing the EA. The revised field workplans contain commitments that address some of the draft ToR comments, but these commitments need to be clarified in the ToR.</li> <li>• MECP EAB clarified that it is not looking for field protocols for specific species as wording revisions to the ToR. MECP EAB suggested text that includes: steps of the alternatives analysis, including that the field work is intended to fill in technical gaps and the scope of those studies will be detailed in the field work plans; that Hydro One is committed to working with the agencies to plan the details; and when in the process Hydro One will be consulting, i.e., at what steps.</li> <li>• Dillon asked about whether the changes are to be made in the body of the ToR or if these changes could be addressed in the commitments table. Hydro One can add clarity to indicate the stepwise approach. The ToR would include some commitment to consider this approach to feed into the alternatives assessment.</li> <li>• MECP EAB said that for amendments made to the ToR, there would be a "time out" where the proponent has up to eight weeks to update the ToR. Where commitments have been made and Ministry staff are satisfied with the commitments, the preference would be to have them incorporated in the ToR, but they could just be in the commitments table. However, for bigger changes like the steps and new components that are being added, they would prefer to have the changes in the ToR document itself.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MECP EAB indicated that the proponent must send the Director a letter indicating that it is requesting a “time out” to amend the ToR in consultation with agencies and Indigenous communities. Once the above issues are addressed in the ToR, the proponent should send a red-lined version to the MECP.</li> <li>• MECP EAB indicated that ToR amendments will be completed through the issues resolution process directly with the MECP SARB and MNRF rather than a broad public consultation. The updated ToR then gets posted to Hydro One’s website.</li> <li>• MECP EAB indicated that they could help to identify some sections where additional wording might be helpful and provide some suggested text.</li> <li>• Dillon indicated that they will take a first attempt at modifying the language and highlight the areas of proposed changes.</li> <li>• Hydro One clarified that the request is for Hydro One to send in the formal letter, modify the document and then submit to the MECP.</li> <li>• MECP EAB confirmed that understanding. The letter will be documented in the project record.</li> <li>• MECP EAB mentioned that carrying out the relevant field work to support alternatives evaluation during the EA would facilitate permitting post-EA.</li> </ul>

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

*Italics* = existing wording in Oct. 13, 2020 Final ToR document

*Red Italics* = MNRF suggested edits to Oct. 13, 2020 Final ToR

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.
<p>HONI committed to the creation of a <b>Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan</b>: which will include detailed information about Hydro One’s plans for tree clearing including identification of areas to be cleared permanently vs. areas to be reforested, timing of and methods for clearing, management of cleared timber and brush, etc.</p>	<p>Yes (4.2.3.3 - Forestry)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p>	<p><i>A Timber Clearing / Harvest and Renewal Plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with applicable stakeholders.</i></p>
<p>HONI committed to the creation of an <b>Access plan</b>: which will include location and timing of use for all roads that will be used to facilitate the project, length and width of new roads and upgrades to existing roads, ownership, authority to use, permanency and plans for decommissioning.</p>	<p>Yes 5.1.1.2 (Access Roads)  4th paragraph</p>	<p><i>"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 (environmental/ social/ 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".</i></p>	<p>No</p>	<p><i>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 (environmental/ social/economic) of these changes and associated mitigation measures.</i></p>

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.
<p>HONI committed to the creation of plans/protocols for <b>undocumented values</b>. These will be used to addresses instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values are discovered in the field during construction and/or operation of the project.</p>	<p>Yes 8.2 (Potential effects and compliance monitoring) 3rd paragraph p. 115.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p>	<p><i>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).</i></p>
<p>HONI committed to creating an <b>Environmental Protection Plan</b>: which will be designed to confirm that the assumptions used in the assessment were correct (e.g. potential effects), to determine compliance with project permits/approvals and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.</p> <p>Note: I suspect there is some confusion with terminology associated with the monitoring language outlined in the ToR. The following terms need to be better defined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Monitoring Plan</li> <li>b) Environmental Protection Plan</li> <li>c) Environmental Monitoring Program</li> </ul> <p><u>To be clear</u>, MNRF would like the Monitoring Plan to address the</p>	<p>Yes 8.2 (Potential effects and compliance monitoring) 2nd/3rd paragraph p. 115.</p> <p>The ToR makes reference to the completion of an Environmental Protection Plan, however, what this product is and how it differs from a monitoring plan or environmental monitoring program is hard to understand.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p><i>"A construction and post-construction monitoring plan will be developed and included in the EA to ensure environmental and socio-economic commitments are met".</i></p>	<p>Yes #29</p>	



Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.
<p>requirements set out in MECP's Code of practice: preparing and reviewing EA's. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) confirm that assumptions used in the assessment were correct (e.g. potential effects),</li> <li>b) the effectiveness of mitigation measures</li> <li>c) compliance with enviro legislation, regulations, industry standards, project permits, and commitments made by HONI on both the ToR and EA.</li> </ul> <p>These appear to be included in the ToR.</p> <p>In addition, please be clear that the monitoring plan will evaluate both environmental and socio-economic commitments.</p>	<p>Please use consistent language.</p>			
<p>HONI has committed to identifying preliminary project details of ancillary infrastructure required for project construction.</p>	<p>The ToR refers to detailed design throughout document. However, it is implied that this will come later in the process (after EA is complete).</p> <p>Ideally, the ToR could be amended to clarify</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Not directly</p>	<p><i>HONI has hired engineers early in the EA to support a preliminary detailed design to identify ancillary infrastructure required for project construction. This preliminary detailed design (ancillary infrastructure) will be assessed as part of the EA.</i></p>

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.
	that HONI has hired engineers in advance of EA approval to identify the preliminary details of ancillary infrastructure for inclusion in the EA.			
HONI has committed to creating <b>Mitigation Plans</b> for each suite of MNRF Values (SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR and Protected Areas)	Yes, sort of: Section 6.3, p. 109 2nd paragraph "... ; however, the need for site-specific mitigation measures will be evaluated and applied to the preferred route, as required."	Suggested wording to add to section 7.2 Mitigation Measures, p.113. <i>"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."</i>	Yes #27	Consider refining existing commitment to reflect the dual nature of MNRF's request: <i>"Develop mitigation plans <del>measures</del> for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e. SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR and Protected Areas) for use <del>implementation</del> 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.</i>
MNRF would like HONI to commit to filling in data gaps using ground-based field work. Data gaps to be filled are those values identified in the Criteria and Indicators table. These new values should	No	Section 4.2: <i>"Field work <del>may</del> will be undertaken to support the alternative route evaluation during the EA. An aerial... constraints to development. Ground-based field surveys will also be used to</i>	No	Consider adding the following commitments associated with section 6.3 (alternative routes assessment).

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.
<p>be used to support the Alternative Routes Analysis.</p>		<p><i>fill in natural heritage data gaps by confirming the presence of candidate values identified using GIS analysis (e.g. SWH)... Consultation on field work plans.."</i></p> <p>Section 6.3, last sentence of 2nd paragraph:  <i>"Spatial indicator data will be developed for each of the alternative routes relying on preliminary results of the 2020 and 2021 field programs and existing data, such as ....."</i></p> <p>Section 7.1 (second last paragraph)  <i>"Desktop information and field data collected during the 2020 and 2021 initial field programs will inform the alternative route evaluation process."</i></p>		<p><i>Field data from 2020 and 2021 field studies will be used in the evaluation of the alternative routes.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p>
<p>HONI has committed to using Provincial Ecosites as the base map to identify natural heritage values within the EA. Similarly, Provincial Ecosites will be used when developing a stratified field sampling design.</p>	<p>Somewhat</p>	<p>Add provincial ecosite data (source Forest Resource Inventory) to table 4-1. Accessed April 9, 2021.</p> <p>** commitment to use provincial ecosite data needs to be clear within both the 2021 alternative routes field plan, and the 2021-2022 field plan. Use of provincial ecosite data should be identified both as a data source,</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Specific wording is not needed in appendix 5. Commitment #25 "refine alternative route evaluation criteria, indicators and data sources in consultation with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and stakeholders" is sufficient.</p>

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.
		and as the basis for developing a stratified sample design.		
HONI commits to working 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.		N/A	No	Please include a commitment to working with Sustainable Forestry License 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.

**Table 1: Government Review Team Comment Summary Table MNRF Comments**

**Proposal:** Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project  
**Proponent:** Hydro One  
**Date:** Revised December 18, 2020

**Reviewed by:** MNRF May 25th, 2021

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response	Hydro One (March 2, 2021)	MNRF Response (Amendments to ToR - May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
<i>Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry</i>						
1	Londa Mortson, Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region  (Oct 16, 2020 letter)	<p>MNRF understands that HONI plans to conduct these flights using a single transect at a height of 6-15m above the tree tops, with crews viewing the landscape 500m either side of the flight line. As you may be aware, MNRF has extensive experience in conducting aerial inventories for various species / habitat features and is concerned that employing this methodology to assess features will result in values / potential values being missed. For example, moose aerial inventories are flown at an average height of 150m above ground level and at this height observers are looking to thoroughly survey an area approximately 250m on either side of the machine. Flying at decreased heights will provide a greater level of detail for the immediate flight area but will limit the range of observations significantly.</p> <p>The 2020 Field Work Plan, draft Terms of Reference and additional detail and explanation provided by HONI state that HONI intends to rely solely on desktop analyses and information from aerial reconnaissance to inform its identification of the preferred transmission line corridor (i.e. no ground-based field studies to verify or further inform the analysis); as such, the potential shortcomings of the planned aerial reconnaissance methodology are significant. MNRF's ability to understand and validate any conclusions presented in the Environmental Assessment on the basis of information collected via aerial reconnaissance will be considerably constrained.</p>	<p>Comments are noted and follow-up conversations will be had with the MNRF related to the field program.</p> <p>The aerial surveys were conducted in a fashion that involved a meandering pattern to get an overview of all wildlife, vegetation and watercourse/waterbody features that intersected with the study area, which was a 500 m buffer on either side of each 150 m-wide route alternative. Flight height varied depending on the ability to see the characteristics of the specific features that were being identified (e.g., watercourse width, occurrence of bedrock openings).</p> <p>Based on requests from the MECP Species at Risk Branch (SARB) and MNRF, and as discussed with the agencies in November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities in early 2021 for review prior to initiating the program.</p>	Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)	Hydro One has committed to an additional field program to support the alternative route evaluation and will be providing two rounds of review (four weeks per round of review) prior to finalizing the field work plan to allow the MNRF to provide input to address its concerns (commitment made at meeting between MECP SARB, MNRF and Hydro One on February 22, 2021). As previously communicated by the MECP, a final field work plan is not required to receive ToR approval.	<p>MNRF is satisfied with the following amendments to ToR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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)</li> <li>•Field data from 2020 and 2021 field studies will be used in the evaluation of the alternative routes.</li> <li>•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).</li> </ul>

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		<p>We also wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our earlier comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan and draft Terms of Reference that aerial reconnaissance and desktop analysis are not sufficient to inform the selection of the preferred corridor given the lack of existing data points / information in the project area, and that on the ground surveys should be used to help fill in data gaps in order to better inform the preferred route selection.</p>	<p>The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.</p> <p>At this time, it is proposed that the program be completed in a seasonally appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential species at risk (SAR) habitat along each alternative route will be visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossings and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas). Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p>			

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2	Londa Mortson, Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region  (November 16, 2020 cover letter)	<p><b>Commitments:</b></p> <p>The MNRF appreciates the commitments made by HONI to create the following plans as part of the future Environmental Assessment (EA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access plan:</b> which will include location and timing of use for all roads that will be used to facilitate the project, length and width of new roads and upgrades to existing roads, ownership, authority to use, permanency and plans for decommissioning.</li> <li>• <b>Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan:</b> which will include detailed information about Hydro One's plans for tree clearing including identification of areas to be cleared permanently vs. areas to be reforested, timing of and methods for clearing, management of cleared timber and brush, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Field Work Plans:</b> which will include survey protocols for ground-based studies of the preferred route.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Protection Plan:</b> which will be designed to confirm that the assumptions used in the assessment were correct, to determine compliance with project permits/approvals and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.</li> <li>• <b>Undocumented values:</b> which will include plans/protocols HONI will use to address instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values are discovered in the field during construction and/or operation of the project.</li> </ul>	Comments noted.	MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions	Not applicable.	<p>MNRF is satisfied with HONI's amendments to the ToR committing to the following plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Timber Clearing/Harvest Renewal</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Plan</li> <li>• Field work plans</li> <li>• Undocumented values</li> </ul>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response	Hydro One (March 2, 2021)	MNRF Response (Amendments to ToR - May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
3		<p><b><u>Outstanding Concerns:</u></b></p> <p>• <b>Field Work Plan:</b> As noted above, MNRF appreciates the commitment to conduct ground-based field surveys to inform the nets effects assessment of the preferred route. That said, MNRF reiterates that ground-based field surveys would also benefit the alternative route analysis by verifying/ground-truthing assumptions and conclusions reached using information from desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance.</p>	<p>Based on requests from the MECP- SARB and MNRF, and as discussed with the agencies in November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities in early 2021 for review prior to initiating the program.</p> <p>The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)</p>	<p>Hydro One has committed to an additional field program to support the alternative route evaluation and will be providing two rounds of review (four weeks per round of review) prior to finalizing the field work plan to allow the MNRF to provide input to address its concerns (commitment made at meeting between MECP SARB, MNRF and Hydro One on February 22, 2021). As previously communicated by the MECP, a final field work plan is not required to receive ToR approval.</p>	<p>MNRF is satisfied with the following amendments to ToR:</p> <p>•Field data from 2020 and 2021 field studies will be used in the evaluation of the alternative routes.</p>
			<p>At this time, it is proposed that the program be completed in a seasonally appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential SAR habitat along each alternative route will be visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossing and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas).</p> <p>Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p>			



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4		<p>• <b>Mitigation Plans for MNRF Values:</b> During the review of the Draft ToR MNRF provided a comment that the EA should assess project-level net effects but also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures.</p> <p>For clarity, MNRF is not asking for a mitigation plan for each individual feature per se; rather, the ministry is asking that the EA provide different mitigation plans for each type of natural heritage value such as: 1) Significant Wildlife Habitat, 2) Provincially Significant Wetlands, 3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, 4) Protected Areas, 5) Species at Risk, 6) Fish Habitat.</p>	<p>Hydro One can confirm that mitigation plans will be included in the EA Report for the following natural heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant Wildlife Habitat;</li> <li>• Provincially Significant Wetlands;</li> <li>• Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;</li> <li>• Protected Areas;</li> <li>• Species at Risk; and</li> <li>• Fish Habitat.</li> </ul>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions.</p> <p>See also cover letter item #2 for clarification re: mitigation plans for locations with values of particular significance/ importance.</p>	<p>Refer to comment #15 for additional information on site-specific design detail and the assessment of values of particular significance/importance.</p>	<p>MNRF is satisfied with HONI's amendment to the ToR stating:</p> <p>"Develop mitigation plans for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e. SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR 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."</p>
		<p>These mitigation plans can then used at specific value locations to identify the set of mitigation measures that are most appropriate for that type of feature at that location. This would result in a specific mitigation approach for each value.</p> <p>In addition to helping the MNRF understand the net effects of the various project components on natural heritage values, these plans will help to facilitate efficient issuance of future permits and approvals for this project.</p> <p>Therefore, we strongly recommend that HONI include a commitment to provide these mitigation plans in the EA.</p>				
5		<p>• <b>Supporting Infrastructure:</b> Several MNRF comments on the draft ToR requested that a commitment be made to provide greater detail in the EA about the project design in order to ensure a thorough accounting of the effects of the project, and to support future MNRF permitting.</p> <p>While MNRF understands that HONI has been directed by the IESO to only develop the Project and has not yet been awarded construction rights, the EA should describe and assess the impact of ancillary infrastructure required for project construction. This information will help enable MNRF to determine, at the end of the EA process, the feasibility of being able to issue permits and approvals required to implement the project.</p> <p>MNRF continues to strongly recommend that HONI provide the additional information we have requested during the EA. Lack of project details will result in more information being required at the permitting stage and, potentially, the need to carry out additional consultation with First Nations and with other potentially affected parties. This will lengthen the permitting process and could have implications to construction scheduling.</p>	<p>As previously noted, Hydro One will strive to provide as much Project-specific detail as possible during the EA.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	

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6		<p>• <b>Criteria and Indicators:</b> MNRF appreciates that the final ToR expands greatly on the criteria and indicators HONI plans to use for Alternative Route Evaluation (Appendix C) and Net Effects Assessment (Appendix D).</p> <p>Our comments provide recommendations for additional criteria and refinements of existing criteria to ensure that MNRF's interests are addressed in the EA for the alternative route selection phase of the project.</p> <p>For example, in the current list of indicators, all "species of conservation concern" (an important component of significant wildlife habitat), have been grouped into one indicator. This indicator should be broken down into separate criteria for each individual species because the impact of the project to species of conservation concern varies depending on whether the species is, for example, a bird, vs. an animal vs. an insect. It is inappropriate to group all these types of species together in one indicator as the impacts and mitigation measures would not be the same.</p> <p>Further, MNRF notes that the list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) differ in some instances. We would appreciate explanation in the ToR and EA as to the rationale for those.</p> <p>MNRF would welcome an opportunity to discuss criteria and indicators in greater detail with HONI to ensure that that both the alternative route selection, and preferred alternative analysis are determined with an appropriate consideration of the full range of MNRF interests.</p>	<p>Hydro One incorporated MNRF's comments on the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators provided in the draft ToR. As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators.</p> <p>The list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) do in fact differ in some cases depending on data availability and context. We note that the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators are typically based on "quantifiable" attributes (e.g., things that can be measured effectively), whereas the effects assessment criteria and indicators for the preferred route include both quantitative and qualitative elements which rely on more detailed data collected throughout the EA process (e.g., species-specific field surveys).</p>	MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes /actions	Not applicable.	

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7		<p>• <b>The Former Steep Rock Mine Site:</b> MNRF continues to have concerns about the feasibility of Alternative Route 2A as it is based on the current landscape of the former Steep Rock site mine, not its anticipated future state once rehabilitation is complete.</p> <p>As HONI's vision of the transmission line in this area may not be achievable re-routing or re-consideration of alternative 2A may be needed. Further, route 2A should not be presented as a viable alternative route without first assessing how this change of landscape at the Steep Rock site affects route feasibility.</p>	<p>As noted in the ToR and in previous responses to the MNRF, the alternative routes identified in the ToR are conceptual only and will be evaluated during the EA, including the feasibility of constructing one in the vicinity of the former Steep Rock Mine site.</p> <p>The routes identified in the ToR are subject to revision during the EA as additional information becomes available and consultation continues. Your comments will be considered as part of the alternative route evaluation to be undertaken during the EA. In addition, Hydro One will request from the MNRF any available data (e.g., shapefiles) of the former Steep Rock Mine area in order to consider all available data in the alternative route evaluation.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	
8		<p>• <b>Impacts to the Remote Tourism Industry:</b> As mentioned in review of the draft ToR, the EA should consider how access in the project area is anticipated to change as a result of the proposed project, and what measures will be taken to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts resulting from access changes (i.e. increases in levels of access or creation of new unwanted access) near remote tourism lakes.</p> <p>For example, some roads may have access restrictions to protect the tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this when planning how it will carry out the project.</p>	<p>Comment noted; will be considered in the EA.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	

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9		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The ToR describes the existing environment (Description of Existing Environment) using LandCover data.</p> <p>MNRF recommends that HONI use the Provincial Ecosites that are part of Ontario's Ecological Land Classification when describing the terrestrial environment in the EA. The provincial ecosites are available through Forest Resource Inventories (FRI) and provide finer ecological resolution than the digitally derived LandCover. In addition, the provincial ecosites are the ecological units employed to describe and confirm Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) when using Ecoregional Criteria Schedules.</p> <p>Related: MNRF recommends that the FRI be used to stratify the study area into ecological units at the Provincial Ecosite scale. Stratification can then be used to develop a field program to describe the baseline conditions of the environment and to identify natural resource values to be considered in the EA. The field program should contain an appropriate number of surveys (e.g. vegetation, breeding bird) to adequately describe the environment of the study area, as well as areas that may contain SWH.</p> <p>Data obtained will enable HONI to distinguish different types of vegetation and habitats at a finer scale in order to more accurately delineate SWH and other natural heritage values, and to ensure that impacts to values are identified and accounted for.</p>	<p>The provincial ecosites, available through the most up to date FRI data, will be used as base mapping when describing the terrestrial environment and SWH, and a stratified field sampling design will be employed to achieve appropriate field survey coverage within the various ecosites occurring in the study areas.</p> <p>Hydro One will follow-up with the MNRF to confirm whether there is more recent FRI data than the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog River – Matawin – 2012;</li> <li>• Lakehead – 2009;</li> <li>• Quetico Provincial Park – 2009;</li> <li>• Sapawe – 2013;</li> <li>• Crossroute – 2010;</li> <li>• Wabigoon – 2010;</li> <li>• English River – 2013; and</li> <li>• Dryden – 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	
		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF recommends that the EA describe terrestrial environment baseline conditions using the Provincial Ecosites in order to better capture variation across the landscape, and to better identify natural heritage values (e.g. SWH).</p> <p>The MNRF strongly recommends that a stratified field sampling method be employed to achieve appropriate field surveys / coverage that will better describe baseline conditions, supplement existing wildlife and vegetation values, and assess, consider and mitigate the net effects of the proposed project.</p>				

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10		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> As part of the review of the Draft ToR the MNRF provided several comments relating to the need for field plans/studies in order to inform the future EA. (Comment ID #6, 15)</p> <p>A field plan containing additional information about proposed field studies was provided to MNRF (Technical Memorandum – Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan, prepared by Golder Associates Ltd, dated August 21, 2020). MNRF has reviewed this document within the context of the Terms of Reference review and remains concerned that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HONI continues to propose that only information from aerial reconnaissance (and desktop analyses) will be used in the Alternative Route Evaluation and determination of the preferred route. Field studies should be conducted to ground-truth assumptions made based on desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance; and</li> <li>2. the lack of detail about the proposed 2021-2022 field work program and methodologies does not allow MNRF to evaluate whether the proposed field program (including</li> </ol>	<p>Based on requests from MECP-SARB, MNRF and Indigenous communities, and as discussed with the agencies in November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities in early 2021 for review prior to initiating the program.</p> <p>The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)</p>	<p>Hydro One has committed to an additional field program to support the alternative route evaluation and will be providing two rounds of review (four weeks per round) prior to finalizing the field work plan to allow the MNRF to provide input to address its concerns (commitment made at meeting between MECP SARB, MNRF and Hydro One on February 22, 2021). As previously communicated by the MECP, a final field work plan is not required to receive ToR approval.</p>	<p>MNRF is satisfied with the above amendments to the TOR (See comment #1).</p>

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		<p>ground-based studies), will enable HONI to accurately characterize conditions along the preferred route, identify potential impacts of the proposed project and, therefore, develop effective avoidance and/or mitigation measures to minimize those impacts.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF reiterates its earlier recommendation that field work be conducted to inform both the Alternative Route Evaluation (and selection of the preferred route), and the Impact Assessment for the preferred route.</p>	<p>At this time, it is proposed that the program be completed in a seasonally appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential SAR habitat along each alternative route will be visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecocites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossings and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas).</p> <p>Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p> <p>Hydro One also continues to commit to collecting detailed natural heritage data along the preferred route as outlined in the ToR in support of the net effects assessment of the preferred route.</p> <p>Hydro One will provide regulatory agencies with a 2021-2022 field work plan early in 2021, prior to field surveys starting, for their review and comment.</p>			

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11		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Related to the above comment on fields plans, and as previously stated, MNRF does not consider aerial reconnaissance an adequate tool to assess the distribution and current state of fish and fish habitat. (Comment ID #16)</p> <p>MNRF is encouraged that fish community and water quality sampling, as well as fish habitat assessment will be completed for a subset of water crossing sites. However, the field plan seen to date does not indicate how water crossing sites will be selected. MNRF has several recommendations associated with the selection of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNRF's principal interest regarding water crossings is in sites where there will be work in water, or below the high-water mark. As a result, surveying sites where a clear-span bridge will be used is not necessary and may not be an effective use of survey resources.</li> <li>• MNRF is particularly interested in short-reach small watercourses connected to cold water streams, which may provide critical young-of-year habitat for brook trout. Many of these are seasonal and will not appear in a fall survey; those that do may not have fish present in a fall field survey. For this reason, a single fall field survey will not be considered definitive / adequate to support future permitting.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, a reminder that beaver dams are transient and that the presence of a beaver dam on a watercourse does not necessarily indicate that there are no fish upstream of the dam.</p>	<p>More detail about the site selection process for future field programs will be discussed within the 2021-2022 field work plans.</p> <p>Hydro One agrees that surveys will target areas where work is anticipated below the high watermark, including short reach small watercourses, where applicable.</p> <p>The comment regarding beaver dams is noted.</p> <p>The characterization of each potential waterbody will be conservative when determining the presence/absence of fish and it is noted that the habitat present at the time of the surveys may not reflect the year-round habitat available.</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)</p>	<p>Hydro One has committed to an additional field program to support the alternative route evaluation and will be providing two rounds of review (four weeks per round) prior to finalizing the field work plan to allow the MNRF to provide input to address its concerns (commitment made at meeting between MECP SARB, MNRF and Hydro One on February 22, 2021). As previously communicated by the MECP, a final field work plan is not required to receive ToR approval.</p>	<p>MNRF is satisfied with the above amendments to ToR. (See comment #1)</p>
		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF recommends focusing water crossing sampling on sites that may require working in water or below the high-water mark. In addition, the timing of a survey or specific conditions of a waterbody may not enable the EA to accurately characterize a system as having an absence of fish. Additional work to confirm a true absence of fish (or fish species) may be needed where work is planned outside of the timing window.</p>				

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12		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main report</p> <p>Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use (Pg. 49)</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 Summary of study to be completed during EA</p> <p>Table 4-4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF comments on the draft ToR noted that remote tourism is an important part of the economy in the area of the proposed transmission line and, as such, the EA should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consider how access is anticipated to change (e.g. creation of new access roads as well as the transmission line corridor itself) as a result of the project; and</li> <li>- identify measures proposed to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts of those changes particularly as it relates to remote tourism</li> </ul>	Comment noted; will be considered in the EA.	The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage	Not applicable.	
		<p>(Comment ID# 35, 36).</p> <p>MNRF appreciates that HONI provided a general response to these comments; however, MNRF wishes to emphasize the following aspects of those original comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some roads may have access restrictions to protect tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this in planning how it will implement the project.</li> </ul>				



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13		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main report, 4.2.3.4 Aesthetics</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The following comment was provided as part of the draft ToR review:</p> <p>Consider using viewshed/ viewscape analysis to depict impacts to aesthetics and find ways to mitigate these impacts. (Comment ID #38)</p> <p>The draft response to this comment stated that viewshed and/or viewscape analysis would be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route.</p> <p>MNRF agrees that that this is a reasonable approach but notes that this is not what is described in the final ToR.</p> <p>The Final ToR limits viewshed and/or viewscape analysis to only assessing aesthetic impacts to Provincial Parks or Conservation Reserves. MNRF considers that the viewshed and/or viewscape analysis should be used toward determining the impacts of the project on remote tourism lakes and operators as well.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Use viewshed and/or viewscape analysis to model aesthetic impacts on remote tourism lakes and operators and consider measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate those impacts.</p>	<p>Hydro One can confirm that viewshed and/or viewscape analysis will not be limited to provincial parks and conservation reserves and will include other sensitive receptors, such as remote tourism operations, where appropriate.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	

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14		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.3.3 Forestry (Pg. 50)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF's comments on the draft ToR identified that the project area passes through six different Forest Management Planning (FMP) areas, run by different Sustainable Forest Licence Holders (SFL). (Comment ID # 43)</p> <p>MNRF is encouraged by HONI's subsequent commitment to consult with the SLF holders for each of these forests and to review these FMPs.</p> <p>MNRF would, however, like to emphasize that a key part of this comment is to encourage HONI to work with the SFLs to find efficiencies that will decrease the impact of the transmission line project on the environment:</p> <p><i>"In addition, there may be opportunities to coordinate and find efficiencies between the Waasigan project and forest operations related to road construction, harvest, and investment into renewal that will reduce impacts on natural values.</i></p> <p><i>For example, there may be a planned forest access road that might be beneficial to the Waasigan project during the construction period – aligning the construction of this road to suit both purposes may be warranted."</i></p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF strongly recommends that HONI work with Sustainable Forestry Licence Holders to find efficiencies that will reduce the overall impacts on the environment (for example: shared use of existing or new/planned roads and water crossings).</p>	<p>Hydro One commits to working 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.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	

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15		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.3.1 (Pg. 70)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> During review of the Draft ToR MNRF provided a comment that the EA should assess project-level net effects and also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures (Comment ID #12):</p> <p><b>"Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> <i>Please update the ToR to specifically identify that the EA will address sites specific effects and mitigation measures, as well as the cumulative net effects following mitigation measures at the project level."</i></p> <p>MNRF appreciates HONI's response to this comment but would like to clarify the comment as it appears that the intent of it may not have been understood.</p> <p>MNRF was not asking for a mitigation plan for each individual value/feature per se; rather, the ministry strongly advises that the EA provide a mitigation plan specific to each type of natural heritage value, such as: 1) Significant Wildlife Habitat, 2) Provincially Significant Wetlands, 3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, 4) Protected Areas, 5) Species at Risk, 6) Fish Habitat. These mitigation plans can then be used / referred to at each specific value location to identify the set of mitigation measures that are most appropriate for that type of feature at that location. This would result in a specific mitigation approach for each value.</p> <p>In addition to helping the MNRF understand the net effects of the various project components on natural heritage values, these plans will help to facilitate efficient issuance of future permits and approvals for this project.</p>	<p>Hydro One can confirm that mitigation plans will be included in the EA Report for the following natural heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant Wildlife Habitat;</li> <li>• Provincially Significant Wetlands;</li> <li>• Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;</li> <li>• Protected Areas;</li> <li>• Species at Risk; and</li> <li>• Fish Habitat.</li> </ul> <p>Hydro One can also confirm that the net effects of the project on natural heritage values will be carried through to the cumulative effects assessment, which will assess the project-level net effects that remain following consideration of mitigation measures, including those identified in the mitigation plans listed above.</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #2)</p>	<p>As described during the meeting with MECP SARB, MNRF and Hydro One on February 22, 2021, Hydro One has engaged engineering contractors to support the design of the project, which is typically done closer to, or after, EA approval. This will allow more detailed, site-specific design information to be assessed in the EA, informing both the identification of site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures. Hydro One commits to engaging with MNRF to identify values of particular significance/importance to its mandate. Further, Hydro One has also previously committed to provide the EA methodology section to agencies for review and input prior to release of the draft EA report.</p>	<p>MNRF is satisfied with the following ToR amendments:</p> <p>Develop mitigation plans for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e. SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR 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.</p>
		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> To enable full understanding of the net effects of the project on natural heritage values and to support future permit discussions, include in the EA mitigation plans for each of the following types of natural heritage values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Significant Wildlife Habitat</li> <li>2) Provincially Significant Wetlands</li> <li>3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests</li> <li>4) Protected Areas</li> <li>5) Species at Risk</li> <li>6) Fish Habitat.</li> </ol>				

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16		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 6.2.2.1 Section 1 – City of TBay to Town of Atikokan (Pg. 92)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Upon review of the draft ToR the MNRF inquired about the preference to twin the existing 230 kV line for the approx. 100 km stretch from West of the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake and why twinning of the 115 kV line where it diverges from the 230 kV line was not considered in this stretch. (Comment ID #54)</p> <p>MNRF is of the view that twinning of both the 230 kV and of the 115 kV lines should be considered as options for evaluation within this stretch given that consideration of alternatives to determine and rationalize the selection of the preferred route is a key component of the EA.</p> <p>HONI's response to this comment on the draft ToR was "TBC" which we understand to mean "to be confirmed." As such, MNRF is reiterating this comment on the formal ToR submission.</p>	<p>Please note that a final copy of the comment and response table was included in the Record of Consultation as Appendix M-1. The table provided by the MNRF with these most recent comments is dated early September 2020, which was not a final copy, so some items were still being confirmed.</p> <p>The comment related to routing in this area was addressed by way of conference call with the MNRF on September 4, 2020, where rationale was provided for the lack of viable routes in this specific area. It was suggested by the MNRF to include this information in the proposed ToR which was completed and is copied below for reference. Minutes from the conference call can be provided, if required.</p>	MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions	Not applicable.	

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		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The EA should evaluate additional alternative routes in Section 1 (Thunder Bay to Atikokan) within the section from the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake, including the option of twinning along the existing 115 kV line where it deviates from the 230 kV line, or provide discussion/rationale as to why this is not possible.</p> <p>This evaluation will help to support conclusions presented in the EA about the impacts of the preferred route relative to others considered including, for example, impacts to natural heritage and other MNRF interests.</p>	<p>This comment was further clarified by Hydro One in response to a letter received from Londa Mortson on September 29, 2020, and a response was provided in Appendix M-1 of the Record of Consultation under the MNRF heading (pdf. Page 1788).</p> <p>Excerpt from ToR Section 6.2.2.1: Section 1 – City of Thunder Bay (Lakehead TS) to the Town of Atikokan (Mackenzie TS):</p> <p><i>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 alternative 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.</i></p>			

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			<p><i>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 k V transmission line ROW, following the rail line was not explored further as an alternative route.</i></p>			
17		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Section 6.2.2.2 Section 2 - Town of Atikokan (Pg. 98)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> As raised during the draft ToR review (Comment ID # 59; Original MNRf comment #53), the feasibility of Alternative Route 2A will need to consider not only the current landscape around the Steep Rock site, but also its future state following site rehabilitation.</p> <p>We reiterate that the proposed transmission line location and transmission line infrastructure must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the current site and future landscape of the former Pit Lakes (Errington, Hogarth, and Caland) and adjoining waterbodies.</li> <li>• the estimated final pit lake elevations 394.00 m (occurring by 2070 or possibly earlier depending on the MNRf rehabilitation strategy) the estimated lake outline, based on the contour 394.00 m,</li> <li>• the proper flood hazard limit offsets (to be determined using MNRf flood limits policy documents).</li> <li>• Dam structures located within the Steep Rock site</li> </ul>	<p>All alternative routes will be fully evaluated as part of the EA, including alternative Route 2A, and the MNRf's comments will be further solicited and considered during the evaluation process. Should it be determined that it is not feasible to construct a transmission line in this area during the evaluation, the route will be removed from further consideration.</p>	<p>The MNRf is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	

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		<p>Failure to recognize the current and future conditions may lead to costly impacts to Hydro One's transmission line infrastructure.</p> <p>HONI has not yet responded as to how this information will be used to modify the Alternative Route Evaluation process in this area (the response simply states that HONI will consult with the MNRF during the EA on this matter).</p> <p>The current vision for the transmission line in this area may not be possible given future lake size (approximately 4.5 km north to south; 1,200 ha).</p> <p>MNRF advises that Route 2A should not be presented as a viable alternative route without first assessing how this change of landscape at the Steep Rock site affects its viability/location/constructability.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Fully consider and then provide details within the EA describing to how Route 2A takes into account the future landscape changes at the former Steep Rock Mine area.</p>				
18		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 11.0 Other Permits, Approvals and Authorizations (Pg. 199)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF reiterates it earlier comment on the draft ToR that providing sufficient information in the EA about all components of the project will enable more efficient and timelier issuance of future permits. (Comment ID # 73)</p> <p>MNRF understands from HONI that the IESO has directed HONI only to develop the Project, and that HONI has not yet been awarded construction rights. However, to present a full accounting of the effects of the project in the EA, and to enable MNRF to determine the feasibility of being able to issue permits and other authorizations required to implement the project at the end of the EA, details must be provided in the EA about access roads and all other ancillary infrastructure proposed on Crown lands or that involve the use of Crown resources to implement the project.</p> <p>To this end, MNRF appreciates that HONI has committed to providing information in the EA about the where, how and when access roads and trails will be needed, how temporary access roads will be decommissioned and restored, and rationale for same.</p> <p>MNRF strongly recommends that similar information be provided for proposed water crossings i.e. identify the type of crossing that HONI proposes to use at key crossing locations (e.g., temporary bridges, culverts,</p>	<p>As described in Section 5.1.1.2 of the ToR, "access roads will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA and will form part of a preliminary Access Plan that will be developed based on available information."</p> <p>As previously noted, Hydro One will strive to provide as much project-specific detail as possible during the EA, including information about the water crossings and the types of water crossing structures that may be used for the project at different types of locations/scenarios.</p> <p>Where avoidance is not possible, the EA will include an assessment of the installation of the water crossings structures at different types of locations, as well as the decommissioning and restoration of the temporary water crossings.</p> <p>A mitigation plan will be developed for Fish Habitat to identify mitigation measures to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, and these measures will be considered in the net effects assessment.</p>	The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage	Not applicable.	

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		ice bridges, etc.) and, for all other crossings, identifies the types of structure/crossings that it proposes to use for crossings under varying scenarios. Details on mitigation measures for each type of installation to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, decommissioning and rehabilitation measures (where applicable for temporary access) should also be provided.				
		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> In addition to, or as part of, the access plan, provide information on water crossings that identifies the types of water crossing structures may be used for the project at different types of locations/scenarios, mitigation measures for each type of installation in order to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, and how these water crossing will be decommissioned and areas restored once construction is complete and they are no longer required.</p>				
19		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main report, Table 11-1 (Pg. 203)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Thank you for clarifying this section of the table as it relates to MNRFs mandate. (Comment ID # 74, 75, 76)</p> <p>We suggest additional edits to further clarify and organize permit and authorization requirements by legislation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF suggests that Table 11.1 is modified as follows:</p> <p>Agency: MNRF</p> <p>Other Relevant Provincial Legislations, Permit, Approvals and Authorization:</p>	The preliminary list of anticipated permits, approvals and/or authorizations was updated based on MNRF comments received during the draft ToR review. It is suggested that further updates be made as part of the EA once additional project information becomes available (e.g., identification of a preferred route) and specific permitting requirements are confirmed.	MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions	Not applicable.	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Lands Act, 1990 (PLA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work Permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shoreland work on private or Crown lands</li> <li>▪ Within waterbodies on private or Crown lands</li> <li>▪ Roads, trails and water crossings</li> <li>▪ Construction or placement of a building</li> <li>▪ Any other activities that require a work permit as per O reg 239/13: Activities on Public Lands and Shore Lands- Work Permits and Exemptions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Occupational Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land Use Permits (construction camps, laydown areas, temporary accommodation camps, aggregate exploration activities etc.)</li> <li>▪ Other forms of tenure for ROW (easement, lease, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Areas for other project requirements that cannot meet the requirements as set in Ontario Regulation 161/17: Occupation of Public Lands under section 21.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Letters of Authorization</li> <li>▪ Travel Permits</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work permit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ for clearing within 300m of a forest or woodland,</li> <li>▪ work and burn authorization for clearing and burning of cleared vegetation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 (FWCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Licence to Collect Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collection Permit to allow for the taking and transferring of fish or wildlife</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Authorization should the Project affect nesting areas, beavers or black bears.</li> <li>• Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994 (CFSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forest Resource Licence to harvest timber on Crown lands and private lands where trees are owned by the Crown</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Aggregate Resources Act, 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permit for the extraction of aggregate on Crown land</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, 1990 (LRIA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water Crossings on private land, as applicable</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Amendments to CLUPA policies as required.</li> </ul>				

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20		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 5.2.2 (Pg. 83)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> During the operation phase of the project is it likely that structure replacements and structure maintenance will also be required? This is not mentioned in the ToR as a type of maintenance activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, maintenance and replacement of structures typically requires the re-establishment of access roads and water crossings. These roads and water crossing may require permits and authorization from the MNRF prior to their construction/use.</p> <p>This should be mentioned and considered within the ToR and future EA as part of the operational phase of the project.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Identify and consider maintenance and replacement of structures, including those which may require the re-establishment of access roads and water crossings, in the ToR and future EA as part of the operational phase of the project. Note in the EA documentation that roads and water crossing may require permits and authorization from the MNRF prior to their construction.</p>	<p>Although structure repairs and structure replacements are expected to be minimal once constructed (and similar to the existing 230 kV line in this area), Hydro One can confirm that these operational activities will be considered in the EA. Hydro One can also confirm that, where possible, the design will take into account the preference for existing access to be used rather than the re- establishment of access roads and water crossings.</p> <p>Once the preferred route is selected, Hydro One intends to continue discussions with the MNRF to confirm the permit requirements. The permits and authorizations will be identified in the EA Report, including documentation that roads and water crossings may require permits and authorization from the MNRF prior to their construction.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	
21		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 6.2.2.3, Figure 6-7 Route 3B (Pg. 103)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The description of route 3B within the ToR does not acknowledge that this route would include a small greenfield portion where Turtle River White Otter Lake Provincial Park is crossed to link up Highway 622 and the Snake Bay Road.</p> <p>As greenfield lines are strongly not preferred based on the results of the route selection workshop, it should be acknowledged that a small portion does exist as part of alternative 3B for transparency and explain why this option was still considered as an alternative as it 'presented highly from a natural heritage perspective...." (pg. 101)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please edit the description of Route 3B to mention this greenfield portion, to ensure transparency, and provide reason why given this alternative route 3B is still considered as a viable alternative.</p>	<p>The route descriptions are meant to be high-level and still subject to further review, detailed evaluation and specific siting requirements once a preferred route is selected.</p> <p>Hydro One agrees that greenfield routes are not preferred given the existing, previously disturbed corridors in the area. As noted in Section 6.2.2.3 of the ToR, Route 3B was included to provide an additional crossing location of the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park and to avoid crossing the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the White Otter Enhanced Management Area when compared with the route that follows the existing 230 kV transmission line.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response	Hydro One (March 2, 2021)	MNRF Response (Amendments to ToR - May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
22		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix C, Pg. C-12</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Trappers, bait harvesters and bear management area operators may be impacted by the proposed project.</p> <p>The MNRF requests that the following indicators be added to the draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation within the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and area (ha) of traplines within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bait Harvest Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bear Management Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> </ul>	<p>Hydro One will add the following indicators as part of the Recreation and Tourism criterion to be considered as part of the alternative route evaluation in the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of traplines within 1 km of the alternative route;</li> <li>• Number of Bait Harvest Areas within 1 km of the alternative route; and</li> <li>• Number of Bear Management Areas within 1 km of the alternative route.</li> </ul>	MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions	Not applicable.	
		<p>This addition will help to make clear and transparent how the alternative routes may impact these operations and how these impacts are considered in the Alternative Route Selection process. (These groups of potentially impacted stakeholders are referenced in Section 4.2.3.1 of the Main Report (top of page 47).)</p> <p>MNRF data is available for these tourism values that will enable inclusion of these indicators in the Alternative Route Evaluation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Include the following indicators in the List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation within the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and area (ha) of traplines within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bait Harvest Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bear Management Areas within 1km of the alternative route so that the potential impacts of the project on those operators are clearly considered as part of the route selection process.</li> </ul>	<p>Please note that one metric has been selected for each indicator for the purpose of the alternative route evaluation to prevent double counting; however, additional metrics will be considered in the EA as appropriate (e.g., number, area, proximity, etc.)</p> <p>As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators.</p>			

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response	Hydro One (March 2, 2021)	MNRF Response (Amendments to ToR - May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
23		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix C, Pg. C-7</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Appendix C in the ToR includes a reference to an indicator called "EcoRegion 3W Criteria Schedule." The MNRF would like to see a complete listing of the specific indicators this includes as related to 1) Wildlife and wildlife Habitat and 2) Vegetation and Wetland criteria so that any omissions can be identified and added to the set of criteria to be evaluated.</p>	<p>Hydro One incorporated MNRF's comments on the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators provided in the draft ToR. As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators, as well as additional information about the data used to support those criteria and indicators, such as the SWH considered.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	
		<p>For the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria, please include the full list of features within the 3W Schedule to be included in Area (ha) of mapped wildlife related SWH crossed by the alternate routes (as identified in the EcoRegion 3W criteria schedule) rather than listing a few examples, as the full list provides an opportunity to identify any omissions. For the Vegetation and Wetlands criteria, please include the full list of features within the 3W Schedule to be included in Area (ha) of impacted vegetation to be crossed by the alternate routes in order to identify any omissions.</p> <p>This information will help to ensure that the alternative route selection process more clearly considers the effect of the project on all components SWH when selecting the preferred route.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Break down the list of indicators in Appendix C that are based on the "EcoRegion 3W Criteria Schedule" indicator into the species/components found within this Schedule to include, amongst other things: - Bald Eagle and Osprey Nesting Habitat, and - Aquatic Feeding Habitat within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria</p> <p>- Rare Treed Types, - Regionally Rare Plant Species and - Wild Rice Stand within the Vegetation and Wetlands criteria</p> <p>And note: Old Growth and Significant Woodlands are not criteria in the 3W Schedule.</p> <p>These changes will help to ensure that the alternative route selection process more clearly considers the effect of the project on all components of SWH with this area (3W) when selecting the preferred route.</p>				

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response	Hydro One (March 2, 2021)	MNRF Response (Amendments to ToR - May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
24		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix C Pg. C-6</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria, an indicator exists which groups all S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences as one group.</p> <p>As the impact of the project to conservation concern species varies if it is, for example, a bird, vs. an animal vs. an insect, it is inappropriate to group all these types of species together in one indicator.</p> <p>MNRF requests that this indicator be broken down into the individual species, based on species listed within Table 4.3 (Sec 4.2.2.8 of the Main Report) on page 38.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Break down the S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences indicator into the individual species, based on species listed within Table 4.3 (Sec 4.2.2.8 of the Main Report) on page 38.</p>	<p>Based on follow-up discussions with the MECP-SARB and the MNRF in November 2020, Hydro One intends to consider the habitat of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences as a single indicator (i.e., form of significant wildlife habitat) within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criterion rather than breaking down the indicator into individual species to avoid prioritizing one species of conservation concern value over another.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	
25		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix D General Comment</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF notes that the list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) differ in some instances.</p> <p>We would appreciate explanation in the ToR and EA as to the rationale for those differences e.g. the metrics used to quantify / measure particular criteria.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Provide an explanation of how the criteria and indicators used in Appendix C and Appendix D relate to each other.</p>	<p>The list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) do in fact differ in some cases depending on data availability and context. We note that the evaluation criteria and indicators are typically based on "quantifiable" attributes (e.g., things that can be measured effectively) whereas the effects assessment criteria and indicators for the preferred route include both quantitative and qualitative elements which rely on more detailed data collected throughout the EA process (e.g., species specific field surveys).</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	
26		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix D</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The MNRF requests the following changes be made to the net effects Table in Appendix D:</p> <p>1) Amend wording in vegetation and wetlands from "species of special concern" to "species of conservation concern".</p> <p>2) Recommend adding 'species of conservation concern' as an indicator for wildlife to better reflect potential project impacts on our mandated interests.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The requested changes will be made to the criteria and indicators used in the EA.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	



### Comments Table

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan (Aug. 21, 2020) (Ref# GAL-011-20137728)

**Proponent:** Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)

**Agency:** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Commenter Name and Job Title:** Kevin Green, Northern Species at Risk Specialist, Species at Risk Branch

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
1.	Pg 8-9 / Section 4.1 Desktop Review	<p>The draft Work Plan indicates that species-specific habitat modelling will not be completed as part of the alternative route evaluation; rather that these datasets will be developed for the preferred route and assessed as part of the net effects assessment of the preferred route in the EA. As per comment #25 provided by MECP-SARB on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, this species-specific habitat information should be used to inform the effects assessment and selection of a preferred route. It is recommended that species at risk habitat be mapped to identify potential habitat and any existing information gaps that can be filled through the planned 2020 Aerial Reconnaissance (refer to comment #5 below) or other proposed baseline studies, as appropriate.</p> <p>For clarity, additional detail is required for each species at risk identified in the draft ToR and through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020 outlining the</p>	Update the draft Work Plan appropriately.

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>species at risk habitat features that will be identified/mapped in the Desktop Review and the specific datasets/queries that will be used to identify them. Where information exists, mapped habitat features should include potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bat hibernacula and maternity roost habitat (refer to comment #3 below);</li> <li>- Eastern Whip-poor-will breeding/foraging habitat;</li> <li>- Bobolink nesting habitat;</li> <li>- Barn Swallow nesting habitat;</li> <li>- Bank Swallow nesting roost habitat;</li> <li>- Chimney Swift nesting and roosting habitat;</li> <li>- American White Pelican nesting habitat and/or colonies (refer to Ontario Regulation 242/08 section 24.0.1 for regulated habitat);</li> <li>- Least Bittern breeding habitat;</li> <li>- Lake Sturgeon staging areas, spawning areas, nursery areas, overwintering areas and connecting corridors;</li> <li>- Wolverine habitat;</li> <li>- Gray Fox habitat;</li> <li>- American Badger habitat (refer to Ontario Regulation 242/08 section 24 for regulated habitat);</li> </ul>	



Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
2.	Pg 8-9 / Section 4.1 Desktop Review	<p>Specific to Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis, it is recommended that bat maternity habitat be modelled using the FRI following accepted Ecological Land Classification (ELC) codes to inform the evaluation of alternative routes. For northern Ontario/Boreal forest these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- G/B015-019 Very Shallow: Dry to Fresh: Mixedwood/hardwood</li> <li>- G/B023-028 Very Shallow: Humid: Conifer/Mixedwood</li> <li>- G/B039-043 Dry, Sandy: Hardwood/Mixedwood</li> <li>- G/B054-059 Dry to Fresh: Coarse: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- G/B069-076 Moist, Coarse: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- G/B087-092 Fresh, Clayey: Mixedwood/hardwood</li> <li>- B103-108 Fresh, Silty to Fine Loamy: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- B118-125 Moist. Fine: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- B130-133: Swamps</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan to include the mapping of bat maternity habitat to inform the alternative route evaluation and selection of a preferred route.
3.	Pg 8-9 / Section 4.1 Desktop Review	Specific to Eastern Whip-poor-will, it is recommended that habitat be mapped through an aerial imagery review in advance of, and confirmed during, the Aerial Reconnaissance to inform the evaluation of alternative routes.	Update draft Work Plan to include a description of how potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat will be mapped during the Desktop Review.

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>Suitable (breeding and foraging) habitat typically includes some combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sparse (&lt;25%) to moderate (25-75%) tree cover (e.g., deciduous, mixed wood, coniferous, treed wetlands) and open habitat (e.g., shrublands, fallow fields, regeneration following fires or clearcuts, rock and sand outcrops, shrubby wetlands)</li> <li>- Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous cover;</li> <li>- Well-drained soils (e.g., sand, sandy-loam)</li> </ul> <p>For more information on suitable habitat for Eastern Whip-poor-will, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) in Ontario</u></a> (MECP 2019)</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Eastern Whip-poor-will General Habitat Description</u></a> (Ontario 2013)</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Home Range Use, Habitat Selection, and Stress Physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) at the Northern edge of their Range</u></a> (Rand 2014)</li> </ul>	
4.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	Additional detail is required on the extent (i.e., search area) of the proposed aerial reconnaissance (i.e., planned flight transects). Transects should be structured such that they	Update the draft Work Plan to include a map of the planned transects for the Aerial Reconnaissance and a description of the

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>enable the identification of all potential habitat features for species at risk within the Project and Local Study Areas, appropriate for each species. The draft Work Plan should include a map depicting the planned transects for the Aerial Reconnaissance and a description of the considerations for each species at risk made to inform the transect design.</p> <p>For example, the aerial reconnaissance transects should be structured such that they enable the identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bedrock features (e.g., rock faces, etc.) that have the potential to support bat hibernacula (e.g., presence of cracks, cervices or caves) within 500 metres of the ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; and within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure. This distance will ensure appropriate consideration of potential impacts from the project (e.g., blasting, tree clearing, etc.);</li> <li>- potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat within 500 metres of the ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; and within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed),</li> </ul>	<p>considerations for each species at risk made to inform the transect design.</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure. This distance will ensure appropriate consideration of potential impacts from the project (e.g., loss of nesting/foraging habitat, etc.);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- etc.</li> </ul> <p>Note that the above are examples and may not represent an appropriate extent (i.e., distance from ROW and/or potential Limit of Work) for all species. As such, appropriate distances for each species should be considered and incorporated into the design of the Aerial Reconnaissance. These are likely to be the appropriate distances used to define the LSA and/or species-specific LSA's for the EA.</p> <p>Additionally, and where appropriate, consideration in the design of the Aerial Reconnaissance should be given to how potential impacts to species at risk from the Project will be assessed within Regional Study Area (RSA) and/or species-specific RSA's in the EA.</p>	
5.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	Additional detail is required on the specific species at risk habitat that will be assessed during the aerial reconnaissance. While some examples have been provided in the draft Work Plan (i.e., [1] <i>river banks with potential to</i>	Update the draft Work Plan to describe the habitat components that will be assessed during the aerial reconnaissance for all species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p><i>support Bank Swallow colonies, [2] open woodlands that have the potential to support Eastern Whip-poor-will nesting, [3] crack/crevices in bedrock feature that have the potential to support bat hibernacula, [4] presence of rapids that may be used as suitable spawning areas for Lake Sturgeon), not all species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020 are addressed in the proposed 2020 Aerial Reconnaissance.</i></p> <p>In addition to those already identified above in the draft Work Plan, it is recommended the Aerial Reconnaissance also identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- structures that may provide suitable roosting sites for bats;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting sites for Chimney Swift;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting habitat for Barn Swallow;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox;</li> <li>- rock piles or brush/slash piles that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox or Wolverine;</li> <li>- potential nesting habitat for Bobolink;</li> <li>- potential connecting corridors, staging areas, nursery areas, and overwintering areas for Lake Sturgeon;</li> </ul>	<p>SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, as appropriate.</p> <p>Where the Aerial Reconnaissance will not address a particular species, please specify in the draft Work Plan and provide additional information on how these species will be addressed in the broader baseline information (e.g., desktop review, 2021-2022 Field Surveys).</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
6.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	In addition to Lake Sturgeon spawning habitat already identified in the draft Work Plan (i.e., rapids), the aerial reconnaissance should also identify waterfalls, dams and open shoals in large rivers which may provide suitable spawning habitat for Lake Sturgeon.	Update the draft Work Plan appropriately.
7.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>In addition to areas that have the potential to support bat hibernacula already identified in the draft Work Plan (i.e., cracks, crevices), the aerial reconnaissance should also identify bedrock features (e.g., rock faces) that have the potential to support bat hibernacula (e.g., presence of cracks, crevices or caves). To ensure identification and appropriate evaluation of potential impacts to hibernacula resulting from Project activities (e.g., blasting, tree clearing, etc.), the Aerial Reconnaissance should also identify all potential hibernacula for each preliminary alternative route that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 500 metres of the proposed ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; or</li> <li>- within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan to include the identification of caves, in addition to cracks and crevices, that have the potential to support bat hibernacula; and the appropriate distance from the ROW and/or potential Limits of Work in which these habitat features will be identified.
8.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	Clarity is required on the type of potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat that will be evaluated during the Aerial Reconnaissance. Specifically, the draft Work Plan indicates that	Update draft Work Plan to appropriately describe Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat.

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>“<i>open woodlots that have the potential to support Eastern Whip-poor-will</i>” will be identified. As per comment #3 above, suitable (breeding and foraging) habitat typically includes some combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sparse (&lt;25%) to moderate (25-75%) tree cover (e.g., deciduous, mixedwood, coniferous, treed wetlands) and open habitat (e.g., shrublands, fallow fields, regeneration following fires or clearcuts, rock and sand outcrops, shrubby wetlands)</li> <li>- Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous cover;</li> <li>- Well-drained soils (e.g., sand, sandy-loam)</li> </ul> <p>For more information on suitable habitat for Eastern Whip-poor-will, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) in Ontario</u></a> (MECP 2019)</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Eastern Whip-poor-will General Habitat Description</u></a> (Ontario 2013)</li> <li>- <a href="#"><u>Home Range Use, Habitat Selection, and Stress Physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) at the Northern edge of their Range</u></a> (Rand 2014)</li> </ul>	

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		As per comment # 3 above, it is recommended potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat be mapped in advance of the Aerial Reconnaissance to identify potential breeding habitat using the best available information.	
9.	Pg 10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	The last paragraph in this section indicates that the data collected for the terrestrial ecology component will be incorporated into the “ <i>fish and fish habitat assessment</i> ”. Is this a typo? Should this be the “ <i>wildlife and wildlife habitat assessment</i> ”?	Update the draft Work Plan as appropriate.
10.	Pg 10 / Section 4.2.2 Mine Site Survey	<p>Include a map of the five Abandoned Mines information system (AMIS) features noted in the draft Work Plan as intersecting the preliminary alternative routes.</p> <p>To ensure identification and appropriate evaluation of potential impacts to hibernacula resulting from Project activities (e.g., blasting, tree clearing, etc.), any additional AMIS features should be included on the maps and assessed during the Mine Site Survey for each preliminary alternative route that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 500 metres of the proposed ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; or</li> <li>- within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan to include a map of all AMIS features within 500 metres of the proposed ROW and/or Limits of Work for each preliminary alternative route.



Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
11.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	General Comment – the following comments associated with <i>Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys</i> should be considered preliminary and it is expected that MECP – Species at Risk Branch will be provided detailed Work Plans in advance of proposed 2021-2022 field surveys for review and comment.	Consider in the development of the 2021-2022 Field Surveys Work Plan.
12.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	The draft Work Plan should indicate that, in advance of any necessary acoustic monitoring, ground-based surveys will be completed of all potential bat hibernacula sites identified during the aerial reconnaissance as part of the 2021-2022 field surveys.	Update the draft Work Plan appropriately.
13.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>The draft Work Plan does not identify species-specific surveys planned for some species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray Fox</li> <li>• American Badger</li> <li>• Wolverine</li> <li>• Bobolink</li> <li>• American White Pelican</li> <li>• Least Bittern</li> <li>• Chimney Swift</li> <li>• Lake Sturgeon</li> </ul> <p>Where the 2020 Desktop Review, Aerial Reconnaissance and/or Mine Site Survey identifies potential habitat, and species</p>	<p>Update the draft Work Plan to identify all species-specific surveys the Proponent intends to undertake to appropriately evaluate the Projects potential impacts to all species at risk and their habitat.</p> <p>If the need for species-specific surveys is dependent on the results of the 2020 Desktop Review or Aerial Reconnaissance for a particular species, please specify and indicate whether surveys will be completed for that species if habitat is identified within the Study Areas (i.e., PSA, LSA, RSA); and include detailed survey methodology in the 2021-2022 Work Plans.</p> <p>If there are no plans to complete species-specific surveys for a particular species at risk, update to</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>information is limited to inform an assessment of potential impacts from the proposed Project, species-specific surveys are likely to be required.</p>	<p>draft Work Plan as necessary and include the rationale and justification for why surveys are not necessary for a given species in the development of the 2021-2022 Work Plans (e.g., sufficient information already exists to confirm presence/abundance/territories/habitat/etc., no habitat within the Study Areas, etc.).</p>
14.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>The draft Work Plan indicates that acoustic monitoring is planned as part of the 2021-2022 field surveys following an assessment of bat maternity roost habitat. Given the generally wide distribution of Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis across the Study Area, acoustic monitoring is likely to demonstrate presence during the maternity roost period.</p> <p>It is recommended that bat maternity roost habitat be modelled in advance of any field surveys using the Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory (eFRI) following accepted Ecological Land Classification (ELC) codes to inform the evaluation of alternative routes (refer to comment #2 above).</p> <p>Where possible, tree clearing within these areas should be avoided during the maternity roost period (e.g., May 1 to August 31) to avoid killing, harming or harassing species at risk bats. Where the Proponent is unable to avoid tree clearing within the maternity roost period (i.e.,</p>	<p>Update the draft Work Plan as necessary and consider during the development of the 2021-2022 Work Plans.</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		May 1 to August 31), impacts to the species are likely to occur and an ESA authorization is likely to be required.	
15.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>The draft Work Plan indicates that Eastern Whip-poor-will surveys and/or acoustic monitoring is planned as part of the 2021-2022 field surveys. Acoustic monitoring is not recommended for Eastern Whip-poor-will where site access is available. Wherever possible, potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat should be surveyed following recommended survey protocols for point counts along a driving or walking route to determine the breeding status of Eastern Whip-poor-will in the area, their relative abundance and the number of territories in the area. This will aid in identifying habitat protected under the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>.</p> <p>Where this survey methodology is not feasible (e.g., limited access), a detailed description of the Proponents planned approach to acoustic monitoring will be required in the 2021-2022 Work Plan and further consultation will be necessary with MECP – SARB.</p> <p>Where possible, tree clearing within Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat should be avoided during the breeding period (i.e., May 1 to August 15) to avoid killing, harming or harassing Eastern</p>	Update the draft Work Plan as necessary and consider during the development of the 2021-2022 Work Plans.

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		Whip-poor-will. Where the Proponent is unable to avoid tree clearing within the breeding period (i.e., May 1 to August 15), impacts to the species are likely to occur and an ESA authorization is likely to be required.	
16.	Pg 12 / Section 8.0 Health, Safety and Environment	Grammatical error in the third bullet where it states " <i>the crew member to return to <u>its</u> community</i> "	Update the draft Work Plan to correct "its" to "their".



**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>PROJECT:</b>	Waasigan Transmission Line		
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	October 1, 2020, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.	<b>LOCATION:</b>	Conference Call: 1-877-385-4099; 8627517
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Monthly Update Meeting	<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Dayna Groom

**Invitees:**

#	Name	Title	Email
<b>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)</b>			
1	Carolyn Lee	Special Project Officer, Environmental Assessment Branch	<a href="mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca">Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca</a>
2	Kiran Anwar	Supervisor (A), Environmental Assessment Branch	<a href="mailto:Kiran.Anwar@ontario.ca">Kiran.Anwar@ontario.ca</a>
<b>Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)</b>			
3	Sarah Cohanim	Environmental Planner, Environmental Services	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com">Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com</a>
4	Bruce Hopper	Manager, Strategic Projects	<a href="mailto:Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com">Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com</a>
5	Dayna Groom	Environmental Planner, Environmental Services	<a href="mailto:Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com">Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com</a>
6	Stephanie Hodsoll	Community Relations	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hodsoll@HydroOne.com">Stephanie.Hodsoll@HydroOne.com</a>
7	Emily Spitzer	Community Relations	<a href="mailto:Emily.Spitzer@HydroOne.com">Emily.Spitzer@HydroOne.com</a>
8	Christine Goulais	Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations	<a href="mailto:Christine.Goulais@HydroOne.com">Christine.Goulais@HydroOne.com</a>
9	Alex To	Assistant Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Alex.To@HydroOne.com">Alex.To@HydroOne.com</a>
10	Stephen Lindley	Indigenous Engagement and Environmental Strategic Advisor	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Lindley@slci.ca">Stephen.Lindley@slci.ca</a>
<b>Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon)</b>			
11	Don McKinnon	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Dpmckinnon@Dillon.ca">Dpmckinnon@Dillon.ca</a>
12	Joseph Carnevale	Project Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jcarnevale@Dillon.ca">jcarnevale@Dillon.ca</a>
<b>Golder Associates (Golder)</b>			
13	Callum Squires	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Callum_Squires@golder.com">Callum_Squires@golder.com</a>

#	Item Description	Action
1	<p><b>Indigenous Community Engagement Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro one has been addressing comments received on draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and following up with Indigenous communities.</li> <li>- Many communities have hired Community Engagement Coordinators (CECs) that Hydro One can communicate with directly to discuss engagement opportunities.</li> <li>- With ongoing constraints of the pandemic, we continue to look at ways to be creative with engagement methods including virtual meetings, newsletters, providing technical support, interactive mapping on tablets, etc.</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Update on Plan for Proposed ToR Submission</b>	

**Minutes of Meeting**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One indicated that the ToR submission notice will include a letter to mailing addresses in the project study area, newspaper ads, and radio ads on Thunder Bay and Dryden stations. A French language notice will be posted to the project website.</li> <li>- Email notifications will be sent to Indigenous communities, municipal and agency contacts, as well as public stakeholders on our distribution list. The notice will specify that the ToR will be available on the project website and at public viewing locations.</li> <li>- Hydro One is seeking clarification on some instructions provided for the ToR submission.</li> <li>- Hydro One proposed October 16 to November 15 for the 30-day ToR review period. MECP confirmed these dates; however, we may want to consider ending the review period on a business day.</li> <li>- Hydro One inquired about how far in advance of the submission date MECP would like to receive the ToR document. MECP confirmed approximately one week prior to the submission date so that it can be distributed to the appropriate MECP reviewers.</li> <li>- Hydro One asked for confirmation that they will be distributing the ToR to the public viewing locations. MECP confirmed that the proponent will provide the document to the public viewing locations.</li> <li>- Hydro One noted they would like to proceed with a 30-day review period and provided rationale in an email to MECP as to why. MECP noted that based on recent experience, Indigenous communities have asked for longer review times and that MECP will need to consider extension requests that may be received.</li> <li>- Hydro One inquired if MECP would expect an extension request to apply to all stakeholders. MECP noted that if only one community sends a request, it may be considered on a case-by-case basis. If more than one community sends a request, they may consider extending the review period for the other communities as well.</li> <li>- MECP inquired if any Indigenous communities have expressed concern about their ability to participate in the ToR review as a result of the pandemic. Hydro One noted that no comments have been received to date expressing concern for the proposed ToR review and there is ongoing communication with communities about challenges regarding engagement during the pandemic. An extension was requested and granted for the draft ToR review period to accommodate Indigenous communities and Hydro One is willing to make accommodations again. Hydro One noted that the review process of the draft ToR went very well and comments were received from Indigenous communities.</li> <li>- MECP confirmed the minimum 30-day review period. MECP noted that it is a proponent-driven process. Given what communities are dealing with, Hydro One may want to consider extending the review period to 45 or 60 days, but it is up to the proponent.</li> </ul>	<p>HONI to confirm the dates of the review period via email <i>(complete - October 16 to November 16)</i></p>
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**Minutes of Meeting**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One indicated they would proceed with 30 days, noting that they are flexible and willing to work with the communities.</li> <li>- Hydro One sent project contact lists to MECP, but missed municipal contacts. An updated list will be sent.</li> <li>- MECP inquired about public viewing locations, noting that only Shuniah is listed as a municipal location. Hydro One noted that the Municipality of Shuniah specifically requested to hold a copy for public viewing, and that libraries are preferred public viewing locations for curbside pick-up and ability to check documents in and out.</li> <li>- MECP would like to see municipal clerks notified and suggested posting the notice on municipal boards and websites for better coverage. Hydro One indicated they would follow up with municipal contacts and inquire about opportunities to post on websites, etc.</li> <li>- Hydro One requested clarification on what is meant by “potentially interested Indigenous communities” and MECP’s expectations. MECP indicated this could include other interested communities that are not on the list provided in the delegation letter (from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines).</li> <li>- Hydro One noted that they are engaging with Indigenous communities as delegated by the province. Hydro One is not in a position to determine impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty rights, but if a community came forward and expressed that, Hydro One would bring that forward to the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. MECP suggested proceeding with the ToR distribution as planned with the current Indigenous communities list. If other communities become interested and request to stay apprised of the project, MECP suggests sending them the Notice of ToR submission.</li> <li>- Hydro One requested clarification on which public stakeholders would be receiving cover letters with their hard copy. MECP confirmed they would only be providing a memo for GRT contact list, Indigenous communities and public viewing locations.</li> <li>- Hydro One inquired if newspaper ads need to be published and issued prior to the submission dates, noting that notices will also be mailed to the study area beforehand. MECP noted that they should run before or on the submission date so that people have the full 30 days to review. Hydro One indicated that there are a couple newspaper ads that would be published after October 16 based on publication dates (i.e., Thunder Bay Chronicle on October 17, but the Thunder Bay Source would be published prior to submission on October 15, as well as the Atikokan newspaper on October 19). There are also radio ads and notices mailed to study area before the submission date. Both radio stations with ads cover the entire study area. MECP confirmed they were satisfied with this approach.</li> <li>- Hydro One asked for confirmation that each community must receive the ToR prior to the submission date. MECP would like to see proof of receipt, either by courier or read receipt, depending on method of delivery. A read</li> </ul>	<p>Hydro One to send MECP updated distribution list to include municipal contacts <i>(complete)</i></p>
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**Minutes of Meeting**

	<p>receipt for copies of the ToR sent via email would be required only for Indigenous communities. It would not be required for the GRT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One noted that they will be doing outreach prior to the submission date and will be sending Indigenous communities a hard copy unless they specifically request not to receive one. The instructions will also inform the public to contact Hydro One for hard copies. Hydro One inquired if MECP expects they reach out to entire public contact list to ask if they would like a hard copy. MECP confirmed that Hydro One does not need to specifically ask about hard copies for the entire public list, but if anyone responds to the email blast that they would like a copy, effort should be made to get them one.</li> <li>- Hydro One asked for clarification on when the ToR link needs to be sent out. MECP suggested the earlier the better to ensure everyone has access and in case there are delivery delays for hard copies. Focus should be on getting copies to Indigenous communities in advance.</li> <li>- Hydro One requested MECP to send a letter template for submission to the Environmental Assessment Branch (EAB).</li> <li>- Carolyn (MECP) noted she will be away after October 9, returning on October 19 and would like to receive ToR before long weekend so she can distribute it to reviewers a week in advance.</li> </ul>	<p>MECP to provide Hydro One a letter template for EAB submission.</p>
3	<p><b>Field Work Plan Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golder acknowledged receipt of the comments provided by MECP (Species at Risk Branch) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) following the field work plan meeting. Golder will be finalizing and distributing the final work plan for review.</li> <li>- Golder indicated that they have not received comments from Indigenous communities on the plan, but have received interest about participation in the field program.</li> <li>- Golder noted a significant comment provided by MNRF that was not discussed during the meeting. MNRF requested that survey activities be completed for the alternative route assessment, not just the preferred route. Golder disagrees with the overall approach noting that the process that they have in place is very robust. Additional surveys suggested do not provide value and will significantly delay project schedule and other significant milestones, such as being able to do archaeological studies.</li> <li>- MECP commented that the level of detail increases as the EA progresses from the evaluation of alternative routes to the impact assessment of the preferred route. However, it is MECP’s understanding that MNRF is concerned that alternative route evaluation that mainly relies on a desktop study with no field verification or survey will be insufficient, especially in remote areas where there may be limited data. MECP suggested to Golder, in its response to MNRF’s comment, to provide clarification on its approach and sufficient rationale for not carrying field surveys for alternative routes.</li> </ul>	





**Minutes of Meeting**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Golder noted that the aerial reconnaissance is intended to collect that additional data.</li><li>- MECP requests that Hydro One provide a schedule of when comment responses and work plans will be submitted to MECP for review in order provide sufficient notice to reviewers.</li><li>- Golder noted the updated work plan would be provided the week of October 12.</li></ul>	
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**Next Meeting:** November 5, 2020, 10:00 to 11:00 am, Conference Call

**Comments Table**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan (Aug. 21, 2020) (Ref# GAL-011-20137728)

**Proponent:** Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)

**Agency:** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Commenter Name and Job Title:** Kevin Green, Northern Species at Risk Specialist, Species at Risk Branch

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
1.	Pg 8-9 / Section 4.1 Desktop Review	<p>The draft Work Plan indicates that species-specific habitat modelling will not be completed as part of the alternative route evaluation; rather that these datasets will be developed for the preferred route and assessed as part of the net effects assessment of the preferred route in the EA. As per comment #25 provided by MECP-SARB on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, this species-specific habitat information should be used to inform the effects assessment and selection of a preferred route. It is recommended that species at risk habitat be mapped to identify potential habitat and any existing information gaps that can be filled through the planned 2020 Aerial Reconnaissance (refer to comment #5 below) or other proposed baseline studies, as appropriate.</p> <p>For clarity, additional detail is required for each species at risk identified in the draft ToR and through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020 outlining the species at risk habitat features that will be identified/mapped in the Desktop Review and the specific datasets/queries that will be used to identify them. Where information exists, mapped habitat features should include potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bat hibernacula and maternity roost habitat (refer to comment #3 below);</li> <li>- Eastern Whip-poor-will breeding/foraging habitat;</li> <li>- Bobolink nesting habitat;</li> <li>- Barn Swallow nesting habitat;</li> <li>- Bank Swallow nesting roost habitat;</li> <li>- Chimney Swift nesting and roosting habitat;</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan appropriately.	<p>The 2020 field work plan has been updated to clarify that mapping of sensitive wildlife habitat including known and potential SAR habitat will be completed prior to the aerial reconnaissance and will be used to inform the alternative route evaluation. To clarify, habitat mapping using screenings of FRI ecosites to identify potentially suitable SAR habitat (e.g., bat maternity roost communities) will be completed and confirmed during the aerial reconnaissance surveys. Habitat suitability modelling (e.g., using habitat suitability index models to rank habitat quality) will be completed as part of the net effects assessment. The 2020 field work plan has been updated to detail the species-specific habitat features that have been mapped during the desktop review and the datasets/queries that have been used to define them.</p> <p>For lake sturgeon, mapping of potential lake sturgeon staging, spawning, nursery, and overwintering areas and connecting corridors is limited along the alternative routes and if there is mapping available, it is inconsistent within the planned survey area. Habitat mapping for lake sturgeon will not be included in the aerial reconnaissance, however, suitable habitats for lake sturgeon along the alternative routes will be noted during the aerial reconnaissance at each waterbody surveyed and this data will be used to inform the alternative analysis.</p> <p>A detailed desktop review will be completed following the aerial reconnaissance, and based on the alignment of the preferred route, the detailed project description (e.g., locations of proposed in-water work), and the potential presence of lake sturgeon, the need for detailed habitat mapping for lake</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- American White Pelican nesting habitat and/or colonies (refer to Ontario Regulation 242/08 section 24.0.1 for regulated habitat);</li> <li>- Least Bittern breeding habitat;</li> <li>- Lake Sturgeon staging areas, spawning areas, nursery areas, overwintering areas and connecting corridors;</li> <li>- Wolverine habitat;</li> <li>- Gray Fox habitat;</li> <li>- American Badger habitat (refer to Ontario Regulation 242/08 section 24 for regulated habitat);</li> </ul>		<p>sturgeon will be assessed and discussed with MNRF and MECP and may be incorporated into the 2021/2022 field work plan.</p> <p>Habitat suitability modelling is currently not proposed for the fish and fish habitat assessment as part of the net effects assessment. For the net effects assessment, a conservative approach will be used, and it will be assumed that the aquatic habitat where lake sturgeon is present would provide high quality habitat. Therefore, the project footprint will be used to calculate any habitat losses.</p>
2.	Pg 8-9 / Section 4.1 Desktop Review	<p>Specific to Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis, it is recommended that bat maternity habitat be modelled using the FRI following accepted Ecological Land Classification (ELC) codes to inform the evaluation of alternative routes. For northern Ontario/Boreal forest these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- G/B015-019 Very Shallow: Dry to Fresh: Mixedwood/hardwood</li> <li>- G/B023-028 Very Shallow: Humid: Conifer/Mixedwood</li> <li>- G/B039-043 Dry, Sandy: Hardwood/Mixedwood</li> <li>- G/B054-059 Dry to Fresh: Coarse: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- G/B069-076 Moist, Coarse: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- G/B087-092 Fresh, Clayey: Mixedwood/hardwood</li> <li>- B103-108 Fresh, Silty to Fine Loamy: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- B118-125 Moist. Fine: Mixedwood/Hardwood</li> <li>- B130-133: Swamps</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan to include the mapping of bat maternity habitat to inform the alternative route evaluation and selection of a preferred route.	2020 field work plan revised as requested.
3.	Pg 8-9 / Section 4.1 Desktop Review	<p>Specific to Eastern Whip-poor-will, it is recommended that habitat be mapped through an aerial imagery review in advance of, and confirmed during, the Aerial Reconnaissance to inform the evaluation of alternative routes. Suitable (breeding and foraging) habitat typically includes some combination of:</p>	Update draft Work Plan to include a description of how potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat will be mapped during the Desktop Review.	2020 field work plan revised with planned approach to mapping whip-poor-will habitat in advance of the aerial reconnaissance.

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sparse (&lt;25%) to moderate (25-75%) tree cover (e.g., deciduous, mixed wood, coniferous, treed wetlands) and open habitat (e.g., shrublands, fallow fields, regeneration following fires or clearcuts, rock and sand outcrops, shrubby wetlands)</li> <li>- Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous cover;</li> <li>- Well-drained soils (e.g., sand, sandy-loam)</li> </ul> <p>For more information on suitable habitat for Eastern Whip-poor-will, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) in Ontario</a> (MECP 2019)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Eastern Whip-poor-will General Habitat Description</a> (Ontario 2013)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Home Range Use, Habitat Selection, and Stress Physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) at the Northern edge of their Range</a> (Rand 2014)</li> </ul>		
4.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>Additional detail is required on the extent (i.e., search area) of the proposed aerial reconnaissance (i.e., planned flight transects). Transects should be structured such that they enable the identification of all potential habitat features for species at risk within the Project and Local Study Areas, appropriate for each species. The draft Work Plan should include a map depicting the planned transects for the Aerial Reconnaissance and a description of the considerations for each species at risk made to inform the transect design.</p> <p>For example, the aerial reconnaissance transects should be structured such that they enable the identification of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bedrock features (e.g., rock faces, etc.) that have the potential to support bat hibernacula (e.g., presence of cracks, crevices or caves) within 500 metres of the ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; and within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan to include a map of the planned transects for the Aerial Reconnaissance and a description of the considerations for each species at risk made to inform the transect design.	<p>The details of the aerial reconnaissance have been added into the 2020 field work plan. In summary, the helicopter will fly a single transect down the centerline of each route alternative at a height and speed that observers can visually assess features hundreds of meters beyond the centerline. Additionally, the observers will have iPads with vegetation, wetlands and wildlife habitat features mapped which they will target and veer off the centerline to get a better view and assessment of the quality of the features within 500 m of each route alternative.</p> <p>Project impacts and appropriate scales of analysis will be considered during the net effects assessment phase of the project and specific to the preferred route.</p> <p>A map book with the waterbodies on the waterbody crossing list will be prepared prior to the aerial reconnaissance.</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure. This distance will ensure appropriate consideration of potential impacts from the project (e.g., blasting, tree clearing, etc.);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat within 500 metres of the ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; and within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure. This distance will ensure appropriate consideration of potential impacts from the project (e.g., loss of nesting/foraging habitat, etc.);</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul> <p>Note that the above are examples and may not represent an appropriate extent (i.e., distance from ROW and/or potential Limit of Work) for all species. As such, appropriate distances for each species should be considered and incorporated into the design of the Aerial Reconnaissance. These are likely to be the appropriate distances used to define the LSA and/or species-specific LSA's for the EA.</p> <p>Additionally, and where appropriate, consideration in the design of the Aerial Reconnaissance should be given to how potential impacts to species at risk from the Project will be assessed within Regional Study Area (RSA) and/or species-specific RSA's in the EA.</p>		
5.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>Additional detail is required on the specific species at risk habitat that will be assessed during the aerial reconnaissance. While some examples have been provided in the draft Work Plan (i.e., [1] <i>river banks with potential to support Bank Swallow colonies</i>, [2] <i>open woodlands that have the potential to support Eastern Whip-poor-will nesting</i>, [3] <i>crack/crevices in bedrock feature that have the potential to support bat hibernacula</i>, [4] <i>presence of rapids that may be used as suitable spawning areas for Lake Sturgeon</i>), not all species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments provided on the</p>	<p>Update the draft Work Plan to describe the habitat components that will be assessed during the aerial reconnaissance for all species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, as appropriate.</p> <p>Where the Aerial Reconnaissance will not address a particular species, please specify in the draft Work Plan and provide additional information on how these species will be addressed in the broader baseline</p>	<p>Additional detail has been added into the 2020 field work plan with respect to the desktop review of species at risk (SAR) and SAR habitat mapping, as well as the SAR habitat features that will be assessed for their potential to support SAR (e.g., structures that could support barn swallow nesting).</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>draft ToR on August 6, 2020 are addressed in the proposed 2020 Aerial Reconnaissance.</p> <p>In addition to those already identified above in the draft Work Plan, it is recommended the Aerial Reconnaissance also identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- structures that may provide suitable roosting sites for bats;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting sites for Chimney Swift;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting habitat for Barn Swallow;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox;</li> <li>- rock piles or brush/slash piles that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox or Wolverine;</li> <li>- potential nesting habitat for Bobolink;</li> <li>- potential connecting corridors, staging areas, nursery areas, and overwintering areas for Lake Sturgeon;</li> </ul>	<p>information (e.g., desktop review, 2021-2022 Field Surveys).</p>	
6.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>In addition to Lake Sturgeon spawning habitat already identified in the draft Work Plan (i.e., rapids), the aerial reconnaissance should also identify waterfalls, dams and open shoals in large rivers which may provide suitable spawning habitat for Lake Sturgeon.</p>	<p>Update the draft Work Plan appropriately.</p>	<p>Additional features added to the 2020 field work plan.</p>
7.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>In addition to areas that have the potential to support bat hibernacula already identified in the draft Work Plan (i.e., cracks, crevices), the aerial reconnaissance should also identify bedrock features (e.g., rock faces) that have the potential to support bat hibernacula (e.g., presence of cracks, crevices or caves). To ensure identification and appropriate evaluation of potential impacts to hibernacula resulting from Project activities (e.g., blasting, tree clearing, etc.), the Aerial Reconnaissance should also identify all potential hibernacula for each preliminary alternative route that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 500 metres of the proposed ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; or</li> </ul>	<p>Update the draft Work Plan to include the identification of caves, in addition to cracks and crevices, that have the potential to support bat hibernacula; and the appropriate distance from the ROW and/or potential Limits of Work in which these habitat features will be identified.</p>	<p>The 2020 field work plan has been updated to include searches for caves, in addition to cracks and crevices, that have the potential to support bat hibernacula. For the purposes of the aerial surveys crews will be looking within 500 m of each route alternative.</p>

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure.</li> </ul>		
8.	Pg 9-10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>Clarity is required on the type of potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat that will be evaluated during the Aerial Reconnaissance. Specifically, the draft Work Plan indicates that "<i>open woodlots that have the potential to support Eastern Whip-poor-will</i>" will be identified. As per comment #3 above, suitable (breeding and foraging) habitat typically includes some combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sparse (&lt;25%) to moderate (25-75%) tree cover (e.g., deciduous, mixedwood, coniferous, treed wetlands) and open habitat (e.g., shrublands, fallow fields, regeneration following fires or clearcuts, rock and sand outcrops, shrubby wetlands)</li> <li>- Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous cover;</li> <li>- Well-drained soils (e.g., sand, sandy-loam)</li> </ul> <p>For more information on suitable habitat for Eastern Whip-poor-will, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) in Ontario</a> (MECP 2019)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Eastern Whip-poor-will General Habitat Description</a> (Ontario 2013)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Home Range Use, Habitat Selection, and Stress Physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) at the Northern edge of their Range</a> (Rand 2014)</li> </ul> <p>As per comment # 3 above, it is recommended potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat be mapped in advance of the Aerial Reconnaissance to identify potential breeding habitat using the best available information.</p>	Update draft Work Plan to appropriately describe Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat.	The 2020 field work plan has been revised to indicate the aerial reconnaissance will focus on areas identified as potential whip-poor-will habitat during the desktop mapping exercise. See also response to comment 3.
9.	Pg 10 / Section 4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	The last paragraph in this section indicates that the data collected for the terrestrial ecology component will be incorporated into the " <i>fish and fish habitat</i>	Update the draft Work Plan as appropriate.	The 2020 field work plan has been updated to clarify this statement. Data collected from the aerial reconnaissance will be incorporated into the waterbody crossing list and will be used by the fish

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		assessment". Is this a typo? Should this be the "wildlife and wildlife habitat assessment"?		and fish habitat and surface water team for incorporation into the baseline assessments.
10.	Pg 10 / Section 4.2.2 Mine Site Survey	<p>Include a map of the five Abandoned Mines information system (AMIS) features noted in the draft Work Plan as intersecting the preliminary alternative routes.</p> <p>To ensure identification and appropriate evaluation of potential impacts to hibernacula resulting from Project activities (e.g., blasting, tree clearing, etc.), any additional AMIS features should be included on the maps and assessed during the Mine Site Survey for each preliminary alternative route that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 500 metres of the proposed ROW, where the ROW parallels existing infrastructure; or</li> <li>- within 500 metres of a Limits of Work (should a Limit of Work be proposed), where the proposed Project does not parallel existing infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Update the draft Work Plan to include a map of all AMIS features within 500 metres of the proposed ROW and/or Limits of Work for each preliminary alternative route.	<p>A 500 m was applied to each alternative alignment and used as the search area for AMIS features during the desktop review. The AMIS features with potential to support bat hibernacula within 500 m of each route alternative will be investigated during the mine site survey. This detail has been added to the 2020 field work plan.</p> <p>Limits of Work will not be applied to the alternatives prior to selecting a preferred route. A Limits of Work, if required, will be identified during the EA and then applied to the preferred route. Hydro One will engage with applicable agencies to discuss if a Limits of Work can be included for this Project similar to other recent large transmission projects in northern Ontario.</p>
11.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	General Comment – the following comments associated with <i>Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys</i> should be considered preliminary and it is expected that MECP – Species at Risk Branch will be provided detailed Work Plans in advance of proposed 2021-2022 field surveys for review and comment.	Consider in the development of the 2021-2022 Field Surveys Work Plan.	Noted.
12.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	The draft Work Plan should indicate that, in advance of any necessary acoustic monitoring, ground-based surveys will be completed of all potential bat hibernacula sites identified during the aerial reconnaissance as part of the 2021-2022 field surveys.	Update the draft Work Plan appropriately.	Added.
13.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>The draft Work Plan does not identify species-specific surveys planned for some species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray Fox</li> <li>• American Badger</li> <li>• Wolverine</li> <li>• Bobolink</li> <li>• American White Pelican</li> </ul>	<p>Update the draft Work Plan to identify all species-specific surveys the Proponent intends to undertake to appropriately evaluate the Projects potential impacts to all species at risk and their habitat.</p> <p>If the need for species-specific surveys is dependent on the results of the 2020 Desktop Review or Aerial Reconnaissance for a particular species, please specify and indicate whether surveys will be completed for that species if habitat is identified within</p>	The need for other species-specific surveys for the preferred route will be determined following evaluation of available data gathered through desktop review and results of the aerial reconnaissance and mine site survey, as well as consultation with regulators. This detail has been added to the 2020 field work plan.



Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Least Bittern</li> <li>• Chimney Swift</li> <li>• Lake Sturgeon</li> </ul> <p>Where the 2020 Desktop Review, Aerial Reconnaissance and/or Mine Site Survey identifies potential habitat, and species information is limited to inform an assessment of potential impacts from the proposed Project, species-specific surveys are likely to be required.</p>	<p>the Study Areas (i.e., PSA, LSA, RSA); and include detailed survey methodology in the 2021-2022 Work Plans.</p> <p>If there are no plans to complete species-specific surveys for a particular species at risk, update to draft Work Plan as necessary and include the rationale and justification for why surveys are not necessary for a given species in the development of the 2021-2022 Work Plans (e.g., sufficient information already exists to confirm presence/abundance/territories/habitat/etc., no habitat within the Study Areas, etc.).</p>	
14.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	<p>The draft Work Plan indicates that acoustic monitoring is planned as part of the 2021-2022 field surveys following an assessment of bat maternity roost habitat. Given the generally wide distribution of Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis across the Study Area, acoustic monitoring is likely to demonstrate presence during the maternity roost period.</p> <p>It is recommended that bat maternity roost habitat be modelled in advance of any field surveys using the Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory (eFRI) following accepted Ecological Land Classification (ELC) codes to inform the evaluation of alternative routes (refer to comment #2 above).</p> <p>Where possible, tree clearing within these areas should be avoided during the maternity roost period (e.g., May 1 to August 31) to avoid killing, harming or harassing species at risk bats. Where the Proponent is unable to avoid tree clearing within the maternity roost period (i.e., May 1 to August 31), impacts to the species are likely to occur and an ESA authorization is likely to be required.</p>	Update the draft Work Plan as necessary and consider during the development of the 2021-2022 Work Plans.	Comment noted and will be addressed in the 2021-2022 field work plan.
15.	Pg 10-11 / Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys	The draft Work Plan indicates that Eastern Whip-poor-will surveys and/or acoustic monitoring is planned as part of the 2021-2022 field surveys. Acoustic monitoring is not recommended for Eastern Whip-poor-will where site access is available. Wherever possible, potential Eastern Whip-poor-will	Update the draft Work Plan as necessary and consider during the development of the 2021-2022 Work Plans.	Comment noted and will be addressed in the 2021-2022 field work plan.

Comment #	Page/Section # in Work Plan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution	Response
		<p>habitat should be surveyed following recommended survey protocols for point counts along a driving or walking route to determine the breeding status of Eastern Whip-poor-will in the area, their relative abundance and the number of territories in the area. This will aid in identifying habitat protected under the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>.</p> <p>Where this survey methodology is not feasible (e.g., limited access), a detailed description of the Proponents planned approach to acoustic monitoring will be required in the 2021-2022 Work Plan and further consultation will be necessary with MECP – SARB.</p> <p>Where possible, tree clearing within Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat should be avoided during the breeding period (i.e., May 1 to August 15) to avoid killing, harming or harassing Eastern Whip-poor-will. Where the Proponent is unable to avoid tree clearing within the breeding period (i.e., May 1 to August 15), impacts to the species are likely to occur and an ESA authorization is likely to be required.</p>		
16.	Pg 12 / Section 8.0 Health, Safety and Environment	Grammatical error in the third bullet where it states " <i>the crew member to return to <u>its</u> community</i> "	Update the draft Work Plan to correct "its" to "their".	Corrected.



**Minutes of Meeting**

<b>PROJECT:</b>	Waasigan Transmission Line		
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	November 5, 2020, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.	<b>LOCATION:</b>	Conference Call: 1-877-385-4099; 8627517
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Monthly Update Meeting	<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Dayna Groom

**Invitees:**

#	Name	Title	Email
<b>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)</b>			
1	Carolyn Lee	Special Project Officer, Environmental Assessment Branch	<a href="mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca">Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca</a>
<b>Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)</b>			
2	Sarah Cohanim	Environmental Planner, Environmental Services	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com">Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com</a>
3	Bruce Hopper	Manager, Strategic Projects	<a href="mailto:Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com">Bruce.Hopper@HydroOne.com</a>
4	Dayna Groom	Environmental Planner, Environmental Services	<a href="mailto:Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com">Dayna.Groom@HydroOne.com</a>
5	Stephanie Hodson	Community Relations	<a href="mailto:Stephanie.Hodson@HydroOne.com">Stephanie.Hodson@HydroOne.com</a>
6	Devi Shantilal	Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations	<a href="mailto:Devi.Shantilal@HydroOne.com">Devi.Shantilal@HydroOne.com</a>
7	Tausha Esquega	Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations	<a href="mailto:Tausha.Esquega@HydroOne.com">Tausha.Esquega@HydroOne.com</a>
8	Alex To	Assistant Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Alex.To@HydroOne.com">Alex.To@HydroOne.com</a>
9	Stephen Lindley	Indigenous Engagement and Environmental Strategic Advisor	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Lindley@slci.ca">Stephen.Lindley@slci.ca</a>
<b>Dillon Consulting Ltd. (Dillon)</b>			
10	Don McKinnon	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Dpmckinnon@Dillon.ca">Dpmckinnon@Dillon.ca</a>
11	Joseph Carnevale	Project Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Jcarnevale@Dillon.ca">Jcarnevale@Dillon.ca</a>
<b>Golder Associates (Golder)</b>			
12	Callum Squires	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:Callum_Squires@golder.com">Callum_Squires@golder.com</a>

#	Item Description	Action
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**Minutes of Meeting**

1	<p><b>Indigenous Community Engagement Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Terms of Reference (ToR) was sent to all Indigenous communities and Hydro One has been following up to confirm receipt of the document and offer meetings.</li> <li>- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) confirmed receipt of the ToR.</li> <li>- Two community information sessions were held with the MNO in October. MNO participated in-person and Hydro One participated virtually via Zoom.</li> <li>- Hydro One had a meeting on November 3 with the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) Protection Committee to review comments and responses on draft ToR, as well as to discuss a letter they sent about timing of field studies. Hydro One will be following up to provide GLP with a detailed schedule of project milestones.</li> <li>- The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) requested they receive all comments, as well as a copy of the GLP letter, as they are completing follow up as well and would like to see what has been discussed to date. MECP is following up on acknowledgement of receipt forms. Many Indigenous communities have indicated that they will endeavor to send comments by November 16. Some logistical issues were noted with the USB flash drives, as well as difficulty locating specific sections of the ToR.</li> <li>- Hydro One noted that GLP’s consultant has completed a gap analysis of Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use (TK/TLRU) information that currently exists in the communities. Capacity Funding Agreements are being negotiated to support Indigenous Knowledge studies for the environmental assessment.</li> </ul>	<p>Hydro One to send GLP’s October 8, 2020 letter to MECP <i>(complete)</i></p>
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**Minutes of Meeting**

2	<p><b>Community Relations Engagement Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One sent out emails for the ToR release and mailed notices to residents in the study area. USB flash drives have been made available at public viewing locations.</li> <li>- Hydro One has been copying Carolyn on email responses to members of the public sent to date.</li> <li>- The Waasigan Community Roundtable inaugural meeting is scheduled for November 18 and will be held virtually. Representation includes municipalities in the study area, Lakehead University, Confederation College, local unions, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition. No Indigenous communities have expressed interest in participating.</li> <li>- The Community Roundtable will be an opportunity to share project information and collect feedback from key people in the project study area. Input received will be considered in the EA.</li> <li>- Hydro One confirmed comments on the ToR have been received from members of the public and no comments have been received to date from the Government Review Team (GRT) or municipalities.</li> <li>- A postcard will be sent to the study area in November for project awareness and to keep people updated on the project.</li> <li>- MECP inquired about the platform used for the virtual information session, as well as cost and logistics.</li> <li>- Hydro One indicated that the vendor they used was Prime Contact. The cost was approximately \$20-25,000. The vendor took care of the upfront logistics to set up the event, as well as facilitation on the day of the event.</li> </ul>	<p>Hydro One will send MECP information on the Community Roundtable, including a list of participants <i>(complete)</i></p>
3	<p><b>Terms of Reference Review and Comment Period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One noted issues with the original USB flash drives and sent replacements to Indigenous communities. Indigenous Relations followed up with communities to confirm access. The ToR has also been made available on an FTP site. No comments were received from the public related to issues associated with accessing the ToR document.</li> <li>- Hydro One will continue to send MECP the weekly comment tracker, as well as relevant correspondence, including anything received between the Record of Consultation publication and the start of the ToR comment period.</li> </ul>	<p>Hydro One to send MECP weekly ToR comment tracker and other relevant correspondence.</p>

**Minutes of Meeting**

4	<p><b>Field Program Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golder completed the 2020 field work program, including two field programs: 1) abandoned mine survey for potential bat hibernacula, and 2) aerial reconnaissance to collect data on the alternative routes.</li> <li>- Indigenous field monitors participated in the abandoned mine survey, which included observation of seven different locations identified as having potential to support bat hibernacula. All, but one, were dismissed as potential habitat. One location may require further study if it falls within the area of the preferred route.</li> <li>- There were no Indigenous participants for the helicopter reconnaissance due to COVID-19 precautions; however, one Golder employee who is a member of Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation attended. Some additional potential water bodies were recorded. Potential habitat, including spawning areas and species at risk (SAR) habitat, was observed along with some incidental observations. Golder will be processing the data and intends to use it to support the alternative route evaluation and will be sharing results with Indigenous communities and agencies.</li> <li>- The MECP noted that their SAR staff and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry may be interested in viewing the data and inquired if it can be shared in advance with the Ministry, including what was observed, to understand how it will feed into the alternative route evaluation.</li> <li>- Golder will take this request away to determine what might be available as data is processed over the next month or two.</li> <li>- Hydro One will also be providing a November newsletter update to Indigenous communities on the 2020 field program.</li> </ul>	<p>Golder to follow up on providing MECP data from the 2020 field program.</p>
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**Next Meeting:** December 4, 2020 at 11:00 am, Conference Call

**Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement, de la  
Protection de la nature et des Parcs**

Environmental Assessment Branch

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Sarah Cohanim, Environmental Planner  
Environmental Programs and Approvals  
Hydro One Networks Inc.  
Email: [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com)

Dear Ms. Cohanim:

RE: Proposed Terms of Reference for the Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line  
Environmental Assessment (EA Reference No. 16055)

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Thank you for submitting the Terms of Reference for Hydro One's Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment to the ministry for review and approval on October 9, 2020. The review of the Terms of Reference was formally initiated on October 16, 2020. As such, the public and agency comment period will end on November 16, 2020. You will be required to prepare a response to the comments received during this time. All comments received and responses will be considered by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks before a decision is made about your Terms of Reference.

Should you have any questions please contact the undersigned at 416-276-0360 or by e-mail at [Carolyn.lee@ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.lee@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Carolyn Lee  
Special Project Officer  
Environmental Assessment Branch

**Comments Table**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line – Draft 2020 Workplan – Round 2 review

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**Agency:** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Species at Risk Branch

**Commenter Name and Job Title:** Kevin Green, Northern Species at Risk Specialist; Lindsay McColm, Species at Risk Recovery Biologist; Brandan Norman, Species at Risk Policy Intern.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
1.	General	<p>The updated 2020 Field Work Plan was only provided to MECP on October 15, 2020 with an indication from the Proponent that they had already completed the Desktop Review and intended to undertake the Aerial Reconnaissance during the week of October 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020.</p> <p>Providing regulatory agencies less than a week to review and provide meaningful input into the proposed methodology is inadequate, and as a result, the Aerial Reconnaissance may be determined to be insufficient to inform the proposed Alternative Route Assessment, selection of a preferred route, and/or the Net Effects Assessment of the preferred route.</p> <p>MECP strongly encourages the Proponent to provide regulatory agencies sufficient time (e.g., minimum of four weeks) to review Work Plans to avoid potential delays.</p>	Commit to providing regulatory agencies a minimum of four weeks to review and provide input on future Work Plans, including between each review period (i.e., draft, revised and final).
2.	General	As per comments on the draft ToR provided on August 6, 2020, the draft 2020 Field Work Plan provided on September 22, 2020 and discussed during the meeting with the Project Team on	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.



Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>September 17, 2020, the proposed approach to conducting a through a Desktop Review using existing information combined with information from the Aerial Reconnaissance to inform the selection of a preferred route is considered insufficient. This is based on the limited information that currently exists for much of the Project area and concerns listed below with the proposed Aerial Reconnaissance.</p> <p>MECP-SARB strongly recommends ground-based investigations be conducted to appropriately inform the selection of a preferred route.</p>	
3.	Pg. 16 / Section 4.1 – Desktop Review	Additional information sources for the Desktop Review should be referenced, including iNaturalist and eBird.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.
4.	Pg. 17 / Section 4.1 – Desktop Review	<p>Additional clarity is required where the updated 2020 Field Work Plan indicates that “<i>mapping of documented habitat features or element occurrences that suggest sensitive habitat (e.g., nest sites) for other SAR.</i>”</p> <p>The Desktop Review should map all <i>potential</i> habitat features for <i>all</i> species at risk potentially impacted by the project and assessed during the proposed Aerial Reconnaissance; and subsequent 2021/22 Field Studies, as appropriate.</p> <p>Additionally, as per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, in addition to bat and Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat the draft 2020 Field Work Plan</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>should include approaches to mapping species at risk habitat for each species potentially impacted by the Project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- structures that may provide suitable roosting sites for bats;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting sites for Chimney Swift;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable nesting habitat for Barn Swallow;</li> <li>- structures that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox;</li> <li>- rock piles or brush/slash piles that may provide suitable den sites for Gray Fox or Wolverine;</li> <li>- potential nesting habitat for Bobolink;</li> <li>- potential connecting corridors, staging areas, nursery areas, and overwintering areas for Lake Sturgeon;</li> </ul>	
5.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020, the updated 2020 Field Work Plan should include a map illustrating the planned transects.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include a map of the planned transects.
6.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>Insufficient information is provided to rationalize the proposed areas to be assessed during the Aerial Reconnaissance (i.e., within 500 metres of alternative route centerlines) for species at risk.</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during the meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the proposed aerial reconnaissance should be designed to adequately</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include the rationale and justification for the proposed survey area for each species at risk identified in Attachment A.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>assess all species at risk habitat that may potentially be impacted by the Project, including the ROW and associated Project infrastructure (e.g., aggregated sources, access roads, etc.). The design should also consider each species habitat requirements and appropriate distances in which impacts from the Project may be realized, recognizing this may vary by species.</p>	
7.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The updated 2020 Field Work Plan does not include any consideration in the proposed survey area (i.e., within 500 metres of alternative route centerlines) for potential changes to the location of the proposed ROW and/or associated project infrastructure (e.g., aggregate sources, access roads, etc.). As such, the proposed survey area is insufficient to meet the objectives of the Aerial Reconnaissance as defined in the updated 2020 Field Work Plan (i.e., assess desktop findings for each of the alternative routes and identify any additional unmapped features).</p> <p>As discussed during the meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the proposed aerial reconnaissance should be designed to adequately assess all species at risk habitat that may potentially be impacted by the Project. Recognizing that the detailed project design has not been completed, identifying appropriate survey extents, which may vary by species, should consider potential changes to the location of the ROW and associated project infrastructure (i.e., concept similar to Limits of Work applied to other large transmission projects). This will ensure that all potential species at risk habitat potentially impacted by the alternate routes will be</p>	<p>Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include an appropriate extent for the Aerial Reconnaissance that considers potential future changes to the location of the ROW and includes associated project infrastructure.</p> <p>Alternatively, update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include the rationale and justification for the proposed survey area, including a description of why the proposed survey area is sufficient to assess all species at risk habitat potentially impacted by all Project components.</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>identified and considered in the Alternative Route Evaluation, selection of a preferred route, and the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>We note the response to similar comments provided on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan on September 22, 2020 from the Proponent provided to MECP-SARB on October 15, 2020 with the updated 2020 Field Work Plan, that <i>“Limits of Work will not be applied to the alternatives prior to selecting a preferred route. A Limits of Work, if required, will be identified during the EA and then applied to the preferred route. Hydro One will engage with applicable agencies to discuss if a Limits of Work can be included for this Project similar to other recent large transmission projects in northern Ontario”</i>. However, it is unclear why previous advice was not incorporated into the design of the updated 2020 Field Work Plan as no rationale was provided with this response.</p>	
8.	Pg. 18 / Section 4.2.1 – Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>Insufficient information is provided to rationalize the proposed single transect down the centerline of the route alternatives as being sufficient to survey all areas within 500 metres of the route alternatives.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed target height (i.e., 6 to 15 metres), is insufficient to meet the objectives of the proposed aerial reconnaissance (i.e., confirm desktop findings and identify additional unmapped features) within the proposed extent to be assessed (i.e., 500 metres of the route alternatives centreline).</p> <p>Based on these two factors, it is highly unlikely surveyors will be able to adequately assess</p>	<p>Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to reflect a more appropriate survey altitude and/or number of transects.</p> <p>Alternatively, update the 2020 Field Work Plan to include the rationale and justification for the proposed methods.</p>

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>known/suspected species at risk habitat, nor identify additional unmapped features with a single transect line down the centerline of the route alternatives flown at 6 to 15 metres altitude. As such, the proposed methodology is likely to miss important species at risk habitat that must be considered in the EA.</p> <p>MECP-SARB strongly recommends increasing the number of transects flown at an increased altitude, while still incorporating the proposed 6 to 15 metres target height where greater detail is required to properly assess the species at risk habitat features and other values as necessary.</p>	
9.	Pg. 21 / Section 4.2.2 – Mine Site Survey	<p>Additional rationale is required in the 2020 Field Work Plan to describe the criteria used to determine whether or not an abandoned mine feature was a candidate hibernaculum, specifically the dimensions of the features (i.e., minimum of 15 m deep).</p> <p>Recognizing some of these abandoned mine features are particularly old, and limit information exists, MECP-SARB strongly recommends all abandoned mine features that may be impacted by the Project be assessed during the Aerial Reconnaissance and subsequent ground-based surveys.</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.
10.	Pg. 21 / Section 4.2.2 – Mine Site Survey	The initial draft 2020 Field Work Plan provided to MECP-SARB identified five abandoned mine features within 500 metres of the Project ROW through the Desktop Review of the AMIS database. This detail has been removed from the updated 2020 Field Work Plan. Clarity is required on the number of potential abandoned mine features that will be assessed during the Mine Site Survey.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
11.	Pg. 12 Mine Site Survey	<p>The proposed surveys indicate hibernacula will be visited; however, does not acknowledge or propose precautions for potentially spreading White Nose Syndrome (WNS) fungal spores between potential hibernacula or actions to manage the risk of infecting bats with SARS-CoV-2.</p> <p>While we recognize the Proponent has indicated surveyors will not be handling bats or entering the mine features, should there be any contact with the entrance of the hibernacula, the 2020 Field Work Plan should include additional details on any precautions that will be taken to mitigate the risks identified above. The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) has developed guidance with respect to WNS and SARS-CoV-2 which the Proponent is encouraged to review and reference in the 2020 Field Work Plan.</p> <p>For your reference:  <a href="http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/covid-19.php">http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/covid-19.php</a>  <a href="http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/decontamination_protocols.php">http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/decontamination_protocols.php</a></p>	Provide clarity how surveys will mitigate the spread of WNS and/or SARS-CoV-2; and what disinfection protocols will be put in place.
12.	Pg. 22 / Section 5.0 – 2021-2022 Field Surveys	General Comment – the following comments associated with <i>Section 5.0 2021-2022 Field Surveys</i> should be considered preliminary and it is expected that MECP – Species at Risk Branch will be provided detailed Work Plans in advance of proposed 2021-2022 field surveys for review and comment.	Consider in the development of the 2021-2022 Field Surveys Work Plan.
13.	Pg. 22 / Section 5.0 – 2021-2022 Field Surveys	As per comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan provided on September 22, 2020, the updated 2020 Field Work Plan does not identify species-specific surveys planned for some species at risk identified in the draft ToR or through MECP-SARB comments	Consider in the development of the draft 2021-2022 Field Surveys.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>provided on the draft ToR on August 6, 2020, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gray Fox</li> <li>• American Badger</li> <li>• Wolverine</li> <li>• Bobolink</li> <li>• American White Pelican</li> <li>• Least Bittern</li> <li>• Chimney Swift</li> <li>• Lake Sturgeon</li> </ul> <p>Where the 2020 Desktop Review, Aerial Reconnaissance and/or Mine Site Survey identifies potential habitat, and species information is limited to inform an assessment of potential impacts from the proposed Project, species-specific surveys are likely to be required.</p>	
14.	Attachment A – Bat Hibernacula (Pg. 1)	The proposed desktop mapping approach only addresses known or suspected mine features and documented hibernacula. Additional detail is required on how the Proponent will identify potential anthropogenic structures that may provide suitable hibernacula.	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan appropriately.
15.	Attachment A – Eastern Whip-poor-will breeding habitat (Pg. 2)	<p>The proposed Desktop Mapping Approach for Eastern Whip-poor-will is insufficient to identify all potential breeding habitat.</p> <p>Where available, the query should be developed using the current Ecological Land Classification (ELC) ecosite codes, not the older Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC) ecosite codes, in part because the newer ELC codes incorporate substrate specific characteristics which should be considered in the</p>	Update the 2020 Field Work Plan to incorporate additional considerations in the proposed query for mapping Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat; and an additional step to review aerial imagery to confirm results of proposed query and map additional potential habitat not identified through the query.

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<p>identification of Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat; and not all relevant ecosites are addressed through the previous FEC codes (i.e., anthropogenic or field and shrub ecosites).</p> <p>In developing the query and selecting ecosites, consideration should be given to the spatial arrangement of forested areas suitable for nesting and open areas suitable for foraging, which combined create suitable edge habitat. As such, the query should include all relevant ecosites, focussing on substrate characteristics (i.e., depth, texture, moisture regime), composition/structure (e.g., species composition/structure, canopy closure, understory) and suitable open areas.</p> <p>To assist in the development of an appropriate query, ecosites that meet the following characteristics should be included:</p> <p><b>1. Appropriate spatial arrangement of the following nesting and foraging habitat areas which provides suitable edge habitat (e.g., nesting habitat is within 30 metres of open habitat):</b></p> <p>a. <u>Forested areas suitable for nesting</u>, such as:</p> <p>i. Conifer, deciduous, mixedwood forest stands 10 – 40 years;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very shallow, dry to fresh ecosites;</li> <li>• Dry, sandy ecosites;</li> </ul>	



Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh sandy or dry to fresh coarse loam ecosites;</li> <li>• Dense forest cover (e.g., canopy closure &gt; 75%);</li> <li>• Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous ground cover (e.g., understory ≤ 50%).</li> </ul> <p>b. <u>Open areas suitable for foraging</u>, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Bedrock and sand barren ecosites;</li> <li>ii. Conifer, deciduous, mixedwood forest stands 0-10 years (e.g., recent cutovers and/or burns);               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sparse forest cover (e.g., canopy closure ≤ 25%);</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. Field and shrub ecosites (e.g., meadow, sparse shrub, shrub, etc.);</li> <li>iv. Anthropogenic clearings (e.g., agricultural fields, aggregate pits, etc.);</li> <li>v. Linear features (e.g., roads, transmission lines, etc.);</li> <li>vi. Wetland ecosites (e.g., marsh, swamp, bog, fen, etc.);</li> <li>vii. Waterbodies (e.g., lakes, rivers, etc.).</li> </ol> <p>2. <b>Habitat suitable for both nesting and foraging:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conifer, deciduous, mixedwood forest stands 10 – 30 years (i.e., young regenerating forests);</li> </ol>	

Comment #	Reference to Workplan	Comments & Rationale	Proposed Action/Solution
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Very shallow, dry to fresh ecosites;</li> <li>ii. Dry, sandy ecosites;</li> <li>iii. Fresh sandy or dry to fresh coarse loam ecosites;</li> <li>iv. Sparse to moderate forest cover (e.g., canopy closure <math>\leq</math> 75%);</li> <li>v. Sparse to moderate shrub and herbaceous ground cover (e.g., understory <math>\leq</math> 50%).</li> </ul> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, identification and mapping of Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat should also include a review of aerial imagery to confirm initial query and identify additional potential Eastern Whip-poor-will habitat.</p> <p>For more information on suitable habitat for Eastern Whip-poor-will, refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) in Ontario</a> (MECP 2019)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Eastern Whip-poor-will General Habitat Description</a> (Ontario 2013)</li> <li>- <a href="#">Home Range Use, Habitat Selection, and Stress Physiology of Eastern Whip-poor-wills (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) at the Northern edge of their Range</a> (Rand 2014)</li> </ul>	

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**  
For the Waasigan Transmission Line Project EA Terms of Reference

UPON RECEIPT, PLEASE COMPLETE  
BOXES/BLANK LINES AND RETURN TO:

<b>Date Received</b>  <i>Nov 5. 2020</i>
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Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
**Attn: Carolyn Lee**  
**Special Project Officer**  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

TEL.: 416-276-0360  
FAX: 416-314-8452  
Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**EA Terms of Reference Title:** Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project

**EA Ref. No.:** 16055

**Agency:** City of Thunder Bay

**Reviewer:** Planning Services Division - Devon McCloskey

**Tel. No.:** 807 625-2406

**Email:** devon.mccloskey@thunderbay.ca

**Please check the appropriate box:**

- We will provide comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch by November 16, 2020.
- We are satisfied that the proposed terms of reference will address our mandate, but wish to be involved in the preparation of the environmental assessment.
- We have no comments and do not require any further involvement with this proposal.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**  
**For the Waasigan Transmission Line Project EA Terms of Reference**

**UPON RECEIPT, PLEASE COMPLETE  
BOXES/BLANK LINES AND RETURN TO:**

<b>Date Received</b>  <b>October 8, 2020</b>
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Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
**Attn: Carolyn Lee**  
**Special Project Officer**  
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M4V 1P5

TEL.: 416-276-0360  
FAX: 416-314-8452  
Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**EA Terms of Reference Title:** Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project

**EA Ref. No.:** 16055

**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_ Town of Atikokan \_\_\_\_\_  
**Reviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_ Jason Young CAO \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tel. No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ 807-597-1234 ext.222 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ [jason.young@atikokan.ca](mailto:jason.young@atikokan.ca) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the appropriate box:**

- We will provide comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch by November 16, 2020.
- We are satisfied that the proposed terms of reference will address our mandate, but wish to be involved in the preparation of the environmental assessment.
- We have no comments and do not require any further involvement with this proposal.

---

Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
**Attn: Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer**  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5

Sent via email: [Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca)

January 27, 2021

Dear Ms. Lee;

**RE: Waasigan Transmission Line Project - MNRF Response to Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) comments on Final Terms of Reference**

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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has reviewed HONI's response to the ministry's comments on the Final Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project as provided in the table titled "Table 1: Government Review Team Comment Summary Table MNRF Comments", dated December 18, 2020 and provided to us via email on January 11, 2021.

We appreciate the opportunity to review these responses and provide input that follows up on comments MNRF provided directly to MECP upon reviewing the Final ToR dated November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

We are providing this letter and accompanying table as the ministry's response. The table indicates at a high level where the ministry is satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions, where we are satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage, and where concerns remain which the ministry would like to see addressed at the ToR stage; these outstanding concerns are discussed further below.

MNRF appreciates HONI's responses committing to provide additional information that we have requested in the EA; doing so will help to avoid unnecessary delays in future permitting related to information requirements and consultation with First Nations and with other potentially affected parties.

MNRF asks that, should the ToR be approved in its current form, a condition of approval be included that requires HONI to fulfill the commitments made in its responses; ideally, these

commitments will be clearly and specifically listed in a way that is readily identifiable by MNRF and other interested parties.

**Outstanding Concerns:**

**1) Field Work Plan:**

MNRF appreciates HONI's commitment to complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation.

We further appreciate HONI's commitment that a new work plan will be prepared that identifies the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed, and that it will provide the work plan to MNRF for review prior to its implementation. However, as no details on these items have been provided to date, the ministry is unable to determine whether this response satisfies our concerns.

MNRF further notes that there is no commitment made by HONI to address concerns that the ministry may identify upon review of the new work plan prior to its implementation. The 2020 field work was carried out in advance of addressing MNRF concerns; the ministry re-iterates that its ability to assess the validity of conclusions presented in the EA will be compromised where there is insufficient field data to substantiate those conclusions. These deficiencies may, in turn, result in additional information and consultation being required at permitting stage.

During agency discussion with HONI on November 30, 2020, HONI described the field data as being conducted over one week on a very small subset of values (e.g., 50 of the 950 potential water crossings) and that this field work would occur after the preferred route had been selected and the EA started. MNRF continues to have significant concerns about HONI's proposed approach to complete the alternatives analysis and select the preferred route, prior to collecting and analyzing field data that is critical for verifying/ground-truthing assumptions and conclusions reached using information from desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance. This information should be included in model refinement prior to the selection of the preferred route.

**2) Site Specific Effects Assessment/Mitigation Plans for MNRF Values:**

MNRF would like to provide clarification to ensure that HONI and MECP understand the ministry's previous comments on both the Draft and Final ToR that, while it is appropriate that the EA assesses project-level net effects, it should also describe site-specific environmental effects and potential mitigation measures (see Table comment 15).

We appreciated seeing in HONI's response the commitment to creating mitigation plans that will be included in the EA for the following natural heritage values:

- Significant Wildlife Habitat;
- Provincially Significant Wetlands;
- Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;
- Protected Areas;
- Species at Risk; and
- Fish Habitat.

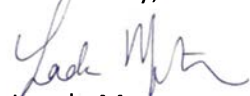
However, the response did not address the aspect of the comment asking that HONI describe site-specific environmental effects, in addition to project level, and cumulative effects.

For clarity, MNRF is not requesting a site specific description of effects for all values encountered, but, rather, to assess individually areas where there are values of particular significance/importance (e.g., where a feature such as a wetland serves multiple functions including habitat for fish and for a regionally rare species of waterfowl, as well as flood attenuation; or where a feature is rare within an ecological unit, but not necessarily within the broader project area). The impact to these high value locations and/or features may not be adequately assessed or characterized if only project-level effects are assessed.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that a methodology for site-specific effect assessment be created and applied for locations where values of particular significance/importance are found. Mitigation measures in these locations should be developed with their significance in mind and, where multiple values are impacted, with a holistic approach that will address impacts to all of the potentially affected values.

In closing, we trust that the above will be of assistance to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in carrying out its review of the Waasigan Transmission Line Project Terms of Reference. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any inquiries to Heather Nelson at [heather.nelson@ontario.ca](mailto:heather.nelson@ontario.ca).

Yours truly,



Londa Mortson

Regional Resources Manager

Northwest Region, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Cc: Bruce Hopper, Hydro One Networks Inc.

Attachments:

Table 1: Government Review Team Comment Summary Table MNRF Comments

**Table 1: Government Review Team Comment Summary Table  
MNRF Comments**

**Proposal:** Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project  
**Proponent:** Hydro One  
**Date:** Revised December 18, 2020

**Reviewed by:** MNRF January 27, 2021

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
<i>Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry</i>				
1	Londa Mortson, Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region  (Oct 16, 2020 letter)	<p>MNRF understands that HONI plans to conduct these flights using a single transect at a height of 6-15m above the tree tops, with crews viewing the landscape 500m either side of the flight line. As you may be aware, MNRF has extensive experience in conducting aerial inventories for various species / habitat features and is concerned that employing this methodology to assess features will result in values / potential values being missed. For example, moose aerial inventories are flown at an average height of 150m above ground level and at this height observers are looking to thoroughly survey an area approximately 250m on either side of the machine. Flying at decreased heights will provide a greater level of detail for the immediate flight area but will limit the range of observations significantly.</p> <p>The 2020 Field Work Plan, draft Terms of Reference and additional detail and explanation provided by HONI state that HONI intends to rely solely on desktop analyses and information from aerial reconnaissance to inform its identification of the preferred transmission line corridor (i.e. no ground-based field studies to verify or further inform the analysis); as such, the potential shortcomings of the planned aerial reconnaissance methodology are significant. MNRF's ability to understand and validate any conclusions presented in the Environmental Assessment on the basis of information collected via aerial reconnaissance will be considerably constrained.</p>	<p>Comments are noted and follow-up conversations will be had with the MNRF related to the field program.</p> <p>The aerial surveys were conducted in a fashion that involved a meandering pattern to get an overview of all wildlife, vegetation and watercourse/waterbody features that intersected with the study area, which was a 500 m buffer on either side of each 150 m-wide route alternative. Flight height varied depending on the ability to see the characteristics of the specific features that were being identified (e.g., watercourse width, occurrence of bedrock openings).</p> <p>Based on requests from the MECP Species at Risk Branch (SARB) and MNRF, and as discussed with the agencies in November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)</p>



#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>We also wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our earlier comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan and draft Terms of Reference that aerial reconnaissance and desktop analysis are not sufficient to inform the selection of the preferred corridor given the lack of existing data points / information in the project area, and that on the ground surveys should be used to help fill in data gaps in order to better inform the preferred route selection.</p>	<p>MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities in early 2021 for review prior to initiating the program.</p> <p>The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.</p> <p>At this time, it is proposed that the program be completed in a seasonally appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential species at risk (SAR) habitat along each alternative route will be visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossings and to confirm the</p>	

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFR Response
			<p>presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas). Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p>	
2	<p>Londa Mortson, Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region</p> <p>(November 16, 2020 cover letter)</p>	<p><b><u>Commitments:</u></b> The MNRFR appreciates the commitments made by HONI to create the following plans as part of the future Environmental Assessment (EA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access plan:</b> which will include location and timing of use for all roads that will be used to facilitate the project, length and width of new roads and upgrades to existing roads, ownership, authority to use, permanency and plans for decommissioning.</li> <li>• <b>Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan:</b> which will include detailed information about Hydro One's plans for tree clearing including identification of areas to be cleared permanently vs. areas to be reforested, timing of and methods for clearing, management of cleared timber and brush, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Field Work Plans:</b> which will include survey protocols for ground-based studies of the preferred route.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Protection Plan:</b> which will be designed to confirm that the assumptions used in the assessment were correct, to determine compliance with project permits/approvals and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.</li> <li>• <b>Undocumented values:</b> which will include plans/protocols HONI will use to address instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values</li> </ul>	<p>Comments noted.</p>	<p>MNRFR satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		are discovered in the field during construction and/or operation of the project.		
3		<p><b><u>Outstanding Concerns:</u></b></p> <p>• <b>Field Work Plan:</b> As noted above, MNRF appreciates the commitment to conduct ground-based field surveys to inform the nets effects assessment of the preferred route. That said, MNRF reiterates that ground-based field surveys would also benefit the alternative route analysis by verifying/ground-truthing assumptions and conclusions reached using information from desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance.</p>	<p>Based on requests from the MECP-SARB and MNRF, and as discussed with the agencies in November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities in early 2021 for review prior to initiating the program.</p> <p>The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.</p> <p>At this time, it is proposed that the program be completed in a seasonally appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential SAR habitat along each alternative route will</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFF Response
			<p>be visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossing and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas). Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p>	
4		<p>• <b>Mitigation Plans for MNRFF Values:</b>  During the review of the Draft ToR MNRFF provided a comment that the EA should assess project-level net effects but also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures.</p> <p>For clarity, MNRFF is not asking for a mitigation plan for each individual feature per se; rather, the ministry is asking that the EA provide different mitigation plans for each type of natural heritage value such as: 1) Significant Wildlife Habitat, 2) Provincially Significant Wetlands, 3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, 4) Protected Areas, 5) Species at Risk, 6) Fish Habitat.</p> <p>These mitigation plans can then used at specific value locations to identify the set of mitigation measures that are most appropriate for that type of feature at that location. This would result in a specific mitigation approach for each value.</p>	<p>Hydro One can confirm that mitigation plans will be included in the EA Report for the following natural heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant Wildlife Habitat;</li> <li>• Provincially Significant Wetlands;</li> <li>• Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;</li> <li>• Protected Areas;</li> <li>• Species at Risk; and</li> <li>• Fish Habitat.</li> </ul>	<p>MNRFF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions.</p> <p>See also cover letter item #2 for clarification re: mitigation plans for locations with values of particular significance/importance.</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFB Response
		<p>In addition to helping the MNRFB understand the net effects of the various project components on natural heritage values, these plans will help to facilitate efficient issuance of future permits and approvals for this project.</p> <p>Therefore, we strongly recommend that HONI include a commitment to provide these mitigation plans in the EA.</p>		
5		<p><b>• Supporting Infrastructure:</b> Several MNRFB comments on the draft ToR requested that a commitment be made to provide greater detail in the EA about the project design in order to ensure a thorough accounting of the effects of the project, and to support future MNRFB permitting.</p> <p>While MNRFB understands that HONI has been directed by the IESO to only develop the Project and has not yet been awarded construction rights, the EA should describe and assess the impact of ancillary infrastructure required for project construction. This information will help enable MNRFB to determine, at the end of the EA process, the feasibility of being able to issue permits and approvals required to implement the project.</p> <p>MNRFB continues to strongly recommend that HONI provide the additional information we have requested during the EA. Lack of project details will result in more information being required at the permitting stage and, potentially, the need to carry out additional consultation with First Nations and with other potentially affected parties. This will lengthen the permitting process and could have implications to construction scheduling.</p>	<p>As previously noted, Hydro One will strive to provide as much Project-specific detail as possible during the EA.</p>	<p>The MNRFB is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>
6		<p><b>• Criteria and Indicators:</b> MNRFB appreciates that the final ToR expands greatly on the criteria and indicators HONI plans to use for Alternative Route Evaluation (Appendix C) and Net Effects Assessment (Appendix D).</p>	<p>Hydro One incorporated MNRFB's comments on the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators provided in the draft ToR. As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with</p>	<p>MNRFB satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFB Response
		<p>Our comments provide recommendations for additional criteria and refinements of existing criteria to ensure that MNRFB's interests are addressed in the EA for the alternative route selection phase of the project.</p> <p>For example, in the current list of indicators, all "species of conservation concern" (an important component of significant wildlife habitat), have been grouped into one indicator. This indicator should be broken down into separate criteria for each individual species because the impact of the project to species of conservation concern varies depending on whether the species is, for example, a bird, vs. an animal vs. an insect. It is inappropriate to group all these types of species together in one indicator as the impacts and mitigation measures would not be the same.</p> <p>Further, MNRFB notes that the list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) differ in some instances. We would appreciate explanation in the ToR and EA as to the rationale for those.</p> <p>MNRFB would welcome an opportunity to discuss criteria and indicators in greater detail with HONI to ensure that that both the alternative route selection, and preferred alternative analysis are determined with an appropriate consideration of the full range of MNRFB interests.</p>	<p>agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators.</p> <p>The list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) do in fact differ in some cases depending on data availability and context. We note that the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators are typically based on "quantifiable" attributes (e.g., things that can be measured effectively), whereas the effects assessment criteria and indicators for the preferred route include both quantitative and qualitative elements which rely on more detailed data collected throughout the EA process (e.g., species-specific field surveys).</p>	
7		<p><b>• The Former Steep Rock Mine Site:</b> MNRFB continues to have concerns about the feasibility of Alternative Route 2A as it is based on the current landscape of the former Steep Rock site mine, not its anticipated future state once rehabilitation is complete.</p> <p>As HONI's vision of the transmission line in this area may not be achievable re-routing or re-consideration of alternative 2A may be needed. Further, route 2A should not be presented as a viable alternative</p>	<p>As noted in the ToR and in previous responses to the MNRFB, the alternative routes identified in the ToR are conceptual only and will be evaluated during the EA, including the feasibility of constructing one in the vicinity of the former Steep Rock Mine site.</p> <p>The routes identified in the ToR are subject to revision during the EA as additional information becomes available</p>	<p>The MNRFB is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		route without first assessing how this change of landscape at the Steep Rock site affects route feasibility.	and consultation continues. Your comments will be considered as part of the alternative route evaluation to be undertaken during the EA. In addition, Hydro One will request from the MNRF any available data (e.g., shapefiles) of the former Steep Rock Mine area in order to consider all available data in the alternative route evaluation.	
8		<p><b>• Impacts to the Remote Tourism Industry:</b> As mentioned in review of the draft ToR, the EA should consider how access in the project area is anticipated to change as a result of the proposed project, and what measures will be taken to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts resulting from access changes (i.e. increases in levels of access or creation of new unwanted access) near remote tourism lakes.</p> <p>For example, some roads may have access restrictions to protect the tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this when planning how it will carry out the project.</p>	Comment noted; will be considered in the EA.	The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage
9		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The ToR describes the existing environment (Description of Existing Environment) using LandCover data.</p> <p>MNRF recommends that HONI use the Provincial Ecosites that are part of Ontario's Ecological Land Classification when describing the terrestrial environment in the EA. The provincial ecosites are available through Forest Resource Inventories (FRI) and provide finer ecological resolution than the digitally derived LandCover. In addition, the provincial ecosites</p>	<p>The provincial ecosites, available through the most up to date FRI data, will be used as base mapping when describing the terrestrial environment and SWH, and a stratified field sampling design will be employed to achieve appropriate field survey coverage within the various ecosites occurring in the study areas.</p> <p>Hydro One will follow-up with the MNRF to confirm whether there is more recent FRI data than the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog River – Matawin – 2012;</li> <li>• Lakehead – 2009;</li> <li>• Quetico Provincial Park – 2009;</li> </ul>	MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>are the ecological units employed to describe and confirm Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) when using Ecoregional Criteria Schedules.</p> <p>Related: MNRF recommends that the FRI be used to stratify the study area into ecological units at the Provincial Ecosite scale. Stratification can then be used to develop a field program to describe the baseline conditions of the environment and to identify natural resource values to be considered in the EA. The field program should contain an appropriate number of surveys (e.g. vegetation, breeding bird) to adequately describe the environment of the study area, as well as areas that may contain SWH.</p> <p>Data obtained will enable HONI to distinguish different types of vegetation and habitats at a finer scale in order to more accurately delineate SWH and other natural heritage values, and to ensure that impacts to values are identified and accounted for.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF recommends that the EA describe terrestrial environment baseline conditions using the Provincial Ecosites in order to better capture variation across the landscape, and to better identify natural heritage values (e.g. SWH).</p> <p>The MNRF strongly recommends that a stratified field sampling method be employed to achieve appropriate field surveys / coverage that will better describe baseline conditions, supplement existing wildlife and vegetation values, and assess, consider and mitigate the net effects of the proposed project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sapawe – 2013;</li> <li>• Crossroute – 2010;</li> <li>• Wabigoon – 2010;</li> <li>• English River – 2013; and</li> <li>• Dryden – 2015.</li> </ul>	
10		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p>	Based on requests from MECP-SARB, MNRF and Indigenous communities, and as discussed with the agencies in November 2020, Hydro One will	Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter



#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFR Response
		<p>As part of the review of the Draft ToR the MNRFR provided several comments relating to the need for field plans/studies in order to inform the future EA. (Comment ID #6, 15)</p> <p>A field plan containing additional information about proposed field studies was provided to MNRFR (Technical Memorandum – Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan, prepared by Golder Associated Ltd, dated August 21, 2020). MNRFR has reviewed this document within the context of the Terms of Reference review and remains concerned that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HONI continues to propose that only information from aerial reconnaissance (and desktop analyses) will be used in the Alternative Route Evaluation and determination of the preferred route. Field studies should be conducted to ground-truth assumptions made based on desktop analyses and aerial reconnaissance; and</li> <li>2. the lack of detail about the proposed 2021-2022 field work program and methodologies does not allow MNRFR to evaluate whether the proposed field program (including ground-based studies), will enable HONI to accurately characterize conditions along the preferred route, identify potential impacts of the proposed project and, therefore, develop effective avoidance and/or mitigation measures to minimize those impacts.</li> </ol> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRFR reiterates its earlier recommendation that field work be conducted to inform both the Alternative Route Evaluation (and selection of the preferred route), and the Impact Assessment for the preferred route.</p>	<p>complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRFR and Indigenous communities in early 2021 for review prior to initiating the program.</p> <p>The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.</p> <p>At this time, it is proposed that the program be completed in a seasonally appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential SAR habitat along each alternative route will be visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites</p>	<p>Item #1)</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
			<p>screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossings and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas). Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p> <p>Hydro One also continues to commit to collecting detailed natural heritage data along the preferred route as outlined in the ToR in support of the net effects assessment of the preferred route.</p> <p>Hydro One will provide regulatory agencies with a 2021-2022 field work plan early in 2021, prior to field surveys starting, for their review and comment.</p>	
11		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Related to the above comment on fields plans, and as previously stated, MNRF does not consider aerial reconnaissance an adequate tool to assess the distribution and current state of fish and fish habitat. (Comment ID #16)</p> <p>MNRF is encouraged that fish community and water quality sampling, as well as fish habitat</p>	<p>More detail about the site selection process for future field programs will be discussed within the 2021-2022 field work plans.</p> <p>Hydro One agrees that surveys will target areas where work is anticipated below the high watermark, including short reach small watercourses, where applicable.</p> <p>The comment regarding beaver dams is</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #1)</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>assessment will be completed for a subset of water crossing sites. However, the field plan seen to date does not indicate how water crossing sites will be selected. MNRF has several recommendations associated with the selection of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNRF's principal interest regarding water crossings is in sites where there will be work in water, or below the high-water mark. As a result, surveying sites where a clear-span bridge will be used is not necessary and may not be an effective use of survey resources.</li> <li>• MNRF is particularly interested in short-reach small watercourses connected to cold water streams, which may provide critical young-of-year habitat for brook trout. Many of these are seasonal and will not appear in a fall survey; those that do may not have fish present in a fall field survey. For this reason, a single fall field survey will not be considered definitive / adequate to support future permitting.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, a reminder that beaver dams are transient and that the presence of a beaver dam on a watercourse does not necessarily indicate that there are no fish upstream of the dam.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>  MNRF recommends focusing water crossing sampling on sites that may require working in water or below the high-water mark. In addition, the timing of a survey or specific conditions of a waterbody may not enable the EA to accurately characterize a system as having an absence of fish. Additional work to confirm a true absence of fish (or fish species) may be needed where work is planned outside of the timing window.</p>	<p>noted.</p> <p>The characterization of each potential waterbody will be conservative when determining the presence/absence of fish and it is noted that the habitat present at the time of the surveys may not reflect the year-round habitat available.</p>	
12		<b>Document and Section</b>	Comment noted; will be considered in	The MNRF is satisfied

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFR Response
		<p>Main report</p> <p>Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use (Pg. 49)</p> <p>Section 4.2.4 Summary of study to be completed during EA</p> <p>Table 4-4 (Pg. 64)</p> <p><b>Comment</b>  MNRFR comments on the draft ToR noted that remote tourism is an important part of the economy in the area of the proposed transmission line and, as such, the EA should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consider how access is anticipated to change (e.g. creation of new access roads as well as the transmission line corridor itself) as a result of the project; and</li> <li>- identify measures proposed to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate negative impacts of those changes particularly as it relates to remote tourism</li> </ul> <p>(Comment ID# 35, 36).</p> <p>MNRFR appreciates that HONI provided a general response to these comments; however, MNRFR wishes to emphasize the following aspects of those original comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some roads may have access restrictions to protect tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this in planning how it will implement the project.</li> <li>- <i>The EA should consider how access is anticipated to change, and what measures would be taken to limit increases in / unwanted access.</i></li> </ul>	<p>the EA.</p>	<p>with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF reiterates its previous recommendation that:</p> <p><i>"Where any changes in access are proposed to implement the project, effects of these changes on tourism operations (and other factors) must be addressed in the EA."</i></p> <p>Further, the EA should identify proposed avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures to limit negative impacts.</p>		
13		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main report, 4.2.3.4 Aesthetics</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The following comment was provided as part of the draft ToR review:</p> <p>Consider using viewshed/ viewscape analysis to depict impacts to aesthetics and find ways to mitigate these impacts. (Comment ID #38)</p> <p>The draft response to this comment stated that viewshed and/or viewscape analysis would be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route.</p> <p>MNRF agrees that that this is a reasonable approach but notes that this is not what is described in the final ToR.</p> <p>The Final ToR limits viewshed and/or viewscape analysis to only assessing aesthetic impacts to Provincial Parks or Conservation Reserves. MNRF considers that the viewshed and/or viewscape analysis should be used toward determining the impacts of the project on remote tourism lakes and operators as well.</p>	<p>Hydro One can confirm that viewshed and/or viewscape analysis will not be limited to provincial parks and conservation reserves and will include other sensitive receptors, such as remote tourism operations, where appropriate.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Use viewshed and/or viewscape analysis to model aesthetic impacts on remote tourism lakes and operators and consider measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate those impacts.</p>		
14		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.2.3.3 Forestry (Pg. 50)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF's comments on the draft ToR identified that the project area passes through six different Forest Management Planning (FMP) areas, run by different Sustainable Forest Licence Holders (SFL). (Comment ID # 43)</p> <p>MNRF is encouraged by HONI's subsequent commitment to consult with the SLF holders for each of these forests and to review these FMPs.</p> <p>MNRF would, however, like to emphasize that a key part of this comment is to encourage HONI to work with the SFLs to find efficiencies that will decrease the impact of the transmission line project on the environment:</p> <p><i>"In addition, there may be opportunities to coordinate and find efficiencies between the Waasigan project and forest operations related to road construction, harvest, and investment into renewal that will reduce impacts on natural values. For example, there may be a planned forest access road that might be beneficial to the Waasigan project during the construction period – aligning the construction of this road to suit both purposes may be warranted."</i></p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF strongly recommends that HONI work with Sustainable Forestry Licence Holders to find efficiencies</p>	<p>Hydro One commits to working 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.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		that will reduce the overall impacts on the environment (for example: shared use of existing or new/planned roads and water crossings).		
15		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 4.3.1 (Pg. 70)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> During review of the Draft ToR MNRF provided a comment that the EA should assess project-level net effects and also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures (Comment ID #12):</p> <p><b><i>“Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</i></b> <i>Please update the ToR to specifically identify that the EA will address sites specific effects and mitigation measures, as well as the cumulative net effects following mitigation measures at the project level.”</i></p> <p>MNRF appreciates HONI's response to this comment but would like to clarify the comment as it appears that the intent of it may not have been understood.</p> <p>MNRF was not asking for a mitigation plan for each individual value/feature per se; rather, the ministry strongly advises that the EA provide a mitigation plan specific to each type of natural heritage value, such as: 1) Significant Wildlife Habitat, 2) Provincially Significant Wetlands, 3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, 4) Protected Areas, 5) Species at Risk, 6) Fish Habitat. These mitigation plans can then be used / referred to at each specific value location to identify the set of mitigation measures that are most appropriate for that type of feature at that location. This would result in a specific mitigation approach for each value.</p> <p>In addition to helping the MNRF understand the net effects of the various project components on natural</p>	<p>Hydro One can confirm that mitigation plans will be included in the EA Report for the following natural heritage values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant Wildlife Habitat;</li> <li>• Provincially Significant Wetlands;</li> <li>• Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;</li> <li>• Protected Areas;</li> <li>• Species at Risk; and</li> <li>• Fish Habitat.</li> </ul> <p>Hydro One can also confirm that the net effects of the project on natural heritage values will be carried through to the cumulative effects assessment, which will assess the project-level net effects that remain following consideration of mitigation measures, including those identified in the mitigation plans listed above.</p>	<p>Concerns remain. MNRF requests these be addressed at the ToR stage (see cover letter Item #2)</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>heritage values, these plans will help to facilitate efficient issuance of future permits and approvals for this project.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> To enable full understanding of the net effects of the project on natural heritage values and to support future permit discussions, include in the EA mitigation plans for each of the following types of natural heritage values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Significant Wildlife Habitat</li> <li>2) Provincially Significant Wetlands</li> <li>3) Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests</li> <li>4) Protected Areas</li> <li>5) Species at Risk</li> <li>6) Fish Habitat.</li> </ol>		
16		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 6.2.2.1 Section 1 – City of TBay to Town of Atikokan (Pg. 92)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Upon review of the draft ToR the MNRF inquired about the preference to twin the existing 230 kV line for the approx. 100 km stretch from West of the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake and why twinning of the 115 kV line where it diverges from the 230 kV line was not considered in this stretch. (Comment ID #54)</p> <p>MNRF is of the view that twinning of both the 230 kV and of the 115 kV lines should be considered as options for evaluation within this stretch given that consideration of alternatives to determine and rationalize the selection of the preferred route is a key component of the EA.</p> <p>HONI's response to this comment on the draft ToR was "TBC" which we understand to mean "to be confirmed."</p>	<p>Please note that a final copy of the comment and response table was included in the Record of Consultation as Appendix M-1. The table provided by the MNRF with these most recent comments is dated early September 2020, which was not a final copy, so some items were still being confirmed.</p> <p>The comment related to routing in this area was addressed by way of conference call with the MNRF on September 4, 2020, where rationale was provided for the lack of viable routes in this specific area. It was suggested by the MNRF to include this information in the proposed ToR which was completed and is copied below for reference. Minutes from the conference call can be provided, if required.</p> <p>This comment was further clarified by Hydro One in response to a letter</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>



#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>As such, MNRF is reiterating this comment on the formal ToR submission.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>  The EA should evaluate additional alternative routes in Section 1 (Thunder Bay to Atikokan) within the section from the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake, including the option of twinning along the existing 115 kV line where it deviates from the 230 kV line, or provide discussion/rationale as to why this is not possible.</p> <p>This evaluation will help to support conclusions presented in the EA about the impacts of the preferred route relative to others considered including, for example, impacts to natural heritage and other MNRF interests.</p>	<p>received from Londa Mortson on September 29, 2020, and a response was provided in Appendix M-1 of the Record of Consultation under the MNRF heading (pdf. Page 1788).</p> <p>Excerpt from ToR Section 6.2.2.1: Section 1 – City of Thunder Bay (Lakehead TS) to the Town of Atikokan (Mackenzie TS):</p> <p><i>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 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</i></p>	

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFF Response
			<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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 k V transmission line ROW, following the rail line was not explored further as an alternative route.</i></p>	
17		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Section 6.2.2.2 Section 2 - Town of Atikokan (Pg. 98)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> As raised during the draft ToR review (Comment ID # 59; Original MNRFF comment #53), the feasibility of Alternative Route 2A will need to consider not only the current landscape around the Steep Rock site, but also its future state following site rehabilitation.</p>	<p>All alternative routes will be fully evaluated as part of the EA, including alternative Route 2A, and the MNRFF's comments will be further solicited and considered during the evaluation process. Should it be determined that it is not feasible to construct a transmission line in this area during the evaluation, the route will be removed from further consideration.</p>	<p>The MNRFF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFR Response
		<p>We reiterate that the proposed transmission line location and transmission line infrastructure must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the current site and future landscape of the former Pit Lakes (Errington, Hogarth, and Caland) and adjoining waterbodies.</li> <li>• the estimated final pit lake elevations 394.00 m (occurring by 2070 or possibly earlier depending on the MNRFR rehabilitation strategy)</li> <li>• the estimated lake outline, based on the contour 394.00 m,</li> <li>• the proper flood hazard limit offsets (to be determined using MNRFR flood limits policy documents).</li> <li>• Dam structures located within the Steep Rock site</li> </ul> <p>Failure to recognize the current and future conditions may lead to costly impacts to Hydro One's transmission line infrastructure.</p> <p>HONI has not yet responded as to how this information will be used to modify the Alternative Route Evaluation process in this area (the response simply states that HONI will consult with the MNRFR during the EA on this matter).</p> <p>The current vision for the transmission line in this area may not be possible given future lake size (approximately 4.5 km north to south; 1,200 ha).</p> <p>MNRFR advises that Route 2A should not be presented as a viable alternative route without first assessing how this change of landscape at the Steep Rock site affects its viability/location/constructability.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b></p>		

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		Fully consider and then provide details within the EA describing to how Route 2A takes into account the future landscape changes at the former Steep Rock Mine area.		
18		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 11.0 Other Permits, Approvals and Authorizations (Pg. 199)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF reiterates it earlier comment on the draft ToR that providing sufficient information in the EA about all components of the project will enable more efficient and timelier issuance of future permits. (Comment ID # 73)</p> <p>MNRF understands from HONI that the IESO has directed HONI only to develop the Project, and that HONI has not yet been awarded construction rights. However, to present a full accounting of the effects of the project in the EA, and to enable MNRF to determine the feasibility of being able to issue permits and other authorizations required to implement the project at the end of the EA, details must be provided in the EA about access roads and all other ancillary infrastructure proposed on Crown lands or that involve the use of Crown resources to implement the project.</p> <p>To this end, MNRF appreciates that HONI has committed to providing information in the EA about the where, how and when access roads and trails will be needed, how temporary access roads will be decommissioned and restored, and rationale for same.</p> <p>MNRF strongly recommends that similar information be provided for proposed water crossings i.e. identify the type of crossing that HONI proposes to use at key crossing</p>	<p>As described in Section 5.1.1.2 of the ToR, "access roads will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA and will form part of a preliminary Access Plan that will be developed based on available information."</p> <p>As previously noted, Hydro One will strive to provide as much project-specific detail as possible during the EA, including information about the water crossings and the types of water crossing structures that may be used for the project at different types of locations/scenarios.</p> <p>Where avoidance is not possible, the EA will include an assessment of the installation of the water crossings structures at different types of locations, as well as the decommissioning and restoration of the temporary water crossings.</p> <p>A mitigation plan will be developed for Fish Habitat to identify mitigation measures to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, and these measures will be considered in the net effects assessment.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>locations (e.g., temporary bridges, culverts, ice bridges, etc.) and, for all other crossings, identifies the types of structure/crossings that it proposes to use for crossings under varying scenarios. Details on mitigation measures for each type of installation to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, decommissioning and rehabilitation measures (where applicable for temporary access) should also be provided.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> In addition to, or as part of, the access plan, provide information on water crossings that identifies the types of water crossing structures may be used for the project at different types of locations/scenarios, mitigation measures for each type of installation in order to prevent impacts to fish and fish habitat, and how these water crossing will be decommissioned and areas restored once construction is complete and they are no longer required.</p>		
19		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main report, Table 11-1 (Pg. 203)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Thank you for clarifying this section of the table as it relates to MNRFs mandate. (Comment ID # 74, 75, 76)</p> <p>We suggest additional edits to further clarify and organize permit and authorization requirements by legislation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF suggests that Table 11.1 is modified as follows:</p> <p>Agency: MNRF</p> <p>Other Relevant Provincial Legislations, Permit, Approvals and Authorization:</p>	<p>The preliminary list of anticipated permits, approvals and/or authorizations was updated based on MNRF comments received during the draft ToR review. It is suggested that further updates be made as part of the EA once additional project information becomes available (e.g., identification of a preferred route) and specific permitting requirements are confirmed.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNR Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Lands Act, 1990 (PLA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work Permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shoreland work on private or Crown lands</li> <li>▪ Within waterbodies on private or Crown lands</li> <li>▪ Roads, trails and water crossings</li> <li>▪ Construction or placement of a building</li> <li>▪ Any other activities that require a work permit as per O reg 239/13: Activities on Public Lands and Shore Lands- Work Permits and Exemptions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Occupational Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land Use Permits (construction camps, laydown areas, temporary accommodation camps, aggregate exploration activities etc.)</li> <li>▪ Other forms of tenure for ROW (easement, lease, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Areas for other project requirements that cannot meet the requirements as set in Ontario Regulation 161/17: Occupation of Public Lands under section 21.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Letters of Authorization</li> <li>▪ Travel Permits</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work permit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ for clearing within 300m of a forest or woodland,</li> <li>▪ work and burn authorization for clearing and burning of cleared vegetation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 (FWCA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Licence to Collect Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collection Permit to allow for the taking and transferring of fish or wildlife</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Authorization should the Project affect nesting areas, beavers or black bears.</li> <li>● Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994 (CFSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forest Resource Licence to harvest timber on Crown lands and private lands where trees are owned by the Crown</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Aggregate Resources Act, 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permit for the extraction of aggregate on Crown land</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, 1990 (LRIA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water Crossings on private land, as applicable</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Amendments to CLUPA policies as required.</li> </ul>		
20		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 5.2.2 (Pg. 83)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> During the operation phase of the project is it likely that structure replacements and structure maintenance will also be required? This is not mentioned in the ToR as a type of maintenance activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, maintenance and replacement of structures typically requires the re-establishment of access roads and water crossings. These roads and water crossing may require permits and authorization from the MNRF prior to their construction/use.</p> <p>This should be mentioned and considered within the ToR and future EA as part of the operational phase of the project.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Identify and consider maintenance and replacement of structures, including those which may require the re-</p>	<p>Although structure repairs and structure replacements are expected to be minimal once constructed (and similar to the existing 230 kV line in this area), Hydro One can confirm that these operational activities will be considered in the EA. Hydro One can also confirm that, where possible, the design will take into account the preference for existing access to be used rather than the re-establishment of access roads and water crossings.</p> <p>Once the preferred route is selected, Hydro One intends to continue discussions with the MNRF to confirm the permit requirements. The permits and authorizations will be identified in the EA Report, including documentation that roads and water crossings may require permits and authorization from the MNRF prior to their construction.</p>	<p>The MNRF is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNR Response
		<p>establishment of access roads and water crossings, in the ToR and future EA as part of the operational phase of the project. Note in the EA documentation that roads and water crossing may require permits and authorization from the MNR prior to their construction.</p>		
21		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Main Report, Section 6.2.2.3, Figure 6-7 Route 3B (Pg. 103)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The description of route 3B within the ToR does not acknowledge that this route would include a small greenfield portion where Turtle River White Otter Lake Provincial Park is crossed to link up Highway 622 and the Snake Bay Road.</p> <p>As greenfield lines are strongly not preferred based on the results of the route selection workshop, it should be acknowledged that a small portion does exist as part of alternative 3B for transparency and explain why this option was still considered as an alternative as it 'presented highly from a natural heritage perspective....' (pg. 101)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please edit the description of Route 3B to mention this greenfield portion, to ensure transparency, and provide reason why given this alternative route 3B is still considered as a viable alternative.</p>	<p>The route descriptions are meant to be high-level and still subject to further review, detailed evaluation and specific siting requirements once a preferred route is selected.</p> <p>Hydro One agrees that greenfield routes are not preferred given the existing, previously disturbed corridors in the area. As noted in Section 6.2.2.3 of the ToR, Route 3B was included to provide an additional crossing location of the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park and to avoid crossing the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the White Otter Enhanced Management Area when compared with the route that follows the existing 230 kV transmission line.</p>	<p>MNR satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>
22		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix C, Pg. C-12</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Trappers, bait harvesters and bear management area operators may be impacted by the proposed project.</p>	<p>Hydro One will add the following indicators as part of the Recreation and Tourism criterion to be considered as part of the alternative route evaluation in the EA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of traplines within 1 km</li> </ul>	<p>MNR satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>



#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>The MNRF requests that the following indicators be added to the draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation within the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and area (ha) of traplines within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bait Harvest Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bear Management Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> </ul> <p>This addition will help to make clear and transparent how the alternative routes may impact these operations and how these impacts are considered in the Alternative Route Selection process. (These groups of potentially impacted stakeholders are referenced in Section 4.2.3.1 of the Main Report (top of page 47).)</p> <p>MNRF data is available for these tourism values that will enable inclusion of these indicators in the Alternative Route Evaluation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Include the following indicators in the List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for Alternative Route Evaluation within the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and area (ha) of traplines within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bait Harvest Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> <li>- Number and area (ha) of Bear Management Areas within 1km of the alternative route</li> </ul> <p>so that the potential impacts of the project on those operators are clearly considered as</p>	<p>of the alternative route;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Bait Harvest Areas within 1 km of the alternative route; and</li> <li>• Number of Bear Management Areas within 1 km of the alternative route.</li> </ul> <p>Please note that one metric has been selected for each indicator for the purpose of the alternative route evaluation to prevent double counting; however, additional metrics will be considered in the EA as appropriate (e.g., number, area, proximity, etc.)</p> <p>As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators.</p>	

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRFR Response
23		<p>part of the route selection process.</p> <p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix C, Pg. C-7</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Appendix C in the ToR includes a reference to an indicator called "EcoRegion 3W Criteria Schedule." The MNRFR would like to see a complete listing of the specific indicators this includes as related to 1) Wildlife and wildlife Habitat and 2) Vegetation and Wetland criteria so that any omissions can be identified and added to the set of criteria to be evaluated.</p> <p>For the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria, please include the full list of features within the 3W Schedule to be included in Area (ha) of mapped wildlife related SWH crossed by the alternate routes (as identified in the EcoRegion 3W criteria schedule) rather than listing a few examples, as the full list provides an opportunity to identify any omissions.</p> <p>For the Vegetation and Wetlands criteria, please include the full list of features within the 3W Schedule to be included in Area (ha) of impacted vegetation to be crossed by the alternate routes in order to identify any omissions.</p> <p>This information will help to ensure that the alternative route selection process more clearly considers the effect of the project on all components SWH when selecting the preferred route.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Break down the list of indicators in Appendix C that are based on the "EcoRegion 3W Criteria Schedule" indicator into the species/components found within this Schedule to include, amongst other things:</p>	<p>Hydro One incorporated MNRFR's comments on the alternative route evaluation criteria and indicators provided in the draft ToR. As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators, as well as additional information about the data used to support those criteria and indicators, such as the SWH considered.</p>	<p>The MNRFR is satisfied with this item being further discussed and addressed at the EA stage</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>- Bald Eagle and Osprey Nesting Habitat, and - Aquatic Feeding Habitat within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria</p> <p>- Rare Treed Types, - Regionally Rare Plant Species and - Wild Rice Stand within the Vegetation and Wetlands criteria</p> <p>And note: Old Growth and Significant Woodlands are not criteria in the 3W Schedule.</p> <p>These changes will help to ensure that the alternative route selection process more clearly considers the effect of the project on all components of SWH with this area (3W) when selecting the preferred route.</p>		
24		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix C Pg. C-6 <b>Comment</b> Within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criteria, an indicator exists which groups all S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences as one group.</p> <p>As the impact of the project to conservation concern species varies if it is, for example, a bird, vs. an animal vs. an insect, it is inappropriate to group all these types of species together in one indicator.</p> <p>MNRF requests that this indicator be broken down into the individual species, based on species listed within Table 4.3 (Sec 4.2.2.8 of the Main Report) on page 38.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Break down the S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences indicator into the individual species, based on species listed within Table 4.3 (Sec 4.2.2.8 of the Main Report) on page 38.</p>	<p>Based on follow-up discussions with the MECP-SARB and the MNRF in November 2020, Hydro One intends to consider the habitat of S1-S3 Conservation Concern Species Occurrences as a single indicator (i.e., form of significant wildlife habitat) within the Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat criterion rather than breaking down the indicator into individual species to avoid prioritizing one species of conservation concern value over another.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>
25		<p><b>Document and Section</b></p>	<p>The list of criteria and indicators in</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with</p>

#	Commenter	Summary of Comments	Proponent's Response	MNRF Response
		<p>Appendix D General Comment</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF notes that the list of criteria and indicators in Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) differ in some instances.</p> <p>We would appreciate explanation in the ToR and EA as to the rationale for those differences e.g. the metrics used to quantify / measure particular criteria.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Provide an explanation of how the criteria and indicators used in Appendix C and Appendix D relate to each other.</p>	<p>Appendix C (for the alternatives evaluation) and D (for the net effects assessment) do in fact differ in some cases depending on data availability and context. We note that the evaluation criteria and indicators are typically based on "quantifiable" attributes (e.g., things that can be measured effectively) whereas the effects assessment criteria and indicators for the preferred route include both quantitative and qualitative elements which rely on more detailed data collected throughout the EA process (e.g., species specific field surveys).</p>	<p>the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>
26		<p><b>Document and Section</b> Appendix D</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The MNRF requests the following changes be made to the net effects Table in Appendix D:</p> <p>1) Amend wording in vegetation and wetlands from "species of special concern" to "species of conservation concern".</p> <p>2) Recommend adding 'species of conservation concern' as an indicator for wildlife to better reflect potential project impacts on our mandated interests.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The requested changes will be made to the criteria and indicators used in the EA.</p>	<p>MNRF satisfied with the response provided and is not requesting additional changes / actions</p>

**Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks  
SAR Branch Follow-up Comments on the EA Terms of Reference**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line Project

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**Date:** November 16, 2020, Hydro One Responses December 18, 2020, February 16, 2021

**Land and Water Division: Species at Risk Branch (SARB)**

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
1.	<p><b>Section 4.2</b> Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology Pg. 21-22</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #6</i></p>	<p>The aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes has already been completed. This should be reflected accurately in the final ToR to recognize this work was undertaken prior to completion of the Terms of Reference, as per comments provided in August 2020.</p>	<p>The aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes was planned for late 2020 to collect data for surface water, fish and fish habitat, and the terrestrial environment to support the alternative route evaluation that was planned to be undertaken in early 2021. Completing the aerial reconnaissance prior to the route evaluation was important because it was intended to confirm the accuracy of the datasets that will be used in the alternative route evaluation and to fill in gaps where possible. The survey was scheduled in late 2020 during leaf-off conditions and prior to ice-on conditions, to facilitate the highest level of visibility of terrestrial, wildlife, and fish habitats and the presence of waterbodies.</p> <p>The timing of the aerial reconnaissance will be documented in a memorandum summarizing the findings, which will be provided to the MECP-SARB, as well as the MNRF.</p> <p>As discussed with the MECP, an additional version of the Terms of Reference (ToR) is not expected to be required at this time. Thus, reference to the timing of the aerial</p>	<p>MECP SARB appreciates the efforts the Proponent has undertaken through the aerial reconnaissance to collect data for surface water, fish and fish habitat, and the terrestrial environment to support the alternative route evaluation; and to confirm the accuracy of the datasets that will be used in the alternative route evaluation. Further, MECP SARB appreciates that a memorandum summarizing the findings will be provided to MECP SARB. However, recognizing that insufficient time was provided to MECP SARB to review and provide input into the aerial reconnaissance prior to its implementation, and that the memorandum has not been provided yet, MECP SARB is unable to determine if this response is sufficient to address the concerns raised regarding the proposed approach for selecting a preferred route (i.e., desktop analysis, reconnaissance flight, potentially limited field studies).</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			reconnaissance will be carried forward to the environmental assessment (EA) process and related documentation, as appropriate.	Any species at risk related field work undertaken prior to the final ToR, and without adequate input from MECP SARB, may be determined to be insufficient and additional field work may be required to appropriately assess the impacts of the project, and alternative routes, on species at risk.
2.	<b>Section 5.1.1.2</b> Access Roads	Wording concerning the restoration of temporary access roads is ambiguous.  Provide clarification that access roads will be restored to a natural state using principles of ecological restoration (i.e., tree planting or vegetation will be used to restore the roads)	Some of the sites that may be used for the Project may not currently be in a natural state. Hydro One commits to restoring sites to their pre-construction condition. Sites in a natural state will be subject to field study prior to their use to confirm baseline conditions and presence of any sensitive features. Sites that are in a natural state prior to their use, will be restored to a natural condition.	No comment.
3.	<b>Section 5.1.1.3</b> Equipment/Material Laydown Areas Pg. 79  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #20</i>	The ToR continues to identify that permits and/or authorizations for laydown areas will be obtained prior to their <u>use</u> , as applicable  As per previous comments provided on the draft ToR in August 2020, section 5.1.1.3 needs to be updated to clearly identify that permits and/or authorizations will be obtained prior to the <u>construction</u> of equipment and material laydown areas.	Applicable permits would be obtained prior to the construction of sites and/or features, such as equipment and material laydown areas. The term "use" used in the ToR, includes any required construction activities.	No comment.
4.	<b>Section 5.1.1.3</b> Equipment/ Material Laydown Areas	States laydown areas and other features will be "restored". However, it does not specify to a natural state.  Provide clarification that laydown areas and other temporary features	Some of the sites that may be used for the Project may not currently be in a natural state. Hydro One commits to restoring sites to their pre-construction condition. Sites that are in a natural state prior to their use, will be restored to a natural condition as per earlier comment.	No comment.

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
5.	<b>Section 5.1.1.4</b> Construction Offices	will be restored to a natural state.  Features will be "restored". However, it does not specify to a natural state.  Provide clarification that laydown areas and other temporary features will be restored to a natural state.	Some of the sites that may be used for the Project may not currently be in a natural state. Hydro One commits to restoring sites to their pre-construction condition. Sites that are in a natural state prior to their use, will be restored to a natural condition.	No comment.
6.	<b>Section 7.1</b> Potential Effects Assessment Pg. 111  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #25</i>	As per previous comments provided on the draft ToR in August 2020, the proposed approach to evaluation of the alternative routes and selection of a preferred route using existing data/databases and the 2020 aerial reconnaissance flight undertaken in October 2020 is considered by MECP SARB to be insufficient to adequately inform the effects of each alternative route on species at risk. This is based on the details provided in the draft <i>Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan</i> provided to MECP-SARB on August 26, 2020, including MECP-SARB comments provided to the Project Team and the meeting held on September 17, 2020; and subsequent updated <i>Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan</i> provided to MECP – SARB on October 19, 2020.	Based on requests from the MECP-SARB and MNRF, and as discussed in late November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities early in 2021 for review.  The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.  At this time, it is proposed that the program will be completed in a seasonally-appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential SAR habitat along each alternative route will be	MECP's SARB continues to have concerns related to the proposed approach.  MECP's SARB appreciates that the Proponent has committed to completing an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation; and will develop a new field work plan for 2021 to identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed which will be provided to MECP SARB for review and input. However, recognizing that this has not been provided yet, MECP SARB is unable to determine if this response is sufficient to address the concerns raised.  Additionally, there has been no commitment in the ToR to clearly indicate if or how the Proponent will address MECP SARB's concerns, if any, raised following a review of the new work plan. Should this commitment not be included

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			<p>visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossings and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas). Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p> <p>Hydro One also continues to commit to collecting detailed natural heritage data along the preferred route, as outlined in the ToR, in support of the net effects assessment of the preferred route.</p>	<p>in the ToR and concerns not be addressed during the EA, additional information related to species at risk may be required at the ESA permitting stage, should an ESA authorization be required.</p> <p>Furthermore, should the detailed species at risk information collected along the preferred route, as outlined in the ToR, in support of the net effects assessment of the preferred route identify significant species at risk concerns, which were not known prior to the selection of the preferred route (i.e., in the Alternative Route Evaluation), there may be substantial challenges in avoiding and/or mitigating these impacts at that point in the process. This may necessitate additional field work later in the EA stage and/or at the permitting stage.</p> <p>As such, MECP SARB continues to have concerns related to the proposed approach to assess alternative routes and select a preferred route using information collected from desktop analyses, an aerial reconnaissance flight, potentially limited field studies and insufficient criteria and indicators (see comments below). As such, MECP SARB continues to recommend this be addressed in the ToR.</p>
7.	<b>Appendix C – Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for</b>	The list of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators presented in Appendix C should be more explicit about the species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects	Hydro One intends to retain one species at risk indicator for the alternative route evaluation to avoid prioritizing one species at risk value over	MECP's SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Alternative Route



#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
	<p>Alternative Route Evaluation</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #29</i></p>	<p>Assessment (i.e., specifically identify each species at risk potentially impacted by the project).</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft ToR provided in August 2020, the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the Net Effects Assessment should include an evaluation of all species at risk and their habitat protected by the ESA (as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR) and potentially impacted by each alternative route.</p> <p>Appendix C should specifically identify the species at risk that will be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria.</p>	<p>another; however, the individual species will be explicitly identified in the EA, as discussed below.</p>	<p>Evaluation and selection of a preferred route.</p> <p>Additionally, as per previous comments, the selection of a preferred route based on the Alternative Route Evaluation should consider each species at risk with the potential to be impacted by the project separately (i.e., criteria). The magnitude of impact to one species at risk may differ from the magnitude of impact to another. It is unclear how the proposed approach of grouping all species at risk into a single criterion for the Alternative Route Assessment will appropriately evaluate and consider these differences.</p> <p>Additionally, the factors for each species at risk (i.e., indicators) identified in Appendix C of the ToR (i.e., number of SAR with known occurrences in proximity to the alternative route and amount of habitat) are insufficient to appropriately assess potential impacts to species at risk. Additional factors that should be considered when identifying criteria and assessing impacts to species at risk and their habitat are available in the <a href="#">Policy Guidance on Harm and Harass under the Endangered Species Act</a> and <a href="#">Categorizing and Protecting Habitat under the Endangered Species Act</a>.</p> <p>Each species at risk protected under the ESA with the potential to be impacted by the Project, listed in Table 4-3 of the ToR,</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
				<p>should be identified in the ToR as a separate criterion with species appropriate indicators to inform the Alternative Route Evaluation and selection of a preferred route.</p> <p>For example, the following indicators should be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation and Net Effects Assessment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Number of hibernacula impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> <li>o Estimate of abundance of SAR bats using hibernacula</li> <li>o Amount of maternity habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> <li>o Distribution of habitat</li> <li>o Etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Eastern Whip-poor-will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Amount of habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA (e.g., nesting, foraging, etc.)</li> <li>o Number of defended territories</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Etc.</li> </ul> <p>Similar species-specific indicators should be defined for all other species at risk potentially impacted by the project.</p> <p>MECP SARB understands that the list of criteria and indicators for the Alternative Route Evaluation identified in the Appendix D of the ToR are intended to be preliminary and will be further refined following review with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA. However, recognizing that a number of species at risk have already been identified as potentially being present within the project study areas, as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR, each of these species at risk should be identified in the ToR as a separate criterion with species appropriate indicators to be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation. This will provide clarity to the development of Work Plans committed to in the ToR.</p>
8.	<b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria</b>	<p>The list of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators presented in Appendix D should be more explicit about the wildlife species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment (i.e., specifically identify each species at risk potentially impacted by the project).</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September</p>	<p>The list of example wildlife species at risk presented in Appendix D was intended to be flexible to allow for input by regulators and field work findings, or changes to listed species. As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators.</p>	<p>As per previous comments, MECP’s SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>MECP SARB understands that the list of criteria and indicators for the Net Effects Assessment identified in the Appendix D of the ToR are intended to be preliminary</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
		<p>22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the Net Effects Assessment should include an evaluation of <i>all</i> species at risk and their habitat potentially impacted by each alternative route.</p> <p>Appendix D should specifically identify the species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment Criteria.</p>	<p>The EA will explicitly identify the species at risk that will be included in the net effects assessment. The final list of species at risk to be included as criteria will be confirmed following consultation, data review and field studies for the preferred route, at which point the potential for project interaction and thereby need for assessment (i.e., inclusion as criterion) will be determined for each species at risk with potential to occur in the Project vicinity per the ToR.</p> <p>To support this determination, all species at risk with potential to occur in the Project vicinity (per the ToR) are being considered during the development of field work plans for the preferred route.</p> <p>All wildlife species at risk for which a potential Project interaction is identified through consultation, data review, field studies, etc. will be considered as part of the net effects assessment.</p>	<p>and will be further refined following additional review with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA. However, recognizing that a number of species at risk have already been identified as potentially being present within the project study areas, as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR, each of these species at risk should be identified in the ToR as a separate criterion with species appropriate indicators to be included in the Net Effects Assessment. This will provide clarity to the development of Work Plans committed to in the ToR.</p>
9.	<b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria</b>	<p>It is not clear how estimates of survival and recruitment will be calculated for SAR affected by the project.</p> <p>Please indicate how survival and recruitment estimates will be determined for SAR and how these data will be used in the net effects assessment.</p>	<p>Changes in wildlife survival and recruitment will be estimated qualitatively and quantitatively using the results from changes in habitat availability and distribution, and scientific knowledge of potential changes in abundance caused by activities similar to those undertaken by the Project. Metrics expected to be used to evaluate survival and recruitment include population abundance (i.e., number of individuals), expected carrying capacity, and wildlife health (e.g., hazard quotients), although qualitative assessments of survival and recruitment (e.g., predicted source and severity of mortality) are frequently required because of data limitations. Where recent quantitative survival and recruitment information is lacking, the wildlife assessment will provide</p>	<p>MECP's SARB continues to have concerns related how the proponent plans to evaluate survival and requirement.</p> <p>It is still unclear how the proponent plans to quantitatively assess survival and recruitment for species at risk, or how the proponent plans to qualitatively assess survival and recruitment for species at risk. MECP's SARB appreciates that the Proponent has committed to completing an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation; and will develop a new field work plan for 2021 which will</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			<p>rationale for the use of older data and qualitative information. Predictions of change will be made using data collected in the study area, where possible, and supported by scientific literature.</p>	<p>presumably provide additional detail on how the proponent plans to quantitatively assess survival and recruitment. However, recognizing that this has not been provided yet, MECP SARB is unable to determine if this response is sufficient to address the concerns raised.</p> <p>The assessment of survival and recruitment will need to be developed in consultation with MECP SARB for species at risk.</p>
10.	<p><b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators</b> Pg. 6-7</p>	<p>Indicators under “Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat” identify habitat distribution and survival and recruitment. However, they do not specify species at risk occurrences and distribution.</p> <p>Update the table to include distribution and occurrences of species at risk under the indicator column.</p>	<p>Distribution and occurrences of species at risk criteria will be evaluated as part of the evaluation of habitat distribution (changes in habitat connectivity and animal movement) and survival and recruitment (changes in abundance) indicators. Where possible, survival and recruitment will be evaluated quantitatively (e.g., where density estimates are available, and inferences can be made based on predicted area of habitat loss). See also response to comment 9 above.</p>	<p>As per previous comments, MECP’s SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>It is still unclear how the proponent plans to assess impacts to species at risk, aside from habitat impacts.</p> <p>For example, the following indicators should be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation and Net Effects Assessment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Number of hibernacula impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Estimate of abundance of SAR bats using hibernacula</li> <li>○ Amount of maternity habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> <li>○ Distribution of habitat</li> <li>○ Etc.</li> <li>- Eastern Whip-poor-will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amount of habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA (e.g., nesting, foraging, etc.)</li> <li>○ Number of defended territories</li> <li>○ Etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Similar species-specific indicators should be defined for all other species at risk potentially impacted by the project.</p>
11.	<b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators</b> Pg. 7-8	<p>Indicators under “Fish and Fish Habitat including Fish SAR” identify fish habitat distribution and survival and recruitment. However, they do not explicitly specify species at risk fish occurrences and distribution.</p> <p>Update the table to include distribution and occurrences of species at risk fish under the indicator column.</p>	<p>There are five provincially listed species at risk fish that are present in the regional study area (RSA): Lake Sturgeon, Northern Brook Lamprey, Silver Lamprey, American Eel, and Shortjaw Cisco. Lake Sturgeon will be included as a criteria species. Northern Brook Lamprey and Silver Lamprey are listed as special concern and will be considered as part of the effects assessment but will not be selected as criteria species. American Eel are listed as endangered but are considered introduced in the RSA and Shortjaw Cisco are listed as threatened.</p>	<p>As per previous comments, MECP’s SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>If during the alternative assessment, net effects assessment, or engagement it is determined that any species at risk fish are present within the RSA, the species should be included as a separate criterion</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			<p>If during the alternative assessment and engagement it is determined that these species are likely present in more than one waterbody in the local study area (LSA), they will be included as a criteria species. Although the RSA and LSA are not defined for the Project yet, it is envisioned that the RSA will include the catchment area (as defined on a tertiary watershed scale) and the LSA will include the Project Footprint and a buffer.</p> <p>For each criteria species, distribution and occurrence will be evaluated as part of the distribution and connectivity indicator. Distribution and connectivity will be assessed using a qualitative assessment. Distribution and occurrence for all species (i.e., those not selected as criteria species) will be considered as part of the effects assessment.</p>	<p>and assessed using species appropriate indicators.</p> <p>For example, the following indicators should be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation and Net Effects Assessment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lake Sturgeon: Amount of habitat impacted by the project (e.g., nursery, spawning, movement, over-wintering, etc.)</li> <li>○ Distribution of habitat (e.g., nursery, spawning, movement, over-wintering, etc.)</li> <li>○ Effects on fish movement and connectivity</li> <li>○ Water quality</li> <li>○ Etc.</li> </ul> <p>Similar species-specific indicators should be defined for all other species at risk potentially impacted by the project.</p>



# Meeting Notes

## MECP Monthly Meeting

Waasigan Transmission Line Project

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**Meeting Date:** February 2, 2021      **Time:** 10:00 am to 11:00 am

**Location:** Conference Call

**Purpose:** Hydro One and MECP to discuss the Waasigan Transmission Line project.

**Attendees:** **MECP:** Carolyn Lee, Kiran Anwar  
**Hydro One:** Bruce Hopper, Sarah Cohanin, Dayna Groom, Tausha Esquega, Emily Spitzer, Devi Shantilal, Stephanie Hodsoll, Alex To, Stephen Lindley.  
**Golder Associates Ltd.:** Callum Squires, Tamara Skillen, Nancy de Rojas  
**Dillon Consulting:** Don McKinnon, Joseph Carnevale

**Regrets:** Andrew Evers, MECP; Brandon Fox, Dillon

**Issued By:** Callum Squires, Golder

**Distribution:** All attendees and invitees

**Note:** Please advise if additional items are required to complete the discussion within five business days of issuance.

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Item	Description
-	<b>Ad Hoc</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hydro One indicated that it had met with Treasury Metals in January to answer questions posed in Treasury Metals' comments on the Terms of Reference and that they were having productive discussions.</li></ul>
1.	<b>Community Relations Engagement Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hydro One indicated they are responding to comments from the public as they are received.</li><li>Hydro One is preparing for the second meeting of the Community Roundtable scheduled for March 10, 2021. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is invited to this meeting to deliver a presentation about its planning process as interest in this topic has been expressed by Roundtable members.</li></ul>



Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydro One’s overall plan includes two Community Roundtable meetings per year – the first in March/April and the second in October/November.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Indigenous Community Engagement Update</b></p> <p>Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The process is on track for Hydro One to receive preliminary Indigenous Knowledge (IK) from the MNO by mid-February.</li> <li>The MNO has a copy of the update to the Capacity Funding Agreement for review. This update provides additional funds to cover involvement in the Project during the EA, such as completing IK studies.</li> <li>Hydro One has been working with the Community Engagement Coordinators for the MNO so they can start to invoice Hydro One under their Capacity Funding Agreement.</li> </ul> <p>First Nations and Red Sky Métis Independent Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydro One continues to respond to incoming Project inquiries, mostly related to the status of the Terms of Reference (ToR).</li> <li>Meetings are continuing with individual communities through the Community Engagement Coordinators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Terms of Reference Review Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is waiting for review comments from its Species at Risk Branch.</li> <li>MECP would like to meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) regarding its feedback on the most recent Hydro One responses to its comments on the ToR as there remain to be outstanding issues.</li> <li>MECP will send a written response this week to the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) in response to their December 1, 2020 letter and will send a copy to Hydro One.</li> <li>MECP received a letter from the MNO with matters of importance for the Minister to consider prior to making a decision on the ToR. MECP asked if Hydro One has any insight on the rationale behind the MNO’s letter.</li> <li>Hydro One noted that their relationship with the MNO is very good and Hydro One continues to engage with MNO on the Project. Since there has been a lag from when the ToR was submitted to now, the lack of information flowing back to the MNO may be generating some frustration. The MNO may be under impression that the ToR approval process is moving along without them because they are not receiving updates from MECP.</li> <li>Hydro One is considering issuing a newsletter to all communities with a summary of the status of the ToR.</li> <li>Hydro One asked if other Indigenous communities or organizations (e.g., Grand Council Treaty #3) that provided comments on the ToR are going to receive response letters. MECP indicated that they are waiting for input from</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<p>IESO to be able to provide responses to questions from Grand Council Treaty #3 related to energy planning, and that MECP will provide Hydro One's responses to Grand Council Treaty #3's comments shortly.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Field Program and Alternative Route Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ToR included commitments to develop field work plans. One that would validate a subset of the data used in the alternative route evaluation (i.e., the Verification Field Work Plan [VFWP]), and the second for natural heritage studies to be completed on the preferred route, once selected, in 2021 and 2022. These two plans are being prepared by Golder.</li> <li>• Field surveys in 2021 could start as soon as May depending on spring weather conditions.</li> <li>• Given MECP's request for 4-week review periods for field work plans (both draft and final versions), Golder is working to issue draft plans to agencies for review in the near future. A subsequent draft version of the plans, in which agency review comments would have been addressed, would be circulated to Indigenous communities for comment. Final versions of the plans will be generated based on feedback from both the agencies and communities.</li> <li>• Field surveys for the preferred route are planned to commence in May 2021. Otherwise, seasonal windows for some natural heritage components may be missed and therefore these field surveys would be pushed to 2022.</li> <li>• MECP asked what the implications of pushing field work to 2022 would be. Golder explained that it is trying to maximize the 2021 field season to collect data in seasonally appropriate windows and that any 2022 work would ideally only be in the spring/early summer so that the data can be incorporated in the Environmental Assessment without causing substantial delays.</li> <li>• MECP inquired how a VFWP could be used when the preferred route has not yet been selected. Golder explained that the alternatives evaluation approach developed by Golder is robust and the VFWP would help validate the preferred route, regardless of which route is selected. MECP stated that the approach for collecting field data for the evaluation of alternative routes needs to be discussed. The preference would be to focus on collecting data that feeds into the alternative route analysis.</li> <li>• MECP inquired about the engagement of Indigenous communities. Field work plans would be discussed with communities during engagement activities after ToR approval and the feedback received would be incorporated into the alternatives evaluation process. Employment opportunities related to field work would also be discussed with communities.</li> </ul> <p>Employment Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydro One has a training and skills development program that they have made available to members of Indigenous communities to build capacity.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Golder will employ field crews from Indigenous communities for field surveys.</li><li>• Indigenous communities have expressed interest in having independent monitors that are hired and managed directly by the Indigenous community.</li><li>• In addition, Hydro One has ongoing discussions about studies that Indigenous communities are interested in undertaking and integrating into the Environmental Assessment.</li></ul> <p>Criteria and Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ToR includes a commitment to consult on Criteria and Indicators.</li><li>• Golder is developing a detailed list of Criteria and Indicators, including a description of the data used to support the Criteria and Indicators, and asked if MECP has initial thoughts on starting these discussions with Hydro One and Golder.</li><li>• MECP stated that the priority on MECP's side is to work with parties to arrive upon an agreed approach to address outstanding ToR concerns.</li><li>• Hydro One suggested a follow up meeting with the MECP and MNRF to discuss the overall approach and timing for providing field plans and other materials to support the alternative route evaluation. The MECP agreed that another meeting would be helpful.</li></ul>

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

Next meeting on: March 2, 2021.

**Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks  
SAR Branch Follow-up Comments on the EA Terms of Reference**

**Proposal:** Waasigan Transmission Line Project

**Proponent:** Hydro One

**Date:** November 16, 2020, Hydro One Responses December 18, 2020, February 16, 2021

**Land and Water Division: Species at Risk Branch (SARB)**

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
1.	<p><b>Section 4.2</b> Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology Pg. 21-22</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #6</i></p>	<p>The aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes has already been completed. This should be reflected accurately in the final ToR to recognize this work was undertaken prior to completion of the Terms of Reference, as per comments provided in August 2020.</p>	<p>The aerial reconnaissance of the alternative routes was planned for late 2020 to collect data for surface water, fish and fish habitat, and the terrestrial environment to support the alternative route evaluation that was planned to be undertaken in early 2021. Completing the aerial reconnaissance prior to the route evaluation was important because it was intended to confirm the accuracy of the datasets that will be used in the alternative route evaluation and to fill in gaps where possible. The survey was scheduled in late 2020 during leaf-off conditions and prior to ice-on conditions, to facilitate the highest level of visibility of terrestrial, wildlife, and fish habitats and the presence of waterbodies.</p> <p>The timing of the aerial reconnaissance will be documented in a memorandum summarizing the findings, which will be provided to the MECP-SARB, as well as the MNRF.</p> <p>As discussed with the MECP, an additional version of the Terms of Reference (ToR) is not expected to be required at this time. Thus, reference to the timing of the aerial</p>	<p>MECP SARB appreciates the efforts the Proponent has undertaken through the aerial reconnaissance to collect data for surface water, fish and fish habitat, and the terrestrial environment to support the alternative route evaluation; and to confirm the accuracy of the datasets that will be used in the alternative route evaluation. Further, MECP SARB appreciates that a memorandum summarizing the findings will be provided to MECP SARB. However, recognizing that insufficient time was provided to MECP SARB to review and provide input into the aerial reconnaissance prior to its implementation, and that the memorandum has not been provided yet, MECP SARB is unable to determine if this response is sufficient to address the concerns raised regarding the proposed approach for selecting a preferred route (i.e., desktop analysis, reconnaissance flight, potentially limited field studies).</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			reconnaissance will be carried forward to the environmental assessment (EA) process and related documentation, as appropriate.	Any species at risk related field work undertaken prior to the final ToR, and without adequate input from MECP SARB, may be determined to be insufficient and additional field work may be required to appropriately assess the impacts of the project, and alternative routes, on species at risk.
2.	<b>Section 5.1.1.2</b> Access Roads	Wording concerning the restoration of temporary access roads is ambiguous.  Provide clarification that access roads will be restored to a natural state using principles of ecological restoration (i.e., tree planting or vegetation will be used to restore the roads)	Some of the sites that may be used for the Project may not currently be in a natural state. Hydro One commits to restoring sites to their pre-construction condition. Sites in a natural state will be subject to field study prior to their use to confirm baseline conditions and presence of any sensitive features. Sites that are in a natural state prior to their use, will be restored to a natural condition.	No comment.
3.	<b>Section 5.1.1.3</b> Equipment/Material Laydown Areas Pg. 79  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #20</i>	The ToR continues to identify that permits and/or authorizations for laydown areas will be obtained prior to their <u>use</u> , as applicable  As per previous comments provided on the draft ToR in August 2020, section 5.1.1.3 needs to be updated to clearly identify that permits and/or authorizations will be obtained prior to the <u>construction</u> of equipment and material laydown areas.	Applicable permits would be obtained prior to the construction of sites and/or features, such as equipment and material laydown areas. The term "use" used in the ToR, includes any required construction activities.	No comment.
4.	<b>Section 5.1.1.3</b> Equipment/ Material Laydown Areas	States laydown areas and other features will be "restored". However, it does not specify to a natural state.  Provide clarification that laydown areas and other temporary features	Some of the sites that may be used for the Project may not currently be in a natural state. Hydro One commits to restoring sites to their pre-construction condition. Sites that are in a natural state prior to their use, will be restored to a natural condition as per earlier comment.	No comment.

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
5.	<b>Section 5.1.1.4</b> Construction Offices	will be restored to a natural state.  Features will be "restored". However, it does not specify to a natural state.  Provide clarification that laydown areas and other temporary features will be restored to a natural state.	Some of the sites that may be used for the Project may not currently be in a natural state. Hydro One commits to restoring sites to their pre-construction condition. Sites that are in a natural state prior to their use, will be restored to a natural condition.	No comment.
6.	<b>Section 7.1</b> Potential Effects Assessment Pg. 111  <i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #25</i>	As per previous comments provided on the draft ToR in August 2020, the proposed approach to evaluation of the alternative routes and selection of a preferred route using existing data/databases and the 2020 aerial reconnaissance flight undertaken in October 2020 is considered by MECP SARB to be insufficient to adequately inform the effects of each alternative route on species at risk. This is based on the details provided in the draft <i>Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan</i> provided to MECP-SARB on August 26, 2020, including MECP-SARB comments provided to the Project Team and the meeting held on September 17, 2020; and subsequent updated <i>Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan</i> provided to MECP – SARB on October 19, 2020.	Based on requests from the MECP-SARB and MNRF, and as discussed in late November 2020, Hydro One will complete an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation. Hydro One will prepare a new field work plan for this additional verification program and intends to provide it to the MECP, MNRF and Indigenous communities early in 2021 for review.  The new work plan will identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed. Comments received on the draft plan will be taken into consideration and discussed with agencies as appropriate. Given the expansive nature of the alternative routes and the importance of meeting seasonal timing windows, Hydro One trusts that a mutually agreeable work plan can be finalized in time to initiate the program in Q2 2021.  At this time, it is proposed that the program will be completed in a seasonally-appropriate window in approximately May 2021. For wildlife and vegetation, a representative selection of potential SAR habitat along each alternative route will be	MECP's SARB continues to have concerns related to the proposed approach.  MECP's SARB appreciates that the Proponent has committed to completing an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation; and will develop a new field work plan for 2021 to identify the proposed study areas, methods and criteria for site selection, field survey methods, data analysis, quality assurance/quality control, reporting and the proposed schedule for each survey proposed which will be provided to MECP SARB for review and input. However, recognizing that this has not been provided yet, MECP SARB is unable to determine if this response is sufficient to address the concerns raised.  Additionally, there has been no commitment in the ToR to clearly indicate if or how the Proponent will address MECP SARB's concerns, if any, raised following a review of the new work plan. Should this commitment not be included

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			<p>visited to confirm the qualitative data collected during the aerial reconnaissance (e.g., anthropogenic structures for signs of historic use by SAR bats and SAR birds, FRI ecosites screened as potential whip-poor-will habitat). For surface water and fish and fish habitat, a representative selection of the crossings along the alternative routes will be visited to confirm the absence or presence of water crossings and to confirm the presence of fish habitat and sensitive aquatic features (e.g., fish sanctuaries, nursery areas). Following the completion of this field program, Hydro One will review the data collected and determine if the results could affect the selection of the preferred route.</p> <p>Hydro One also continues to commit to collecting detailed natural heritage data along the preferred route, as outlined in the ToR, in support of the net effects assessment of the preferred route.</p>	<p>in the ToR and concerns not be addressed during the EA, additional information related to species at risk may be required at the ESA permitting stage, should an ESA authorization be required.</p> <p>Furthermore, should the detailed species at risk information collected along the preferred route, as outlined in the ToR, in support of the net effects assessment of the preferred route identify significant species at risk concerns, which were not known prior to the selection of the preferred route (i.e., in the Alternative Route Evaluation), there may be substantial challenges in avoiding and/or mitigating these impacts at that point in the process. This may necessitate additional field work later in the EA stage and/or at the permitting stage.</p> <p>As such, MECP SARB continues to have concerns related to the proposed approach to assess alternative routes and select a preferred route using information collected from desktop analyses, an aerial reconnaissance flight, potentially limited field studies and insufficient criteria and indicators (see comments below). As such, MECP SARB continues to recommend this be addressed in the ToR.</p>
7.	<b>Appendix C – Draft List of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators for</b>	The list of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators presented in Appendix C should be more explicit about the species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects	Hydro One intends to retain one species at risk indicator for the alternative route evaluation to avoid prioritizing one species at risk value over	MECP's SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Alternative Route

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
	<p>Alternative Route Evaluation</p> <p><i>Appendix M1 - Draft ToR SARB Comment #29</i></p>	<p>Assessment (i.e., specifically identify each species at risk potentially impacted by the project).</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft ToR provided in August 2020, the draft 2020 Work Plan on September 22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the Net Effects Assessment should include an evaluation of all species at risk and their habitat protected by the ESA (as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR) and potentially impacted by each alternative route.</p> <p>Appendix C should specifically identify the species at risk that will be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation Criteria.</p>	<p>another; however, the individual species will be explicitly identified in the EA, as discussed below.</p>	<p>Evaluation and selection of a preferred route.</p> <p>Additionally, as per previous comments, the selection of a preferred route based on the Alternative Route Evaluation should consider each species at risk with the potential to be impacted by the project separately (i.e., criteria). The magnitude of impact to one species at risk may differ from the magnitude of impact to another. It is unclear how the proposed approach of grouping all species at risk into a single criterion for the Alternative Route Assessment will appropriately evaluate and consider these differences.</p> <p>Additionally, the factors for each species at risk (i.e., indicators) identified in Appendix C of the ToR (i.e., number of SAR with known occurrences in proximity to the alternative route and amount of habitat) are insufficient to appropriately assess potential impacts to species at risk. Additional factors that should be considered when identifying criteria and assessing impacts to species at risk and their habitat are available in the <a href="#">Policy Guidance on Harm and Harass under the Endangered Species Act</a> and <a href="#">Categorizing and Protecting Habitat under the Endangered Species Act</a>.</p> <p>Each species at risk protected under the ESA with the potential to be impacted by the Project, listed in Table 4-3 of the ToR,</p>



#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
				<p>should be identified in the ToR as a separate criterion with species appropriate indicators to inform the Alternative Route Evaluation and selection of a preferred route.</p> <p>For example, the following indicators should be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation and Net Effects Assessment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Number of hibernacula impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> <li>o Estimate of abundance of SAR bats using hibernacula</li> <li>o Amount of maternity habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> <li>o Distribution of habitat</li> <li>o Etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Eastern Whip-poor-will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Amount of habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA (e.g., nesting, foraging, etc.)</li> <li>o Number of defended territories</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Etc.</li> </ul> <p>Similar species-specific indicators should be defined for all other species at risk potentially impacted by the project.</p> <p>MECP SARB understands that the list of criteria and indicators for the Alternative Route Evaluation identified in the Appendix D of the ToR are intended to be preliminary and will be further refined following review with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA. However, recognizing that a number of species at risk have already been identified as potentially being present within the project study areas, as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR, each of these species at risk should be identified in the ToR as a separate criterion with species appropriate indicators to be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation. This will provide clarity to the development of Work Plans committed to in the ToR.</p>
8.	<b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria</b>	<p>The list of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators presented in Appendix D should be more explicit about the wildlife species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment (i.e., specifically identify each species at risk potentially impacted by the project).</p> <p>As per comments provided on the draft 2020 Work Plan on September</p>	<p>The list of example wildlife species at risk presented in Appendix D was intended to be flexible to allow for input by regulators and field work findings, or changes to listed species. As indicated in the ToR, both sets of criteria and indicators will be reviewed again with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA to provide a further opportunity for alterations and updates. This will include further refinement to the criteria and indicators.</p>	<p>As per previous comments, MECP’s SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>MECP SARB understands that the list of criteria and indicators for the Net Effects Assessment identified in the Appendix D of the ToR are intended to be preliminary</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
		<p>22, 2020 and discussed during a meeting with the Project Team on September 17, 2020, the Net Effects Assessment should include an evaluation of <i>all</i> species at risk and their habitat potentially impacted by each alternative route.</p> <p>Appendix D should specifically identify the species at risk that will be included in the Net Effects Assessment Criteria.</p>	<p>The EA will explicitly identify the species at risk that will be included in the net effects assessment. The final list of species at risk to be included as criteria will be confirmed following consultation, data review and field studies for the preferred route, at which point the potential for project interaction and thereby need for assessment (i.e., inclusion as criterion) will be determined for each species at risk with potential to occur in the Project vicinity per the ToR.</p> <p>To support this determination, all species at risk with potential to occur in the Project vicinity (per the ToR) are being considered during the development of field work plans for the preferred route.</p> <p>All wildlife species at risk for which a potential Project interaction is identified through consultation, data review, field studies, etc. will be considered as part of the net effects assessment.</p>	<p>and will be further refined following additional review with agencies and Indigenous communities at the onset of the EA. However, recognizing that a number of species at risk have already been identified as potentially being present within the project study areas, as identified in Table 4-3 of the ToR, each of these species at risk should be identified in the ToR as a separate criterion with species appropriate indicators to be included in the Net Effects Assessment. This will provide clarity to the development of Work Plans committed to in the ToR.</p>
9.	<b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria</b>	<p>It is not clear how estimates of survival and recruitment will be calculated for SAR affected by the project.</p> <p>Please indicate how survival and recruitment estimates will be determined for SAR and how these data will be used in the net effects assessment.</p>	<p>Changes in wildlife survival and recruitment will be estimated qualitatively and quantitatively using the results from changes in habitat availability and distribution, and scientific knowledge of potential changes in abundance caused by activities similar to those undertaken by the Project. Metrics expected to be used to evaluate survival and recruitment include population abundance (i.e., number of individuals), expected carrying capacity, and wildlife health (e.g., hazard quotients), although qualitative assessments of survival and recruitment (e.g., predicted source and severity of mortality) are frequently required because of data limitations. Where recent quantitative survival and recruitment information is lacking, the wildlife assessment will provide</p>	<p>MECP's SARB continues to have concerns related how the proponent plans to evaluate survival and requirement.</p> <p>It is still unclear how the proponent plans to quantitatively assess survival and recruitment for species at risk, or how the proponent plans to qualitatively assess survival and recruitment for species at risk. MECP's SARB appreciates that the Proponent has committed to completing an additional field program to ground truth a subset of terrestrial and aquatic features to validate the data used in the alternative route evaluation; and will develop a new field work plan for 2021 which will</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			<p>rationale for the use of older data and qualitative information. Predictions of change will be made using data collected in the study area, where possible, and supported by scientific literature.</p>	<p>presumably provide additional detail on how the proponent plans to quantitatively assess survival and recruitment. However, recognizing that this has not been provided yet, MECP SARB is unable to determine if this response is sufficient to address the concerns raised.</p> <p>The assessment of survival and recruitment will need to be developed in consultation with MECP SARB for species at risk.</p>
10.	<p><b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators</b> Pg. 6-7</p>	<p>Indicators under “Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat” identify habitat distribution and survival and recruitment. However, they do not specify species at risk occurrences and distribution.</p> <p>Update the table to include distribution and occurrences of species at risk under the indicator column.</p>	<p>Distribution and occurrences of species at risk criteria will be evaluated as part of the evaluation of habitat distribution (changes in habitat connectivity and animal movement) and survival and recruitment (changes in abundance) indicators. Where possible, survival and recruitment will be evaluated quantitatively (e.g., where density estimates are available, and inferences can be made based on predicted area of habitat loss). See also response to comment 9 above.</p>	<p>As per previous comments, MECP’s SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>It is still unclear how the proponent plans to assess impacts to species at risk, aside from habitat impacts.</p> <p>For example, the following indicators should be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation and Net Effects Assessment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Northern Myotis and Little Brown Myotis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Number of hibernacula impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Estimate of abundance of SAR bats using hibernacula</li> <li>○ Amount of maternity habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA</li> <li>○ Distribution of habitat</li> <li>○ Etc.</li> <li>- Eastern Whip-poor-will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amount of habitat impacted within the Project Footprint, LSA and RSA (e.g., nesting, foraging, etc.)</li> <li>○ Number of defended territories</li> <li>○ Etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Similar species-specific indicators should be defined for all other species at risk potentially impacted by the project.</p>
11.	<b>Appendix D – Draft List of Net Effects Assessment Criteria and Indicators</b> Pg. 7-8	<p>Indicators under “Fish and Fish Habitat including Fish SAR” identify fish habitat distribution and survival and recruitment. However, they do not explicitly specify species at risk fish occurrences and distribution.</p> <p>Update the table to include distribution and occurrences of species at risk fish under the indicator column.</p>	<p>There are five provincially listed species at risk fish that are present in the regional study area (RSA): Lake Sturgeon, Northern Brook Lamprey, Silver Lamprey, American Eel, and Shortjaw Cisco. Lake Sturgeon will be included as a criteria species. Northern Brook Lamprey and Silver Lamprey are listed as special concern and will be considered as part of the effects assessment but will not be selected as criteria species. American Eel are listed as endangered but are considered introduced in the RSA and Shortjaw Cisco are listed as threatened.</p>	<p>As per previous comments, MECP’s SARB continue to have concerns in the way in which species at risk criteria and indicators are represented in the ToR, which will be used in the Net Effects Assessment.</p> <p>If during the alternative assessment, net effects assessment, or engagement it is determined that any species at risk fish are present within the RSA, the species should be included as a separate criterion</p>

#	Reference	Comment (Nov. 16, 2020)	Response (Dec. 18, 2020)	MECP Comment (Feb. 16, 2021)
			<p>If during the alternative assessment and engagement it is determined that these species are likely present in more than one waterbody in the local study area (LSA), they will be included as a criteria species. Although the RSA and LSA are not defined for the Project yet, it is envisioned that the RSA will include the catchment area (as defined on a tertiary watershed scale) and the LSA will include the Project Footprint and a buffer.</p> <p>For each criteria species, distribution and occurrence will be evaluated as part of the distribution and connectivity indicator. Distribution and connectivity will be assessed using a qualitative assessment. Distribution and occurrence for all species (i.e., those not selected as criteria species) will be considered as part of the effects assessment.</p>	<p>and assessed using species appropriate indicators.</p> <p>For example, the following indicators should be included in the Alternative Route Evaluation and Net Effects Assessment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lake Sturgeon: Amount of habitat impacted by the project (e.g., nursery, spawning, movement, over-wintering, etc.)</li> <li>○ Distribution of habitat (e.g., nursery, spawning, movement, over-wintering, etc.)</li> <li>○ Effects on fish movement and connectivity</li> <li>○ Water quality</li> <li>○ Etc.</li> </ul> <p>Similar species-specific indicators should be defined for all other species at risk potentially impacted by the project.</p>



Item	Description
2.	<p><b>Indigenous Community Engagement Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with Indigenous communities has involved ongoing meetings with the Community Engagement Coordinators.</li> <li>• Hydro One is developing a Project update newsletter to send to Indigenous communities.</li> <li>• Hydro One is developing an updated work plan for an enhanced communication strategy considering COVID-19 limitations in 2021 and will provide further updates to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) when it is available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MECP asked what are the enhanced communication strategies being considered?</li> <li>○ Hydro One noted that they are having strategic planning sessions and looking at other best practices around the region. The goal is to help move things forward, where possible, and find ways to stay connected during these difficult times.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) has issued a request for proposal for an archaeologist to prepare a Stage 1 Archaeology Assessment (AA) that will be provided to Hydro One and incorporated into Hydro One’s Stage 1 AA report.</li> <li>• There has been limited engagement with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) over the past month.</li> <li>• MNO is interested in reviewing the Stage 1 AA report and are working with Hydro One to better understand timelines, which includes holding a meeting with Hydro One in the coming weeks.</li> <li>• MNO expressed interested in the Training and Skills Development Program Module 2 training.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Terms of Reference Review Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the last meeting, the MECP submitted a response to the GLP and has booked a meeting with GLP for next week on March 9, 2021.</li> <li>• MECP provided Hydro One with comments on the Terms of Reference (ToR) from the MECP Species at Risk Branch (SARB).</li> <li>• Hydro One asked for information on next steps after the GLP meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MECP noted the GLP is interested in discussing the concerns about engagement during the pandemic and Indigenous Knowledge. MECP would also like to understand if the GLP has any proposed solutions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MECP noted that the MNO response letter is still going through internal review.</li> <li>• Hydro One asked what the next steps on the ToR are related to MECP SARB and MNRF comments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MECP noted that the field work plans were sent to MECP SARB.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MECP will also provide MECP SARB the 2020 field memo and criteria and indicator table when received.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p>Field Program and Alternative Route Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golder provided an update on the 2020 field program summary and the detailed criteria and indicator spreadsheet noting that they are being finalized and the goal is to submit these to ministries as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Hydro One and Golder also clarified that these two documents are not viewed as being tied to resolving outstanding ToR concerns from ministries and should not hold up the ToR approval. Hydro One’s proposals to address the main concerns from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and MECP SARB were presented during the February 22, 2021 meeting and have been incorporated into the Alternative Route Field Work Plan (e.g., delaying selection of a preferred route to after the alternative route surveys are completed and splitting SAR criteria by species).</li> <li>• In addition, the criteria and indicator spreadsheet will provide considerable detail which goes beyond what is typically required for a ToR. This process has proceeded parallel to the ToR due to unexpected delays in ToR approval and with a goal to avoid missing the 2021 field season.</li> <li>• Hydro One and Golder also noted that they were not expecting MECP SARB and MNRF to complete their full four-week review of the field work plans before confirming that MECP SARB and MNRF concerns on the ToR had been addressed. Hydro One and Golder suggested that detailed comments on the plans themselves can follow after the ministries have confirmed that their comments have been addressed.</li> <li>• Hydro One and Golder are of the understanding that finalized field work plans are not a ToR requirement. The MECP confirmed that final field plans are not a requirement for ToR approval, but that the approaches in the proposed field work plans are what the ministries are considering to determine if ToR comments have been addressed.</li> <li>• Golder also noted that they will continue to work with ministries on the field plans, but have been waiting for ToR approval before providing the field work plans to Indigenous communities. A ToR approval date after the end of March will prevent Hydro One from providing these plans to Indigenous communities sufficiently ahead of the planned field work. This could result in Hydro One missing the early spring seasonal windows for field work.</li> </ul>

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Next meeting on: April 9, 2021.

## Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference

Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Meeting

### MEETING NOTES

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Time: 11:00am to 12:00pm	Location: MS Teams
Purpose: Meeting with the GLP Protection Committee to discuss concerns regarding the Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference (ToR).	

**Attendees:**

GLP	Ministries
Stephanie Wrolstad, Nigigoonsiminikaaning FN Daniel Morriseau, Eagle Lake FN Robert Parenteau, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Robert Pierre, Fort William FN Patrick Boileau, North Vista Lori Salo, North Vista Darren Harper, Maawandoon Mario Buszynski, Pinchin Sebastien Belmar, Pinchin	Andrew Evers, MECP Carolyn Lee, MECP Kiran Anwar, MECP Peter Brown, MECP Dan Delaquis, ENDM Jason McCullough, ENDM David Johnston-Weiser, ENDM

**Regrets:**

Tekay Nelson, Lac Seul FN Tom Johnson, Seine River FN Bert Cantin, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Robert Atatise, Lac La Croix FN Marvin Pelletier, Maawandoon
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**Discussion:**

<b>1. Introductions</b>
A round of introductions were made.  North Vista informed that the Ojibway Nation of Saugeen has officially joined the GLP but a Protection Committee member has not yet been appointed.
<b>2. Terms of Reference (ToR) Review Status</b>
MECP is in the process of working with relevant parties to address outstanding ToR issues and concerns. There is currently no set timeline for a decision on the ToR.
<b>3. GLP ToR Concerns in the December 2020 Letter</b>
a. <i>Incorporation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Land and Resource Use (TLRU) study information during the EA</i>  GLP would like a commitment that TK and TLRU will be integrated into major environmental assessment (EA) decisions around route selection, Stage 1 archaeological assessment (AA),

and field study planning. GLP would like to ensure that sufficient TK and TLRU work has been completed prior to Hydro One making major decisions and conducting field studies.

North Vista noted that Hydro One had been advancing Stage 1 AA and field study planning. It is only recently that TK and TLRU work planning with Indigenous communities has been made a priority.

Maawandoon shared the challenges of carrying out face-to-face work to collect TK from community members, Elders and land users due to restricted access to communities and safety concerns due to the pandemic. There is also limited internet connectivity and technology access in some communities. Communities are now focused on vaccine rollout. The sharing of information on the proposed project with land users, defining values, and getting out onto the land will take time.

Pinchin expressed the concern that the desktop exercise and aerial flight by Hydro One's consultant without ground verification provides limited understanding of ground constraints for alternative route selection. The selection of the preferred route would be premature prior to completing field studies and the incorporation of socio-economic and TK information from communities (animal movement, food sources etc.)

The Protection Committee member from Fort William First Nation commented that the errors made on the East-West Tie and Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line projects should be avoided. Through training and partnerships associated with these projects, Indigenous communities have the capability of conducting Stage 1 AA work themselves.

*b. Meaningful consultation and engagement between First Nations and Hydro One*

The Protection Committee members commented that there were numerous Hydro One requests for participation in corridor workshops pre-pandemic but there has been a lack of engagement since the start of the pandemic. Eagle Lake First Nation and other communities were unable to participate in a corridor workshop. Community members have limited awareness of the project and virtual meetings are not well-attended. Communities are open to other engagement options but need Hydro One's assistance.

North Vista commented that there needs to be a "do nothing" option, meaning that if First Nations are not in a position to effectively engage, the ToR should note that the pandemic may result in the need to put engagement activities on hold until First Nations are in a position to effectively engage.

It was added that virtual communication with Elders has been challenging and that face-to-face meetings with the communities' knowledge keepers are necessary. The pandemic should be acknowledged in the ToR and in EA consultation planning. The urgency of the project is also unclear and communities would like to ensure that sufficient time for engagement is taken so that the project is properly planned.

It was noted that that even though the pandemic is placing limitations on communication with its members, communities are trying to move forward with economic development and to prepare for the next steps of the EA.

North Vista shared that it conducted an awareness survey with communities and identified that there is limited project awareness amongst community members. Communities have not

had a chance to be consulted on possible transmission line routes to be able to identify values within and around project areas.

Maawandoon commented that virtual meetings are suitable for education and information sharing but are not appropriate for community decision-making as members have different levels of project understanding.

GLP would like a commitment in writing that key EA decisions will not be made until engagement is complete.

#### 4. Other Items

##### *Questions and Answers*

1. MECP inquired about the status of TK work planning with GLP communities.

Communities have selected their consultants, but the pandemic is posing challenges for work plan implementation. GLP communities are working hard to find solutions but Hydro One needs to be respectful of communities and acknowledge that progress will be slower during the pandemic. Hydro One's activities may need to be put on hold until communities are ready to participate and when face-to-face engagement is possible.

2. MECP inquired about GLP's thoughts on how it sees TK integrated into the EA. MECP asked if there is specific TK information that needs to be collected prior to: a) the evaluation of alternative routes; and b) impact assessment of the preferred route, and how this can be translated into EA requirements.

GLP is looking for the commitment that TK and TLRU will be an integral part of all field studies and decision making. The logistics of how it will be collected and integrated into the EA will be determined by each community. The intention was that communities would gather TK and TLRU and bring the information to GLP for presentation to Hydro One and discussion on integration into the EA. Wording should be included in the ToR to reflect this commitment.

GLP is not expecting that all TK and TLRU be collected prior to ToR approval, but would like reassurance that certain EA activities are not going to move forward until TK has been considered, unless certain communities indicate that TK is not required for a particular activity. The Protection Committee member from Fort William First Nation noted that from past project experience, TK has been buried/appended to the back of documents whereas the information should be used to inform decision-making.

3. Pinchin inquired which option for amending the ToR has more weight: a) Hydro One amending the ToR; or b) the Minister imposing amendments to the ToR.

MECP explained that both options result in an amended ToR for the Minister's decision. The amended ToR, if approved, will represent the approved framework for the EA. Hydro One is encouraged to work with GLP to develop wording for amendments to the ToR to address outstanding concerns. In the event of an impasse during discussions, and MECP determines that an amendment to the ToR is warranted, the Minister can impose amendments. The MECP is willing to participate in conversations with Hydro One and GLP around ToR amendments.

MECP shared an example of an amendment for the Hardrock Gold Mine EA ToR related to incorporating TK into each EA decision making milestone. This wording can be viewed online at the following link: [Approval of the Terms of Reference for the Hardrock Gold Mine Environmental Assessment | Ontario.ca](#)

4. North Vista inquired if a public comment period is associated with amending the ToR.

MECP responded that if major/substantial amendments to the ToR are required, then there could be another public comment period on the amendments. However, if amendments relate to resolving specific issues between concerned parties and Hydro One, then broader public consultation may not be necessary. The amended ToR document is posted publicly once approved by the Minister.

5. North Vista asked MECP how engagement during the pandemic can be improved so that is not limited to virtual methods of communication, as virtual meetings have been ineffective.

MECP noted that Hydro One's ToR includes a proposed Indigenous Engagement Plan that should be designed in a way to enable flexibility to adapt to different situations. There are no clear solutions on how to improve consultation during the pandemic. MECP is trying to listen to communities and be flexible with timelines on individual projects.

#### *Comments on the Role of Hydro One's Indigenous Liaisons*

It was recommended that Hydro One provide their two Indigenous Relations Advisors (liaisons) with more decision-making ability to resolve concerns at the ground level so that issues do not escalate.

North Vista remarked that the Hydro One should consider feedback from Community Engagement Coordinators on the effectiveness of engagement.

#### 5. Next Steps

Pinchin will consider the wording in the amendment to Greenstone's Hardrock Gold Mine EA ToR related to the incorporation of TK and its applicability to the Waasigan Transmission Line EA ToR.

North Vista will initiate discussions with Hydro One on the specifics on how TK and TLRU will be incorporated into the EA process.

MECP thanked the GLP members for sharing their concerns. MECP understands that communities have been prioritizing health and safety during the pandemic and remains flexible in trying to work through issues with communities.

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in one month's time.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.*



Item	Description
	<p><b>Species-Specific Surveys</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MECP SARB understands that the proposed approach is to not do species-specific surveys for the alternative routes to inform the selection of the preferred route. Instead, species-specific surveys would be completed for the preferred route only.</li> <li>• MECP SARB is concerned about the potential impact on the selection of the preferred route if it is based on just the aerial reconnaissance, desktop analysis and select areas of ground-truthing.</li> <li>• MECP SARB indicated that there has not been a lot of effort to understand the distribution of SAR in this part of northwestern Ontario. There are knowledge gaps regarding confirming preferred habitat for several the species at risk (SAR) in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Study Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neither the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan nor the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan activities identify species-specific study areas. Study areas should be identified up front in the plans, prior to undertaking the work, to identify the scope and scale of the work.</li> <li>• MECP SARB suggested consideration of the concept of Limits of Work as the Project design will not be known [at time of initial surveys]. The concept has some value when thinking about the Local and Regional Study Areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Desktop Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The desktop analysis is not sufficiently explained in the field work plans. SARB is concerned that the work plans do not sufficiently describe the desktop analysis that has been done to date, e.g., no maps have been provided to show where potential habitat was identified during the aerial surveys. There is detail lacking about what was done in the desktop analysis and the results so far. Such information would help them understand spatially where the potential habitat is and how much there is.</li> <li>• No information is provided about which data queries were carried out and how the data were processed.</li> <li>• The plans lack rationale about the suitability of the field surveys, i.e., lack of rationale provided to describe the adequacy on what is being proposed and why. There is concern about the use of a sub-sampling approach, particularly for wildlife.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions, Answers and Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golder asked why species-specific surveys are being requested for the alternative routes at this stage in the process considering the amount of effort that would be involved on route alternatives that will not be advanced.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that a meeting was held with MECP on September 17, 2020 during which the overall approach to the alternative routes' evaluation was presented. During this meeting Golder noted that the alternative routes evaluation is just the first step in the overall assessment process and that a ROW, and then supporting infrastructure, will then need to be developed after a preferred 150 m corridor is identified. Detailed, species-specific surveys would then be completed on this full project footprint. Further, this more detailed assessment phase offers many opportunities to consider environmental factors, such as SAR, and to avoid or mitigate potential effects. This approach of becoming more detailed in the data collection and assessment as the project footprint is refined is standard environmental assessment (EA) practice in Ontario.</li> <li>• A subsequent meeting was held with MECP on November 17, 2020 to explain the proposed field surveys for the alternative routes' evaluation. During this meeting it was stated that species-specific surveys would not be completed for all alternative routes.</li> <li>• Golder noted that MECP SARB did not request species-specific surveys during either of these meetings (i.e., September 17, 2020 or November 17, 2020). Further, completing field surveys for all alternatives to the same level of detail as the preferred route would be a significant undertaking to the Proponent and not add sufficient value at this early stage in the design process.</li> <li>• MECP SARB noted that this is the recommendation it is making as a way to improve the project approach.</li> <li>• MECP SARB replied that there are gaps in the available desktop data, and these gaps are not accounted for by GoldSET. MECP SARB further noted that it is taking a holistic approach to its comments, including consideration of [potential future] <i>Endangered Species Act</i> (ESA) permitting that will require an alternatives assessment; thus, they foresee potential challenges or risks if such levels of surveys are not done. MECP SARB provided an example with bat hibernacula, noting that a presence/absence survey would better inform the selection of the preferred route (i.e., prior to running GoldSET).</li> <li>• Golder thanked MECP SARB for clarifying that it is also considering ESA permitting, which happens at a later stage in the process and is beyond the EA requirements. Golder explained that the goal of the GoldSET assessment is to select the overall best route by "weighing" all the considerations, including the natural environment, socio-economic environment, Indigenous and technical criteria and indicators. This means that the preferred route may not be the best route for every criteria and indicator. However, as noted previously, this is just the first step in the process and there are still many opportunities throughout the larger assessment process to consider environmental factors, such as SAR, and to avoid or mitigate potential</li> </ul>



Item	Description
	<p>effects. Golder noted that it will look at documenting this information throughout the Project to support ESA permitting if it is determined to be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golder asked if MECP SARB could provide more detail about the additional information it is looking for in the methods sections of the field plans. Golder stated that the field plans have incorporated feedback received from agencies on the ToR, either through describing work that will be completed or by making commitments to complete certain work later in the EA process.</li> <li>• MECP SARB noted that the plans mention that survey protocols will be followed but SARB would like a more detailed description of the implementation of the protocols and the methodology, including how data are going to be analyzed and how results would be extrapolated from a subset to the full Project.</li> <li>• MECP SARB added that it is unclear where and when sampling will occur. For example, for whip-poor-will, MECP SARB would like the field work plans to indicate which guideline will be followed and the planned dates and times (e.g., timing of the full moon).</li> <li>• MECP SARB stated that in the 2021-2022 Field Work Plan, there is not enough detail about the proposed methodology for species-specific surveys. They recommended it to provide an understanding of how the surveys are being structured to validate the conclusions that will be made about the preferred route, such as where the studies will be undertaken, the rationale for subsampling (e.g., 25% for wildlife), the specific methodology that will be used and how the work will be implemented, and how the data will be analysed and used.</li> <li>• Hydro One recognizes that further dialogue is required with MECP to finalize the field work plans and thanked MECP for its feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Terms of Reference Review Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydro One asked if anything is outstanding for the approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR).</li> <li>• MECP indicated that they are in the issues resolution phase of the ToR. As noted in previous meetings, MECP is looking for commitments from Hydro One that can be included as amendments to the ToR to address major outstanding issues.</li> <li>• It was noted that there is a commitment in the ToR to define criteria/species-specific study areas at the onset of the EA.</li> <li>• Hydro One has advanced the ToR and field plans in tandem. If this is hindering the ToR approval process, Hydro One is willing to pause the completion of the field work plans until the ToR is approved.</li> <li>• MECP indicated that some proponents include draft work plans in the ToR or commit to doing so in the EA with consultation. In this case, draft field work plans were a commitment of the ToR. The ToR should provide an overview of the content and structure of the field work plans and mention what type of surveys will be carried out. Hydro One noted that, as previously discussed with MECP, the ToR provides</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<p>a high-level overview of the field programs and a commitment to develop field work plans. The detailed field work plans are being developed independent of the ToR. This approach was taken to ensure Project timelines could be met and that ToR approval would not be hindered by more detailed work and ongoing consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MECP commented that Hydro One has commenced EA activities such as carrying out an aerial reconnaissance survey in late October 2020.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Community Relations Engagement Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) conference and annual general meeting will be held at the end April. It will be a virtual event and Hydro One will participate and manage a virtual booth.</li> <li>Hydro One Community Relations continues to respond to Project inquiries received via email and telephone.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Indigenous Community Engagement Update</b></p> <p>First Nations/Red Sky Independent Métis Nation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydro One has continued working to achieve capacity funding agreements (CFAs) and/or invoicing work under CFAs.</li> <li>Work towards Indigenous knowledge/traditional land and resource use (IK/TLRU) collection is progressing well. GLP communities have frameworks and budgets prepared and other communities are advancing their activities. COVID-19 is providing challenges but work is advancing virtually.</li> </ul> <p>Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydro One has received very good baseline data from the MNO. A meeting will be scheduled with the MNO to discuss how the data provided can be integrated into the EA.</li> <li>MNO has delivered cultural training to Hydro One and its consultants.</li> <li>Hydro One is in the process of setting up introductory meetings for Indigenous communities with the two Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractors that have been selected as part of the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) model.</li> </ul> <p>Gwayakocchigewin LP (GLP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next meeting of MECP and the GLP Protection Committee has not been scheduled yet.</li> <li>MECP noted that it is being as accommodating as possible with GLP, but is balancing with the need to advance the Project. Hydro One noted that it has responded to all of the GLP's requests and additional commitments have been documented in comment/response tables.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydro One expressed concern that the next MECP meeting with the GLP has not been scheduled yet and that they are hopeful that the MECP can firm up a date.</li> <li>• Hydro One has provided draft text to the GLP related to commitments for the incorporation of IK; this draft text was based on the example provided by the MECP. Hydro One reiterated that incorporation of IK into the EA is important, and Hydro One has made a point of advancing IK with all communities early in the Project.</li> <li>• MECP noted that GLP has indicated to them that it is not asking to pause the ToR review process, but it has asked for reassurance that IK will be incorporated in the decision-making process, through the inclusion of commitments. Hydro One noted that many commitments have already been documented both in the ToR and in the subsequent comment/response tables. It is Hydro One's understanding that the GLP is asking for a commitment in the ToR (i.e. amendment) to have IK completed before making decisions at EA milestones (e.g. selection of a preferred route).</li> <li>• Doing so could require pausing the Project until IK is completed. It is also unclear as to what amount of IK would need to be collected before it is considered to be completed by the GLP. Due to the large number of communities, their diverse experience with collecting IK and no firm commitment to provide IK, Hydro One cannot commit to pausing the Project until IK collection is completed. As a result, Hydro One is committing to incorporating IK when it becomes available.</li> <li>• Hydro One noted that the 30-day period of ToR review finished in November 2020 and are passed the 12-week prescribed deadline, but review is still ongoing.</li> <li>• MECP remarked that it is mandated by the Crown to ensure that meaningful consultation is undertaken. Projects such as the Waasigan Transmission Line are a priority to the province; however, because of the COVID pandemic, regulated timelines are not being adhered to. Hydro One acknowledged this; however, noted that ToR approval could proceed as commitments related to ongoing engagement as the pandemic permits were included in the ToR and subsequent comment/response tables. Engagement will continue throughout the EA in accordance with provincial guidance/regulations and community-specific COVID-19 safety protocols.</li> <li>• MECP mentioned that it has shared Hydro One's ToR review comment/response submissions with the GLP and is expecting a response.</li> <li>• Hydro One would appreciate any further direction from MECP on gaps/steps that have not been completed to facilitate the ToR approval process. MECP stated that the GLP has raised concerns about wording in the ToR related to IK and engagement. Hydro One noted that there has been extensive engagement with all communities throughout the ToR process, including the GLP, and that all comments that were received have already been responded to as part of the review process and documented in both the ToR and comment/response tables.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<p>Most recently, this has included the submission to the GLP with an additional commitment statement regarding the consideration of IK in the EA process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MECP offered to participate in discussions between Hydro One and GLP, if needed. Hydro One agreed to this offer.</li></ul>

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Next meeting on: May 4, 2021.



Item	Description
3.	<p><b>Indigenous Relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One has continued engagement, where possible, with First Nations (FN) and Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).</li> <li>- Hydro One had a meeting scheduled with the Eagle Lake FN Community Engagement Coordinator last week, but this was cancelled due to an unforeseen event in the community and will need to be rescheduled.</li> <li>- Planning for Indigenous Knowledge (IK)/Traditional Land and Resource Use (TLRU) studies with communities are in progress and several meetings have occurred or are planned with most communities.</li> <li>- An orientation program pilot was scheduled to commence this week with Fort William FN. Other communities are keen to engage in the program.</li> <li>- Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) communication is in progress and advancing well. Hydro One is working with the ECI contractors to formalize engagement plans. Three meetings were held over the last two weeks.</li> <li>- Hydro One has a meeting scheduled with MNO next week to discuss the process and path forward to roll out the ECI process.</li> <li>- As MECP is aware, Hydro One is currently experiencing some challenges with the Gwayakocchigewin LP (GLP). Hydro One had a meeting scheduled earlier this week that did not proceed as planned (see notes below).</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Terms of Reference (ToR) Review Update</b></p> <p><b>GLP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One was working with the GLP to collaborate on language for ToR. The revised version of the wording from the MECP was proposed to GLP for comment and input. The GLP provided additional language last week to further incorporate in the ToR.</li> <li>- A meeting was scheduled on May 4, 2021 to collaborate and discuss the proposed language and for Hydro One to provide opportunities for compromise on items where accommodations could not be met.</li> <li>- GLP brought legal representation to the meeting and Hydro One was not aware of this, nor did they have legal counsel present. Based on the narrative from their legal counsel, the meeting did not proceed; however, the GLP did express that they were firm in their overall stance. Hydro One followed up shortly after with a communication to the GLP recommending that they submit their letter to the MECP.</li> <li>- MECP indicated that they have not seen the nature of the letter or wording that the GLP is asking for and requested that the information regarding proposed changes are shared.</li> <li>- Hydro One advised that the GLP requested that language be included in the ToR that requires Hydro One to obtain confirmation that IK has been incorporated to the satisfaction of each Indigenous community. Hydro One noted they cannot agree to this type of language considering that obtaining a "sign-off" along each</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<p>step of the process is not standard practice nor is it required in other current EA processes including Federal impact assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One adapted the language provided by the MECP to clearly commit to incorporating IK information that is shared into various EA milestones and this language will be shared with the MECP.</li> <li>- MECP questioned whether it is the proposed language or the milestones that do not align.</li> <li>- Hydro One confirmed that the milestones do align, but the language to “demonstrate satisfaction” from the various communities at each milestone does not align and is a significant concern to Hydro One.</li> <li>- Andrew requested that Hydro One provide MECP with their suggested language.</li> <li>- <b>ACTION:</b> Hydro One will send a letter to the MECP with a description of the situation, the rationale for why the proposed GLP wording is not acceptable and Hydro One’s proposed IK language.</li> </ul> <p><b>MNO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One received the letter that was sent to the MECP from the MNO on April 28, 2021 in response to MECP’s letter to the MNO on their ToR comments.</li> <li>- MECP understood that the MNO were looking for more information on how their criteria and indicators would be considered in the EA process. It is suggested that the MNO is provided with an updated comment/response table to advise how the comments will be addressed in the EA, and the rationale why the comments were not considered in the ToR. There is no need for a formal letter response.</li> <li>- <b>ACTION:</b> Hydro One to provide an updated comment response table for MECP to circulate to MNO.</li> </ul> <p><b>MECP and MNRF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydro One thanked the MECP for coordinating the meeting on April 29, 2021 with MNRF and MECP Species at Risk Branch (SARB) regarding the outstanding ToR comments. Hydro One will be working to reflect the recommended changes in the ToR. However, there were a couple of items that Hydro One wanted to discuss further to confirm the interpreted response.</li> <li>- Golder shared a presentation on the approach to resolve comments from MNRF (attached).</li> <li>- Hydro One agreed to incorporate eight of 10 proposed amendments in the ToR. However, there are two items that will require further clarification. The proposed wording for significant wildlife habitat (SWH) was reviewed.</li> <li>- Golder outlined several recent commitments made to the MNRF and MECP SARB branch to demonstrate Hydro One’s continued desire to work collaboratively with the agencies. The recent commitments include additional desktop effort on SWH for the alternative route evaluation, expanding the SAR study area from 500 m to</li> </ul>

Item	Description
	<p>1 km and expanding the bat hibernacula and acoustic monitoring survey to include all alternative routes (previously was just the preferred route).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With reference to MNRF's comment requesting site-specific mitigation plans, Golder understands that the development of mitigation plans for each type of natural feature would include standard construction practices and that site specific plans would be developed for specific areas that have policy management plans in place (i.e., provincial parks and conservation reserves). The generalized mitigation plans for the natural areas would apply to site-specific areas as well. Golder would like to confirm this understanding is correct and that there would not be a request to develop site-specific plans for multiple areas.</li> <li>- MECP indicated that the MECP has not spoken with MNRF since the last meeting and indicated that it would be helpful to provide the presentation describing the proposed changes to MNRF for their conformation.</li> <li>- <b>ACTION:</b> Golder to provide the presentation slide deck to MECP for them to circulate to MNRF for review.</li> <li>- MECP confirmed their understanding that the assessment of alternatives is only a step in the overall process to identify the preferred route. MECP recognizes that there are differences in the level of effort for each stage of the process and they with work with MNRF to determine whether the proposed changes are satisfactory.</li> <li>- Golder outlined Hydro One's understanding of MNRF's proposed wording for the approach to surveying candidate SWH noting that it would consist of surveying a subset of desktop identified SWH to confirm they are candidate SWH. Further, seasonal, species-specific surveys, which are required to officially confirm SWH, would not be proposed for the assessment of alternatives. Seasonal, species-specific surveys will be undertaken for the preferred route. The MNRF will be consulted through the field work plan for both the alternatives surveys and the surveys for the preferred route.</li> <li>- MECP asked for more detail on the selection process for candidate SWH, aside from consultation with MNRF.</li> <li>- Golder evaluated the potential candidate SWH based on Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) mapping and noted that it that covers most, if not all, of the alternative routes. This, along with ministry guidance and professional judgement used to review aerial imagery and other resources, will be used for the selection of a subset of potential candidate SWH. MNRF would then be consulted to identify valuable habitat types that should be considered for field assessment in the evaluation of alternatives.</li> <li>- MECP asked whether the intent would be to validate candidate SWH once the preferred alternative is selected, and whether are all of the relevant polygons for candidate SWH would be validated with field surveys along the entire preferred route or just a subset.</li> </ul>



Item	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Golder clarified that the field program for the preferred route, as is currently documented in the 2021/2022 field work plan, considers SWH and species-specific surveys. It is currently proposed that a subset of each candidate habitat is selected for field evaluation and that surveys would not be undertaken along the entire route. The purpose will be to extrapolate information that could be used in the effects assessment.</li> <li>- Golder also noted that refinements to the design will be considered throughout the EA process to consider avoidance areas and minimize effects to the environment. The proposed approach for the preferred route is to collect information that could be incorporated into design planning.</li> <li>- MECP appreciates that the process will be refined and noted that the work to assess the proposed approach is helpful.</li> <li>- MECP requested that the summary of the approach to address MNRF comments would aid in the discussion between MECP and MNRF.</li> <li>- <b>ACTION:</b> Hydro One to provide a comment disposition table for MNRF's proposed wording for the ToR.</li> <li>- Golder asked for confirmation that the MECP SARB would not be providing proposed ToR wording similar to MNRF.</li> <li>- MECP confirmed that no specific wording would be proposed from MECP SARB. Hydro One is to propose the revised wording for the ToR to address MECP SARB comments.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Questions/Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MECP asked if there were any more meetings planned with the MNO. Hydro One responded that they just had a productive meeting with the MNO on May 4, 2021, and that their IK/TLRU study is about to be initiated and that funding has been offered. The agreement is not yet in place, but once it is they will start the IK/TLRU study.</li> <li>- MECP mentioned that MNO is concerned about cumulative effects and requested that the ToR amendments include more information about how the cumulative effects will be completed and how communities will be engaged.</li> <li>- Dillon indicated that there has been some consideration with respect to the type of projects that should be considered in the cumulative effects assessment. Based on the Code of Practice, it is understood that the cumulative effects assessment should consider reasonable foreseeable projects and not just previously approved projects. MECP confirmed this understanding.</li> <li>- <b>ACTION:</b> Dillon to refine the wording in the cumulative effects section in the ToR amendment.</li> </ul>

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Waasigan Transmission Line Project  
MECP Monthly Meeting



Next meeting on: June 1, 2021



# MNRF PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE AMENDMENTS

May 2021

POWERING NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO



# MNRF Proposed ToR Amendments



Ten amendments proposed by the MNRF

- Hydro One agrees to incorporate 8 of 10 amendments as proposed
- Hydro One would like clarification and discussion about the remaining two, to confirm final wording
  - Site-specific mitigation plans
  - SWH surveys on all alternatives



# MNRF AND MECP COMMITMENTS



- Requested Changes that Hydro One is agreeing to:
  - MNRF
    - Desktop exercise for SWH was only proposed for the preferred route. This has now been done for all alternative routes and will field verify a subset of candidate SWH.
  - MECP
    - SAR study area for the alternative route evaluation has been increased from the 150 m corridor plus 500 m to the 150 m corridor plus 1 km
    - Bat Hibernacula Visual Assessment and Bat Hibernacula Swarming Acoustic Monitoring was originally only proposed for the preferred route. This will now be completed on all alternatives:
      - Bat hibernacula should be avoided to prevent significant adverse effects
      - This is the main wildlife feature where mitigation is very limited and could require more substantial design refinements if these locations are not identified early in the process



# SITE-SPECIFIC MITIGATION PLAN



## Requested MNRF Wording:

- *Develop mitigation ~~plans~~ ~~measures~~ for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e. SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR and Protected Areas) for use ~~implementation~~ 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.*

## Understanding of the 1st sentence:

- Mitigation Plans for each suite of natural heritage values will outline standard mitigation measures that will apply where the project has potential to interact with the value, and may include various circumstances, e.g.:
  - The Fish Habitat Mitigation Plan would identify standard timing restrictions and mitigation measures, considering their applicability to different waterbody types and crossing types.
- Proposed ToR Wording:
  - No change to first sentence if understanding is aligned.



# SITE-SPECIFIC MITIGATION PLAN

## Requested MNRF Wording:

- *Develop mitigation ~~plans~~ ~~measures~~ for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e. SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR and Protected Areas) for use ~~implementation~~ 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.*

## Understanding of 2nd Sentence:

- Site-specific mitigation plans with overlapping values would apply where there is a specific area of policy or management concern (e.g., a Protected area or ANSI), within which there are several natural heritage values that require mapping and avoidance or mitigation above and beyond that identified in the more general Mitigation Plans.
  - In some project areas, more than one Mitigation Plan may apply, without warranting a site-specific Mitigation Plan as well (e.g., SAR habitat that is also SWH)
- Proposed ToR Wording:
  - No change to second sentence if understanding is aligned.



# SWH SURVEYS

## Requested MNRF Wording:

- 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)
- 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).

## Understanding:

- Confirm a subset of candidate SWH polygons are candidate SWH, not confirm all candidate SWH (43,000 polygons) along alternative routes based on MNRF SWH Guidelines (i.e., seasonal, species-specific surveys)
- Confirming presence of candidate values, not confirming SWH
- Details for surveys to be confirmed during work plan consultation with MNRF





# QUESTIONS?



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*Italics* = existing wording in Oct. 13, 2020 Final ToR document

*Red Italics* = MNRF suggested edits to Oct. 13, 2020 Final ToR

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.	Hydro One Response
HONI committed to the creation of a <b>Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan</b> : which will include detailed information about Hydro One's plans for tree clearing including identification of areas to be cleared permanently vs. areas to be reforested, timing of and methods for clearing, management of cleared timber and brush, etc.	Yes (4.2.3.3 - Forestry)	N/A	No	<i>A Timber Clearing / Harvest and Renewal Plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with applicable stakeholders.</i>	Text will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF.
HONI committed to the creation of an <b>Access plan</b> : which will include location and timing of use for all roads that will be used to facilitate the project, length and width of new roads and upgrades to existing roads, ownership, authority to use, permanency and plans for decommissioning.	Yes 5.1.1.2 (Access Roads) 4th paragraph	<i>"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 (environmental/ social/ 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".</i>	No	<i>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 (environmental/ social/economic) of these changes and associated mitigation measures.</i>	Text from both columns will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF.
HONI committed to the creation of plans/protocols for <b>undocumented values</b> . These will be used to address instances where previously undocumented natural heritage values are discovered in the field during construction and/or operation of the project.	Yes 8.2 (Potential effects and compliance monitoring) 3rd paragraph p. 115.	N/A	No	<i>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).</i>	Text will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF.
HONI committed to creating an <b>Environmental Protection Plan</b> : which will be designed to confirm that the	Yes 8.2 (Potential effects and	N/A	Yes #29		Text will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF.

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.	Hydro One Response
<p>assumptions used in the assessment were correct (e.g. potential effects), to determine compliance with project permits/approvals and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.</p> <p>Note: I suspect there is some confusion with terminology associated with the monitoring language outlined in the ToR. The following terms need to be better defined</p> <p>a) Monitoring Plan b) Environmental Protection Plan c) Environmental Monitoring Program</p> <p><u>To be clear</u>, MNRF would like the Monitoring Plan to address the requirements set out in MECP's Code of practice: preparing and reviewing EA's. These include:</p> <p>a) confirm that assumptions used in the assessment were correct (e.g. potential effects), b) the effectiveness of mitigation measures c) compliance with environmental legislation, regulations, industry standards, project permits, and commitments made by HONI on both the ToR and EA.</p> <p>These appear to be included in the ToR.</p> <p>In addition, please be clear that the monitoring plan will evaluate both environmental and socio-economic commitments.</p>	<p>compliance monitoring) 2nd/3rd paragraph p. 115.</p> <p>The ToR makes reference to the completion of an Environmental Protection Plan, however, what this product is and how it differs from a monitoring plan or environmental monitoring program is hard to understand. Please use consistent language.</p>	<p><i>"A construction and post-construction monitoring plan will be developed and included in the EA to ensure environmental and socio-economic commitments are met".</i></p>			
<p>HONI has committed to identifying preliminary project details of ancillary infrastructure required for project construction.</p>	<p>The ToR refers to detailed design throughout document. However, it is implied that this will come later in the</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Not directly</p>	<p><i>HONI has hired engineers early in the EA to support a preliminary detailed design to identify ancillary infrastructure required for project construction. This preliminary detailed design (ancillary infrastructure) will be assessed as part of the EA.</i></p>	<p>Text will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF.</p>

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNRF review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNRF.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.	Hydro One Response
	<p>process (after EA is complete).</p> <p>Ideally, the ToR could be amended to clarify that HONI has hired engineers in advance of EA approval to identify the preliminary details of ancillary infrastructure for inclusion in the EA.</p>				
<p>HONI has committed to creating <b>Mitigation Plans</b> for each suite of MNRF Values (SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR and Protected Areas)</p>	<p>Yes, sort of: Section 6.3, p. 109 2nd paragraph  <i>"... ; however, the need for site-specific mitigation measures will be evaluated and applied to the preferred route, as required."</i></p>	<p>Suggested wording to add to section 7.2 Mitigation Measures, p.113.  <i>"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."</i></p>	<p>Yes #27</p>	<p>Consider refining existing commitment to reflect the dual nature of MNRF's request:  <i>"Develop mitigation plans <del>measures</del> for each suite of natural heritage values (i.e. SWH, PSW, ANSI, Fish Habitat, SAR and Protected Areas) for use <del>implementation</del> 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."</i></p>	<p>Hydro One requests confirmation on our interpretation of the proposed wording. Please refer to the presentation deck provided for further detail. The text proposed in both columns will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF if our understanding of the text is correct.</p>
<p>MNRF would like HONI to commit to filling in data gaps using ground-based field work. Data gaps to be filled are those values identified in the Criteria and Indicators table. These new values should be used to support the Alternative Routes Analysis.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Section 4.2:  <i>"Field work <del>may</del> will be undertaken to support the alternative route evaluation during the EA. An aerial... constraints to development. 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)... Consultation on field work plans.."</i>            Section 6.3, last sentence of 2nd paragraph:  <i>"Spatial indicator data will be developed for each of the</i></p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Consider adding the following commitments associated with section 6.3 (alternative routes assessment).  <i>Field data from 2020 and 2021 field studies will be used in the evaluation of the alternative routes.</i>  <i>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).</i></p>	<p>Hydro One requests confirmation on our interpretation of the proposed wording. Please refer to the presentation deck provided for further detail. The text proposed in both columns will be incorporated into the ToR as proposed by MNRF if our understanding of the text is correct.</p>

Commitment that HONI made in response to MNR review or outstanding suggested commitment requested by MNR.	Is the commitment reflected in the Final ToR (Oct. 13/2020) Text Y/N	If NO, what suggested wording should be added to ToR	Is commitment in Appendix 5? Y/N	Suggested wording to add to specific commitment table in Appendix 5 of the ToR.	Hydro One Response
		<p><i>alternative routes relying on <del>preliminary</del> results of the 2020 and 2021 field programs and existing data, such as .....</i>"</p> <p>Section 7.1 (second last paragraph)  <i>"Desktop information and field data collected during the 2020 and 2021 <del>initial</del> field programs will inform the alternative route evaluation process."</i></p>			
<p>HONI has committed to using Provincial Ecosites as the base map to identify natural heritage values within the EA. Similarly, Provincial Ecosites will be used when developing a stratified field sampling design.</p>	<p>Somewhat</p>	<p>Add provincial ecosite data (source Forest Resource Inventory) to table 4-1. Accessed April 9, 2021.</p> <p>** commitment to use provincial ecosite data needs to be clear within both the 2021 alternative routes field plan, and the 2021-2022 field plan. Use of provincial ecosite data should be identified both as a data source, and as the basis for developing a stratified sample design.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Specific wording is not needed in appendix 5. Commitment #25 "refine alternative route evaluation criteria, indicators and data sources in consultation with Indigenous communities, government agencies, and stakeholders" is sufficient.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>HONI commits to working 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.</p>		<p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Please include a commitment to working with Sustainable Forestry License 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.</p>	<p>Hydro One will include the following commitment into Appendix E (List of Commitments) of the ToR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydro One will work with Sustainable Forestry License 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.</li> </ul>

**SARAH COHANIM**

Environmental Planner  
Environmental Services  
Hydro One Networks Inc.

May 13, 2021

Carolyn Lee  
Special Project Officer, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
[Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@ontario.ca)

**Re: Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference Amendment on Indigenous Knowledge Incorporation**

Dear Carolyn,

I would like to provide you with an update on Hydro One's efforts to address concerns raised by the Gwayakocchigewin LP (GLP) on the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference (ToR). As was communicated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to Hydro One on March 11, 2021, the GLP had requested that additional language be included in the Terms of Reference related to the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge (IK), including Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use information, at EA decision-making milestones. As recommended by the MECP, Hydro One has made efforts to work with the GLP to develop wording for amendments to the ToR to address these outstanding concerns.

Hydro One provided the GLP with proposed language for their review on March 19, 2021 (please see attached). This language was based on the example provided by the MECP. In response to this proposed wording, the GLP provided Hydro One with a draft of their letter to the MECP which includes their recommended language for inclusion in the ToR. On May 4, 2021, Hydro One and the GLP met to discuss their recommended language. We were not able to have the discussion that was originally planned due to the previously undisclosed attendance of GLP legal representation; however, the GLP clearly stated that while they were open to suggestions and clarifications, they were firm in their position as presented in the letter.

**Re: Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference Amendment on Indigenous Knowledge Incorporation**

Hydro One continues to be committed to integrating IK into EA decision-making milestones, and to working with the Indigenous communities to achieve this. Hydro One's commitment to IK integration is included in the Proposed ToR and will be further strengthened through the additional language that Hydro One is committing to amending in the ToR (attached). This language is a strong example of a commitment made in a ToR to incorporate IK during the EA. The GLP has proposed language which would require Hydro One to demonstrate that First Nations are satisfied with the collection and integration of IK into each EA decision-making milestone. Hydro One is not able to commit to this for various reasons, including the practical challenges of receiving positive confirmation from each First Nation community and without any timing commitments. It is standard practice to provide reasonable timelines and capacity to Indigenous communities to obtain and provide IK into the EA process, which is then included in the EA decision-making milestones. Obtaining confirmation at each step of the process is not standard practice nor is it required in other current EA processes, including the Federal Impact Assessment. Hydro One remains committed to considering IK and integrating it into the Project whenever it has been made available to us.

Hydro One intends to amend the ToR with the language presented to the GLP (attached). In addition, Hydro One is committed to continuing to engage with the GLP and has provided the capacity to communities to begin the process of IK collection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



**Sarah Cohanim**, Environmental Planner  
Environmental Services  
Mobile: (416) 209-7761  
Email: Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com

Attachment: Indigenous Knowledge Amendment for the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference

cc: Kiran Anwar, Supervisor – Environmental Assessment Branch, MECP  
Andrew Evers, Manager – Environmental Assessment Branch, MECP  
Bruce Hopper, Project Manager, Hydro One Networks Inc.

## **Indigenous Knowledge Amendment for the Waasigan Transmission Line Terms of Reference**

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

Effective and meaningful communication/engagement requires continuing to re-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 be involved in 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; and, Hydro One will consider and incorporate, where available, IK into EA decision-making milestones. Hydro One will ensure that Indigenous communities are provided opportunities to be involved in and consulted on EA milestones 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;
- 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, including the development of design refinements, mitigation measures and monitoring to address any potential effects and conclusions of the assessment.





May 28, 2021

Kathleen O'Neill  
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5

**Subject: Amendments to the Proposed Terms of Reference for the Hydro One Waasigan Transmission Line Environmental Assessment**

Dear Kathleen O'Neill,

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is intending to amend the proposed Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line environmental assessment. As you are aware, Hydro One submitted a proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in October 2020 and since that time, has been addressing comments received through the MECP review process. In consultation with the MECP, it was determined that ToR amendments are warranted based on additional commitments Hydro One has made in response to these comments.

Hydro One commits to providing the amended ToR document to the Ministry within eight weeks of this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (416) 209-7761 or [Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com](mailto:Sarah.Cohanim@HydroOne.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Cohanim".

Sarah Cohanim  
Environmental Planner  
Hydro One Networks Inc.

Cc: Carolyn Lee, Special Project Officer – Environmental Assessment Branch, MECP  
Kiran Anwar, Supervisor – Environmental Assessment Branch, MECP  
Andrew Evers, Manager – Environmental Assessment Branch, MECP  
Bruce Hopper, Project Manager – Hydro One Networks Inc.



**Ministry of Natural Resources and  
Forestry**

Northwest Region

Suite 221a, Ontario Government Building  
435 James Street South  
Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S7  
Tel.: 807 475-1251  
Fax.: 807 473-3023

**Hydro One Networks Inc.**  
Sarah Cohanim  
Via email

September 23, 2020

**RE: Waasigan transmission line project – MNRF review of draft Field Plan**

Dear Sarah Cohanim,

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) the opportunity to review the draft field plan for the Waasigan Transmission Line project, and for the Webex presentations and discussion about it last week. MNRF understands that the draft field plan will support the alternate route evaluation and effects assessment of the preferred route in the environmental assessment process.

The MNRF has completed its review of the document and is providing this letter and accompanying attached table as the ministry's comments on it. The table contains reviewers' detailed comments and, where possible, recommendations for each. Highlighted below are several of the overarching themes to which we'd like to draw your attention.

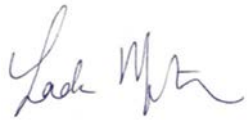
A primary concern identified in the review stems from HONI's reliance on aerial reconnaissance as described in the draft field plan. MNRF understands that a phased approach is being used whereby the level of field effort is proportionate to the certainty of the preferred routing option; however, MNRF's view is that the desktop exercises should be used to direct the aerial reconnaissance surveys which, in turn, should be followed up with stratified ground-based field work. The ministry strongly recommends this blended approach as aerial reconnaissance work alone is likely inadequate to identify and confirm many of the ecological variables.

We look forward to having the opportunity to review further details about the 2021/2022 ground-based field plan once the preferred route has been identified. The Ministry is particularly interested in query parameters for identifying significant wildlife habitat and the mechanics of ground-based field studies (survey methods, timing and design) to help ensure that the values information being presented will be adequate to properly evaluate the

predictions and conclusions made in the EA about potential effects and the efficacy of planned mitigations.

In closing, we trust that the above and attached comments will be of assistance to Hydro One when planning for field work. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any additional inquiries to Heather Nelson at [heather.nelson@ontario.ca](mailto:heather.nelson@ontario.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Londa Mortson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Londa Mortson  
Regional Resources Manager  
Northwest Region  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Comment #	Section/Page/Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions
1	4.1 Desktop review	<p>The draft field plan states that species specific habitat modeling will not be completed as part of the alternative route evaluation. The assessment of potentially impacted wildlife habitat is generally considered a standard criterion in the assessment of effects between options.</p>	<p>MNRF recommends using impacted wildlife habitat as part of the alternative route evaluation to help determine the preferred route.</p> <p>Alternatively, please provide rationale for using wildlife habitat solely as part of the assessment of the preferred route.</p>
2	4.1 Desktop review	<p>Section 4.1 lists the data layers that HONI may use in the desktop review of the alternative route evaluation. In addition to those listed, MNRF recommends including the following data sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant Ecological Areas,</li> <li>• Wildlife Concentration Areas,</li> <li>• Species Observations, locally-derived (for regionally rare plant records),</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, modelling to predict stream occurrence is available for the Lakehead, Dog River-Matawin and Black Spruce forests. This information may be helpful to support verification of surface water conditions.</p>	<p>Please include the identified data sources to support the desktop review associated with the alternative route evaluation.</p> <p>MNRF can provide predicted stream models for the beforementioned forests.</p>
3	General comment	<p>Desktop review of wildlife habitat may be derived, for some species, through queries associated with inventory data to identify specific habitats within the study area. For example, queries to the Forest Resource Inventory data may identify seasonal habitat availability such as late or early winter moose habitat.</p> <p>MNRF recommends sharing the parameters associated with these queries with our Ministry in advance, to ensure appropriateness of the approach prior to presenting the information within the EA.</p>	<p>Please provide MNRF with the parameters associated with queries used to identify habitat.</p>
4	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>MNRF has created a framework to describe, confirm, and mitigate impacts to Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH). MNRF provides criteria for delineating SWH in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (SWHTG) or in the associated Ecoregional Criteria Schedules for delineating SWH.</p> <p>MNRF has spatial information within LIO to help delineate Moose Aquatic Feeding Areas; however, the MNRF does not have spatial layers specific for all SWH</p>	<p>The EA should present delineated and confirmed SWH within the study area</p>

		features. Note that it is HONI's responsibility to apply the criteria to delineate and confirm SWH.	
5	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	On the ground surveys will be needed in addition to aerial reconnaissance for certain surveys. Vegetation, and confirmation of water feature permanency or instream barriers are some of the features that require ground-based field surveys to ensure an appropriate level of accuracy is obtained.	MNRF strongly recommends conducting adequate ground surveys to support the EA analysis and conclusions about potential impacts.
6	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>For large projects where it is not feasible to sample and field survey every portion of the route, MNRF recommends developing a stratified field sampling method to achieve a reasonable amount of field surveys and coverage to identify wildlife and vegetation values and describe baseline conditions.</p> <p>The Forest Resource Inventory associated with each forest can be a good tool to help stratify the proposed project footprint into measurable units based on ecosystem or habitat. Where prudent, it is also important to provide additional effort in habitat units that are rare or have the potential to contain Species of Conservation Concern or other Natural Heritage features or values (i.e. PSW, ANSI, SWH).</p>	MNRF recommends using a stratified sampling design to adequately survey the study area.
7		<p>MNRF is encouraged that fish community and water quality sampling, as well as fish habitat assessment will be completed for a subset of water crossing sites. However, the field plan does not indicate how water crossing sites will be selected. MNRF has a number of recommendations associated with the selection of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNRF's principal interest with regard to water crossings is in sites where there will be work in water, or below the high-water mark. As a result, surveying sites where a clear-span bridge will be used is not necessary and may not be an effective use of survey resources.</li> <li>• MNRF is particularly interested in short-reach small watercourses connected to cold water streams, which may provide critical young-of-year habitat for brook trout. Many of these are seasonal and will not appear in a fall survey; those that do may not have fish present in a fall field survey. For this reason, a single fall field survey will not be considered definitive / adequate to support future permitting.</li> <li>• Finally, a reminder that beaver dams are transient and that the presence of a beaver dam on a watercourse does not necessarily indicate that there are no fish upstream of the dam.</li> </ul>	MNRF recommends that HONI focus its water crossing sampling on sites that may require working in water or below the high-water mark. In addition, the timing of a survey or specific conditions of a waterbody may not enable HONI to accurately characterize a system as having an absence of fish. Additional work to confirm a true absence of fish (or fish species) may be needed where work is planned outside of the timing window.
8	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The section seems to be focused on 'confirming absence' of mapped streams. An absence of a mapped stream is rare, however there are lots of instances of unmapped streams. MNRF suggests shifting the focus of this section from confirming absence to identifying unmapped streams.</p> <p>Predictive modelling to determine stream occurrence is available from the MNRF for the Lakehead, Dog River-Matawin and Black Spruce forests. This information may be helpful to focus the field verification of surface water conditions.</p>	MNRF strongly recommends using field verification as opposed to aerial reconnaissance to identify small streams, categorize stream permanency and identify instream barriers.

		<p>Using the predictive modelling information (where available) in conjunction with ground-based field work to identify unmapped streams is more likely to provide reliable results as compared to aerial reconnaissance surveys alone.</p> <p>In addition, it is challenging enough to categorize stream permanency using ground-based surveys, particularly for small, spring-fed headwater streams which can have high fisheries values. For this reason, MNRF does not recommend using aerial surveys alone to categorize stream permanency.</p> <p>Similarly, the reliability of aerial surveys to identify instream barriers is not likely to be adequate, aside from identifying the presence of a high waterfall. In many instances, instream barriers are flow dependent such that they allow fish passage during certain flow conditions.</p>	
9	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The aerial reconnaissance flight will focus on confirming and updating or filling in gaps of existing data for vegetation, wetlands and waterbodies as well as identifying potential species at risk habitat.</p> <p>Surveys may be more productive if areas of potential habitat are mapped and then confirmed during the flight. This would provide a more rationalized approach as opposed to an encountered approach.</p>	
10	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The details of the aerial reconnaissance are not included in the field plan. For example, will the survey consist of a single flight down the center line of a corridor? How wide an area is proposed to be surveyed? The number of transects or passes and the ability of an observer to identify habitat should be considered and included in the survey design.</p>	Please include survey details of the aerial reconnaissance flight in the field plan.
11	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>When surveying for significant wildlife features that have an associated buffer (added to minimize impacts from activities), these buffer zones should be identified, mapped and considered during the survey. For instance, many bird species inhabiting stick nests can be impacted by activities within 400m of the nesting site; therefore, a buffer zone of 400m is applied surrounding the nest. Where a stick nest is outside of the study area, but the buffer zone extends within the study area, the survey design should be modified to include the stick nest.</p>	Please ensure aerial reconnaissance and ground field work incorporates features outside of the study area that have buffers, or a zone of influence, that extend into the study area.
12	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>An example of an unmapped wildlife habitat resource planned for consideration in the aerial reconnaissance flight, are cracks/ crevices in bedrock features that have the potential to support bat hibernacula. In addition to cracks/crevices within bedrock, consider identifying abandoned anthropogenic structures which are recognized as often supporting bat populations.</p>	MNRF recommends considering these anthropogenic features as potential significant wildlife habitat (bat hibernacula) during the aerial reconnaissance flight, and where sites are identified, following up with ground surveys to determine use by bats.
13	4.2.2. Mine Site survey	<p>Section 4.2.2 states that five AMIS features intersect the alternative routes. What parameters were used to identify these 5 sites? Similar to the comment above about buffer zones or zones of influence, are there any AMIS sites that do not</p>	Please state the parameters used to identify the five AMIS sites that may be impacted by the alternative routes.

		intersect the alternate routes but the buffer (as identified in the significant wildlife habitat guidelines for protecting bat hibernacula) does intersect the alternate route study area? If any of the AMIS sites identified are within the Steep Rock Mine area, please contact the MNRF who can provide information on specific sites prior to conducting ground investigations. Numerous former mine structures and hazards within the Steep Rock Mine site have been decommissioned in recent years, while others are in areas that are closed under the Public Lands Act and are behind locked gates. The MNRF may have recent information on potential use by bats for these sites and can provide details of this information for specific sites upon request, or assist with site access, if needed.	Ensure surveys of bat hibernacula include sites where the buffer (as identified in the significant wildlife habitat guidelines for protecting bat hibernacula) intersects the alternate route study area, but where the point feature (entrance to hibernacula) is outside of the study area.  Please contact MNRF for more information about hibernacula or to gain access for field work within the Steep Rock area.
14	4.2.2 Mine Site Survey	Five AMIS mine site areas are proposed for investigation in the fall of 2020. Please identify in the field plan the physical characteristics that will be used to identify the potential for the site to be considered bat hibernacula habitat.  The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) released interim guidance in June 2020 with respect to reducing the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to bats. Please see: <a href="file:///C:/Users/Berglundna/Downloads/CWHC%20Bat%20health%20and%20Covid-19%20(Versio%201.1%20June%2025%202020).pdf">file:///C:/Users/Berglundna/Downloads/CWHC%20Bat%20health%20and%20Covid-19%20(Versio%201.1%20June%2025%202020).pdf</a>	In order to reduce the risk of spreading disease to bats from one hibernaculum to another, all current guidance from the CWHC should be adhered to during all bat related field activities and the field plan should specify how the guidance was considered.
15	5.0	MNRF's understanding is that the EA criteria and indicators will be used to evaluate the alternative routes and to inform the full net effects assessment of the preferred route.  It is important to ensure the field activities and proposed surveys are related to the specific criteria and indicators identified and that survey results can inform the assessment of potential impacts. For example, it is unclear how frog/ toad acoustic monitoring will relate to the above.	Please describe how the 2021/2022 field plan surveys relate to the EA criteria and indicators, including how they will enable the evaluation of alternate routes and the net effects assessment of the preferred route.
16	5.0	Details in this section are limited, presumably because they will be provided in the 2021-2022 work plan. To ensure adequate time for MNRF to review and provide comment, the work plan should be shared with the review team well in advance of beginning of the 2021 field season, and it should include detailed information on survey methods, including protocols to be used, site-selection methodology, survey site locations, and survey timing.	Please share the 2021-2022 work plan with MNRF to ensure proposed surveys are appropriate.
17	General	MNRF's understanding is that the aerial reconnaissance flight and desktop surveys, which are focused on confirming and updating known values and investigating potential SAR habitat, are the only works to be completed prior to selecting a preferred route.	MNRF strongly suggests expanding the field program beyond updating existing values, identifying SAR habitat and AMIS surveys, to support the alternative route assessment. MNRF further recommends developing a stratified field sampling method to achieve reasonable coverage of the study area for the same purpose of supporting a robust alternative routes assessment.

	<p>Aerial characterization of potential habitat has limited efficacy in identifying areas that will be used for critical life processes (e.g. big brown bat hibernacula). Similarly, these initial desktop reviews and aerial surveys will not allow for a comparison of general biodiversity indicators amongst routes.</p> <p>This high-level assessment will not provide the detail necessary for a thorough evaluation of the criteria and indicators needed for the alternative route assessment.</p> <p>The alternative route assessment would be better substantiated by completing the survey activities described in section 5.0 on all route alternatives prior to selection of the preferred route. This would enable the preferred route selection process to take into account differences in ecological indicators (including general biodiversity indicators such as anurans, forest birds, marsh birds, etc.) amongst all proposed routes.</p> <p>As it is not feasible to sample and field survey every portion of the suite of alternative routes, MNRF recommends developing a stratified field sampling method to achieve a reasonable coverage of the study area for which the collection of ecological indicator data could be used to support a more robust alternative routes assessment.</p>	
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**Hydro One Networks Inc.**

Sarah Cohanim

Via email

September 29, 2020

**RE: Waasigan transmission line project – Draft Terms of Reference - MNRF Response to HONI's Comments**

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) with Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (HONI) responses to the ministry's comments on the draft Terms of Reference for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project. We appreciated having the opportunity to discuss the comments with you and other HONI representatives on September 4<sup>th</sup> and to receive HONI's revised responses to our comments (attached, dated September 4<sup>th</sup>) following that discussion.

The MNRF has completed its review of the Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> response table and is providing comment via this letter to assist HONI in finalizing its Terms of Reference submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The points below draw attention to matters of particular interest to MNRF; however, we wish to make clear that all of the original comments the ministry submitted on the draft ToR (documented in HONI's response table) continue to stand as matters the ministry would like to see addressed by HONI as the EA progresses.

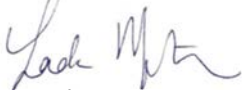
- The MNRF welcomes the commitments HONI has made to:
  - work with the ministry to ensure that our clients and other interested parties who may be impacted by this project will be properly notified about this project (comment #7, 32, 37, 70); and to
  - create an access plan (comment #2), timber clearing/harvest renewal plan (comment # 5), and field work plan (comment #6). We look forward to providing input to these plans as their development progresses.
- A number of our comments (#12, 63, 83) pertain to the provision of greater detail in the EA about the project design in order to support future permitting requirements. MNRF continues to strongly recommend that HONI provide the additional information requested during the EA, as lack of project details will result in more information being required at the permitting stage and, potentially, the need to carry out additional consultation with First

Nations and with other potentially affected parties. This will lengthen the permitting process and could have implications to construction scheduling. Providing greater detail in the EA will also enable interested parties to more clearly understand potential impacts of the project on sites / areas that are of interest to them.

- While the ministry appreciates the information that HONI shared during our Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> discussion about its approach to the alternatives analysis, we reiterate that more information should be provided in the TOR about the rationale for not addressing alternative methods in the future EA (comment #10).
- HONI's response to #54 is 'TBC' is not clear. Please explain what 'TBC' means/refers to.
- MNRF continues to strongly recommend that HONI expand the list of evaluation criteria (Appendix B) for selecting the preferred route to include the specific suggestions provided in our initial comment (comment 78). We may be able to suggest data sets to support the inclusion of these criteria (i.e. in terms of the 'measurable data sets' HONI requires) and would welcome an opportunity to explore this idea further with HONI to ensure that the preferred alternative is selected with consideration of the full range of MNRF interests.
- Based on the response HONI provided to comment #65, it appears that the point the ministry intended to convey may not have been understood by HONI. The comment was seeking a commitment from HONI to commit to creating plans/protocols as part of the EA 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) of the project. HONI's response was about reevaluation of project impacts due to construction delays and did not address the intent of the comment.

In closing, we trust that the above will be of assistance to Hydro One when finalizing the TOR and continuing on to the preparation of the EA. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any inquiries to Heather Nelson at [heather.nelson@ontario.ca](mailto:heather.nelson@ontario.ca).

Yours truly,



Londa Mortson

Resources Manager, North West Region  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Cc : Bruce Hopper

Attachment :

Wassigan Transmission Line, Draft Terms of Reference, MNRF Comment/Response Table.  
Working Draft - Sept. 4, 2020

ID #	Comment Received - Date	Event Type (email, letter, comment form, phone call, etc.)	Name of Commenter & Contact Information	Comment Description	Proposed Response	Applicable draft ToR/RoC Section	Proposed Revision to ToR/RoC
1	August 7, 2020	Emailed Letter	Londa Mortson Manager, NW Regional Resources Manager Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	<p>Thank you for providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) the opportunity to review the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Waasigan Transmission Line project that were released on June 29, 2020. MNRF has completed its review and is providing this letter and accompanying attachment as the ministry's comments to the document.</p> <p>MNRF understands that the draft ToR is intended to provide the framework for the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA). As a part of the government review team we appreciate providing information and advice that will support the EA's evaluation of MNRFs mandated interests. To date this has included our participation in the June 24 -26, 2019 transmission line siting workshop; our understanding is that the information obtained as a result of the workshop was used to develop the suite of alternate route options described in the draft ToR.</p> <p>We have attached a table with our detailed comments and, where possible, have recommended an action for each comment. Furthermore, highlighted below are several of the overarching themes that we would like to draw your attention to.</p>	<p>Correct. As detailed in Section 6.0 (Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives) of the draft ToR, a variety of factors were used to identify the preliminary alternative routes including input and data received during the Corridor Workshops, the general character of the area, the type and location of existing, previously disturbed ROWs that could potentially be paralleled, and a preference for co-location with existing infrastructure when possible, as outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020).</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required.</p>
2				<p><b>Access roads</b> MNRF will require detailed information about access roads proposed to support the project. This includes location and timing of use for all roads that will be used to facilitate the project, length and width of new roads and upgrades to existing roads, ownership, authority to use, permanency and plans for decommissioning. This information informs the complete assessment of the effect of the project on the natural, social and economic environment in the study area. MNRF strongly recommends that an Access Plan be developed and included in the EA as a way of providing a comprehensive, coherent depiction of the access needs for the project. The Access Plan may be informed by / will need to take into account existing road use management strategies, including those found within Forest Management Plans for the six forests that the project is anticipated to cross. As such, the Ministry also recommends that Hydro One engage early on with Sustainable Forest License holders to understand these road use strategies, discuss potential impacts and to find synergies that would minimize long-term impacts to the natural environment (e.g., using a planned forestry road to access the right of way instead of creating a new road).</p>	<p>Section 5.1.1.2 (Access Roads) indicates that known access roads will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the Environmental Assessment (EA). This will form part of a preliminary Access Plan to be developed during the EA as more detailed project information becomes available and a preferred route is identified.</p> <p>Hydro One has, and will continue to, work with applicable stakeholders (including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry [MNRF] and Sustainable Forest License [SFL] holders) during the EA to further review and discuss access and will take into account existing road use management strategies, including those found within Forest Management Plans for the six forests that the Project is anticipated to cross, as well as to better understand road use strategies, discuss potential impacts and to find synergies that would minimize long-term impacts to the natural environment (e.g., using a planned forestry road to access the right of way instead of creating a new road).</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, construction access roads are typically identified by the Project constructor and finalized during detail design. As Hydro One has been directed by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to develop the Project only and has not yet been directed to construct the Project, construction access roads that are presented in the EA report would be considered as preliminary subject to refinement based on future project design and project constructor input.</p>	<p>Section 5.1.1.2 Access Roads</p>	<p><b><i>The following will be added to Section 5.1.1.2 (italics):</i></b></p> <p>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. As Hydro One has been directed by the IESO to develop the Project only and has not yet been directed to construct the Project, construction access roads that are presented in the EA report would be considered as preliminary subject to refinement based on future project design and project constructor input.</p>
3				<p><b>Supporting infrastructure</b> As the EA process progresses, MNRF will require detailed information about supporting / ancillary infrastructure required to construct the project (e.g., number and location of work camps, laydown yards, etc.) to enable assessment of any associated impacts and facilitate efficient permitting at the project implementation stage.</p>	<p>Section 5.1.1.3 (Equipment/Material Laydown Areas) indicates that these areas will be included in the Project Footprint to be assessed during the EA, as available. Hydro One intends to include this information in the EA at a concept design level once a preferred route is identified.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, note that supporting temporary infrastructure is typically identified by the Project constructor and finalized during detail design. As Hydro One has been directed to only develop the Project and has not yet been awarded construction rights, ancillary infrastructure required for project construction that is presented in the EA report would be considered as preliminary subject to revision based on project design and project constructor input.</p> <p>Note that when siting temporary supporting/ ancillary infrastructure, the following criteria will be used to minimize environmental and socio-economic effects:</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify locations within previously disturbed areas;</li> <li>Select locations close to the area of construction to minimize ground disturbance;</li> <li>Avoid areas with native vegetation and other natural features, where possible;</li> <li>Avoid known locations of SAR, where possible;</li> <li>Avoid sloped and poorly drained areas;</li> <li>Avoid areas with known cultural heritage/archaeological resources; and,</li> <li>Avoid sensitive land uses and/or receptors, to the extent possible.</li> </ul>		
4				<p><b>Aggregates</b> The draft ToR does not indicate that the EA will identify and describe how Hydro One intends to secure aggregate resources that will be required to carry out the project, nor that the effects associated with accessing, applying/using and, as applicable, rehabilitating of aggregate source areas will be evaluated. This information must be included in the EA in order to enable a full accounting of impacts and to enable efficient issuance of any authorizations that may be required from MNRF in relation to aggregates.</p>	<p>Hydro One intends to use existing licensed sources of aggregate for the Project to the extent possible.</p> <p>The need for new pits and/or quarries to support the Project will be discussed with MNRF during the EA should a need for them be identified. If new sources of aggregate are needed, they will be included as part of the Project Footprint and assessed as part of the EA.</p>	Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use	<p><b><i>The following will be added to Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use) under Pit and Quarry Operations/Active Aggregate Sites (italics):</i></b></p> <p>Aggregate resources may also be required for Project infrastructure, such as construction access roads. <i>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.</i></p>
5				<p><b>Tree clearing</b> MNRF will required detailed information about Hydro One’s plans for tree clearing including identification of areas to be cleared permanently vs. areas to be reforested, timing of and methods for clearing, management of cleared timber and brush, etc. MNRF strongly recommends that a timber clearing and renewal plan be developed and included in the EA as a way of providing a comprehensive, coherent depiction of the clearing needs for the project. Forest Management Plans can also provide HONI with valuable information about forestry activities, values that may be affected by those activities, and the interests and perspectives of area stakeholders.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use) describes the applicable forest management units/plans and references the Sustainable Forest License holders and indicates that the Project’s potential effects to these plans will be identified and considered.</p> <p>In addition to this, a commitment will be included in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and EA for Hydro One to develop a Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan in consultation with applicable stakeholders, including the MNRF and SFL holders. The clearing plan will consider project components that are identified in the EA report.</p> <p>Hydro One will make their best effort to determine clearing needs; however, clearing is typically completed by the Project constructor and Hydro One has been directed to only develop the Project and has not yet been awarded construction rights. As such, the information that is presented in the EA report would be considered as preliminary subject to revision based on project design and project constructor input.</p> <p>Applicable Forest Management Plans will be further reviewed as part of the EA.</p>	Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use	<p><b><i>The following will be added to Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use) under Forestry (italics):</i></b></p> <p>A Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with applicable stakeholders.</p>
6				<p><b>Field Studies</b> The draft ToR provides limited information about the field studies that Hydro One intends to carry out in order to inform the EA. Please be aware that MNRF will require appropriate and sufficient information on natural values in order to evaluate the validity of predictions and conclusions made in the EA about potential effects and the efficacy of planned mitigations. MNRF will also require sufficient information to enable future permits and authorizations. To ensure values information is adequate to support these processes, MNRF strongly recommends Hydro One contact the Ministry as soon as possible to discuss field plans and /or protocols.</p>	<p>Information provided in the draft ToR in relation to proposed field work to support the EA is meant to provide an initial, high-level overview.</p> <p>A field work plan for the fall 2020 aerial reconnaissance survey and abandoned mine site survey referenced in Section 4.2 of the ToR was submitted in August 2020 to agencies and Indigenous communities for review and comment.</p> <p>Hydro One intends to continue consultation with MNRF and other applicable stakeholders related to the development of a separate, more detailed 2021-2022 field work plan, including survey protocols, for ground-based studies of the preferred route.</p> <p>Anticipated studies for the preferred route, subject to further consultation with MNRF and other applicable stakeholders as noted</p>		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.

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					<p>above, include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife field surveys to collect species-specific information along the preferred route.</li> <li>• Vegetation: Ecological Land Classification (ELC) and botanical surveys with a focus on relevant SAR species, rare species, invasive plants, and traditional use plants.</li> <li>• Fish and fish habitat field surveys to obtain site-specific field data at a subset of waterbody crossings to verify or augment the results and assumptions from the aerial reconnaissance and desktop review.</li> <li>• Surface water surveys at a subset of waterbody crossings to document observed waterbody conditions.</li> </ul> <p>Further detail will be provided in the 2021-2022 field work plan.</p>		
7				<p><b>Consultation</b>                      MNRF requires additional information within the Consultation Plan to better understand who will be consulted, how and at what points in the EA process. This information will help the ministry to evaluate whether the planned consultation will enable adequate consideration of stakeholder interests in the evaluation of alternatives in the EA.</p> <p>MNRF can work with Hydro One toward ensuring that ministry stakeholders are contacted through the consultation process. Please contact the Ministry as soon as possible to discuss stakeholder consultation.</p>	<p>A complete list of Indigenous communities, government officials and agencies, and interested persons and organizations, included in consultation to-date is provided in the accompanying Record of Consultation. This document describes who was contacted, how they were contacted and when they were contacted, along with tables that track all correspondence. The contacts listed in the Record of Consultation will form the base of the Contact List to be used to start the EA; however, Hydro One will contact MNRF in advance of EA commencement to ensure that all applicable ministry stakeholders are contacted as part of the EA.</p> <p>As a note, Hydro One has been contacting a wide variety of individuals and groups within the large Preliminary Study Area identified in Figure 4-1 (Preliminary Study Area) of the draft ToR using a variety of methods including direct mail, Canada Post Admail, telephone, email, social media, and through the Project website. Several in-person and virtual Corridor Workshops and Community information Centres were also held for the Project to-date. Consultation will continue throughout the EA using the contacts established during the ToR stage.</p> <p>Further, note that the draft ToR Tables 10-1 (Stakeholders) and 10-2 (Indigenous Communities) describe when contact will be made during the EA including at what EA milestone this contact will occur, the engagement activities associated with it, along with the anticipated timing during the EA.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
8	August 7, 2020	Emailed Table (Letter Attachment)	Londa Mortson Manager, NW Regional Resources Manager Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	<p>Main Report, General Comment</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The stated purpose of the project is to support anticipated increases to demand for power as directed by the IESO to support anticipated industrial growth (e.g., new mines/ hydroelectric/ wind power), yet the potential effects identified (subject of consultation) are short term only (construction related); the draft ToR does not identify long term, cumulative effects resulting from future development enabled by the transmission line. (e.g., new access, new grid capacity and the enabling of new industrialization).</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      As the EA is focused on the effects of the Waasigan project and not the effects of what the project might enable (i.e. new industrialization and cumulative effects), we recommend that an explicit statement to this effect be included in the draft ToR.</p>	<p>Correct. A statement to this effect will be added to the ToR.</p>	Section 7.0 Identification of Project Effects	<p><b>The following statement will be added to the Section 7.0 (Identification of Project Effects) of the ToR:</b></p> <p>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 development.</p>
9				<p>Main Report; Executive Summary (Page iii); Section 2.1 (P.8)</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p>	<p>O. Reg.116/01 is a regulation under the EA Act that outlines EA requirements for electricity projects. While O. Reg. 116/01 does not</p>	Executive Summary	<p><b>For additional clarity, the Executive Summary will be updated to the following:</b></p>

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				<p>The stated regulatory mechanism for the EA is confusing to readers.</p> <p>The text states: “The Project falls within Category C of the Electricity Projects Regulation (Ontario Regulation 116/01) and requires approval under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990 (EA Act).”</p> <p>Note that Reg. 116/01 does not reference categories, it does however refer to the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities. Under this Class EA, category C projects (those &gt; 115kV and &gt;2km) require an Individual Environmental Assessment.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please clarify reference to ‘Category C’ as being within the Class EA for Minor Transmission and that this requires an Individual Environmental Assessment; please also refer to the process as an Individual EA throughout document for ease of understanding / clarity.</p>	<p>reference specific project categories, the MECP’s Guide to EA Requirements for Electricity Projects (2011) 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 O. Reg. 116/01 based on voltage and length of transmission lines into three distinct categories.</p> <p>The purpose of the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities is to provide information that will enable the Minister of the MECP to approve certain types of frequently occurring transmission projects specified in the Guide which typically includes smaller scale projects with predictable environmental effects that can be mitigated.</p> <p>The text in the noted sections will be updated to provide additional clarity.</p> <p>Reference to the process as an “Individual EA” will be made throughout the document, where applicable.</p>	<p>Section 2.1 Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990</p>	<p>The Project is identified as a Category C in the MECP’s 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).</p> <p><b>Section 2.1 (Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, 1990) will be updated to reflect the following:</b></p> <p>The Project is subject to the provincial EA approval process under the EA Act. Under the EA Act, Ontario Regulation 116/01 (Electricity Project 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.</p> <p>While Ontario Regulation 116/01 does not reference specific project classifications, the MECP’s Guide to EA Requirements for Electricity Projects (2011) 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.</p> <p>Based on the Guide, the Project is classified as a Category C project, which 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.</p> <p>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 MECP to approve certain types of frequently occurring transmission projects specified in the Guide which typically includes smaller scale projects with predictable environmental effects that can be mitigated.</p> <p><b>The following update will be made throughout the ToR:</b></p> <p>Reference to “Individual EA” will be made throughout the document, where applicable.</p>
10				<p>Main Report; Section 3.0 (page 12); Section 6.2; Alternative Methods Identification (Page 73)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The draft ToR states that the ‘alternative methods’ being examined in the EA will be limited to alternative routes.</p> <p>In order to evaluate the level of impacts to the natural environment the EA</p>	<p>The need and technical aspects of the transmission line were identified by the IESO as part of a previous planning process as described in Sections 1.1 through 1.3 of the draft ToR and is considered to be out of scope of this EA.</p> <p>The IESO is responsible for anticipating and planning for Ontario’s electricity needs. The Order in Council (December 11, 2013) and associated letter of direction indicate the Project is to be composed of</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required.</p>

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				<p>should include a wider variety of alternative methods. Specifically, has HONI considered retro- fitting/upgrading existing structures as an alternative method? It might be expected that this option would have a significantly lower impact on natural environment values.</p> <p>The draft ToR does not speak to why reusing existing structures (adding the new line to existing 115 or 230 kV structures/ or upgrading existing structures to move larger amounts of electricity) is not being considered as an alternative method. The draft ToR (Section 1.3, p. 5) speaks to the potential for increasing the amount of westbound power up to 550 MW in the future using existing (and proposed) structures. Is it not possible to upgrade the existing structures to carry 350MW of power along the existing ROW?</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please address the possible use of existing structures as an alternative method to conduct this project. If this method is not to be included in the alternatives analysis, please provide a clear rationale for limiting the range of alternatives, including the social/environmental/economic factors considered in making that decision.</p>	<p>the <b>expansion or reinforcement</b> of a portion or portions of the electricity transmission network in the area west of Thunder Bay.</p> <p>Further and as specified in Section 1.3 (Background on the Project) of the draft ToR, to supply the area under the high growth scenario, the IESO indicated the Project must meet the following specifications:</p> <p>a) Consist of a <b>new</b> double-circuit 230 kilovolt (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</p> <p>b) Consist of a <b>new</b> 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</p>		
11				<p>Main Report; 3.1</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Editorial: Numbering is off in this section. Missing section 3.1.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Update numbering of headings in this section of the draft ToR</p>	<p>Comment noted; update will be made.</p>	Section 3.1	<p>Add subtitle for Section 3.1</p>
12				<p>Main Report; 3.0, 7.1</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The EA should assess project-level net effects but also describe site-specific environmental effects and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Site-specific environmental effects would include effects to values as identified in the baseline environmental conditions for the natural environment (e.g. Significant Wildlife Habitat, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interests, Protected Areas, Species at Risk, Fish Habitat). For known values, the EA should identify whether negative ecological effects will occur, describe mitigation measures (including avoidance) to address these site-specific values, and identify whether site-specific negative effects will still occur.</p> <p>Broader project level effects to the natural environment should be characterized by the net effects at the site level, following mitigation measures, as well as broader natural environment effects (e.g. cumulative disturbance).</p> <p>Addressing site-specific effects and mitigation measures will make it clearer to the reader as well as regulators as to what site-specific impacts are expected and how that relates to the broader characterisation of project-level net effects.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please update the ToR to specifically identify that the EA will address site-specific effects and mitigation measures, as well as the cumulative net effects following mitigation measures at the project level.</p>	<p>Effects will be identified to the extent possible based on the status of the detailed design and public information about the known values at the time of the effects assessment. As Hydro One has been directed by the IESO to develop the Project only, and has not yet been directed to construct the Project, required construction infrastructure that are presented in the EA report would be preliminary and subject to refinement based on future project design and project constructor input. Thus, addressing site-specific effects in a precise or quantitative manner may not be feasible, whereas providing a broader characterization of project-level net effects is achievable. It is acknowledged that identification of site-specific environmental effects and the associated mitigation will be required for applicable permit applications to agencies.</p> <p>The EA will include mitigation that can be applied on a feature-specific or site-specific basis. For example, the EA will include mitigation to limit adverse effects to wetlands if any are crossed by the Project, but it will not identify mitigation, and ultimately net effects, on a wetland-by-wetland basis. Instead, a comprehensive list of mitigation will be identified to cover a broad range of potential Project effects so that specific mitigation can be selected and applied on a site-specific basis as required. This approach is consistent with previous environmental assessments of linear projects in northern Ontario and will meet the requirements under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>.</p>	Section 7.1 Potential Effects Assessment	<p><b>The following will be added to Section 7.1 (Potential Effects Assessment):</b></p> <p>The net effects assessment will address project-level effects and mitigation measures, as well as overlapping cumulative effects.</p>
13				<p>Main Report; Section 4.1; Alternative Route Assessment and Study Areas/page 18</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p>	<p>A figure with these study areas will be developed and provided to interested persons during the EA once the general rights-of-way (ROWs) for each of the alternatives routes have been determined. These study areas will also be established for the construction access roads and other</p>	Section 4.1 Study Area	<p><b>The following will be added to Section 4.1 (Study Area) under Alternative Route Assessment and Evaluation Study Areas:</b></p>

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				<p>While the local and regional study areas are defined in the text, it is difficult to visualize the extent of these areas (i.e. LSA has a 500m buffer around proposed project footprint, and regional study area has a 5km buffer).</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please include a diagram in the TOR that visually defines the local study area and the regional study area.</p>	<p>project components that are determined to be required as part of the EA.</p>		<p>Mapping related to the alternative route assessment and evaluation study areas will be provided during the EA.</p>
14				<p>Main Report; Section 4.1; Alternative Route Assessment and Evaluation Study Area (Page 18) &amp; 5.1.1.3/5.1.1.4 (page 67); 5.2.1 (Page 69)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Description of the project footprint (bottom of p. 18): It is assumed that “supporting infrastructure” would be inclusive of temporary and permanent infrastructure related to the undertaking. It is acknowledged that laydown areas, which are temporary in nature are referenced as an example on p. 18.</p> <p>Temporary work camps (or construction camps) are mentioned for the first time in section 5.2.1 (p.69). If temporary work camps on Crown land are needed to support construction of this project, then this impact should be identified in section 5.1.1 and included within the assessment of impacts in the EA.</p> <p>Additionally, where Crown land is needed to erect supporting infrastructure (e.g. construction offices, laydown areas and/or work camps), approvals from the MNR will be required. Sections 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 should mention this potential.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please provide further clarification of types of (temporary and permanent) supporting infrastructure associated with the project, such as those examples listed on page 67 (construction offices, stockpiling areas etc.).</p> <p>In addition, please identify in appropriate sections throughout the ToR whether work camps (which are not identified on p. 67) will be required as supporting infrastructure. If so, please include an assessment of their impacts within the EA. In addition, consider the avoidance of impacts (e.g., through use of existing facilities) where feasible.</p> <p>Please include wording in sections 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 of the ToR such that permits/authorizations will be obtained for any temporary supporting infrastructure located on Crown land prior to their creation, as applicable.</p>	<p>Correct, the Project Footprint would include lands covered by the transmission line ROW, access roads and supporting infrastructure, which may include temporary construction camps, if needed.</p> <p>Temporary construction camps will be added to Section 5.1.1 (Preliminary Facility Design).</p> <p>Sections 5.1.1.3 (Equipment/Material Laydown Areas) and 5.1.1.4 (Construction Offices) will be updated to include a sentence referencing that where Crown land is needed to erect supporting infrastructure (e.g. construction offices, laydown areas and/or work camps), permits and/or authorizations may be required from the MNR.</p> <p>At the time of EA preparation, all known areas that are anticipated to be disturbed by the Project will be included in the net effects assessment, including the transmission line, access roads, equipment/material laydown areas, construction camps and offices, aggregate sources, and upgrades to existing transformer stations.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, temporary construction infrastructure are typically identified by the Project constructor during detail design. As Hydro One has been directed by the IESO to develop the Project only and has not yet been directed to construct the Project, required construction infrastructure that are presented in the EA report would be considered as preliminary subject to refinement based on future project design and project constructor input.</p>	<p>Section 5.1.1 Preliminary Facility Design</p> <p>Section 5.1.1.3 Equipment/Material Laydown Areas</p> <p>Section 5.1.1.4 Construction Offices</p>	<p><b>Add the following to Section 5.1.1 (Preliminary Facility Design):</b></p> <p>Temporary construction camps</p> <p>Lodging and accommodation for construction workers will 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, environmental and socio-economic constraints and specific contractor requirements. Camp facilities will comply with the Ontario <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act</i> 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 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.</p> <p><b>Add the following to Sections 5.1.1.3 (Equipment/Material Laydown Areas) and 5.1.1.4 (Construction Offices):</b></p> <p>Where Crown land is needed to erect supporting infrastructure (e.g., construction offices, laydown areas and/or work camps), permits and/or authorizations may be required from the MNR.</p>
15				<p>Main report; 4.2</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Field surveys will likely be required to confirm candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat and to consider ecological effects.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please include reference to the potential for such surveys when referencing planned fieldwork for the 2021 and 2022 field seasons.</p>	<p>Please see previous response to # 6 (emailed letter) related to the development of a field work plan.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>



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16				<p>Main Report; S.4.2 (p20) and Table 4-4 (p55)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Paragraph 2 states an aerial reconnaissance of the alternate routes is planned for 2020 to collect data for surface water, fish and fish habitat and the terrestrial environment.</p> <p>MNRF does not consider aerial recon an adequate tool to assess the distribution and current state of fish and fish habitat.</p> <p>Ground-based field sampling for all water crossing sites where work in water, or work below the high-water mark may be required for permitting where work is to occur within the time period from September 1st to July 15th. Please see Ontario’s guidelines for work in water (<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/document/water-work-timing-window-guidelines">https://www.ontario.ca/document/water-work-timing-window-guidelines</a>)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Expand field collection programs for fish and fish habitat to include ground-based surveys of fish and fish habitat where work in water or below the high water mark is planned during the time period from September 1st to July 15th.</p>	<p>Please see previous response to # 6 (emailed letter) related to the development of a field work plan.</p> <p>Ground-based surveys of the preferred route are planned for 2021-2022 and further detail will be provided in the field work plan.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
17				<p>Main Report; Sec 4.2, page 20-21 &amp; Table 4-4 (p55)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Paragraph 3 states: field studies will generally consist of spring, summer and fall floral and fauna investigations, as well as surveys at representative watercourse crossings.</p> <p>How will representative watercourse crossings be identified? What type of information will be collected during these surveys?</p> <p>Assessment of the natural environment using appropriate methodologies, including ground field surveys, will be required to accurately characterize the potential impacts of the project and ensure a complete EA.</p> <p>Text at the top of page 21 states that field workplans will be developed for the 2020 and 2021 programs in consultation with applicable agencies to confirm the type, location, timing and methodologies of field studies to be completed as part of this EA.</p> <p>Given the current date of mid-July, the field season is well underway and MNRF has not yet had the opportunity to comment on a field workplan. A comprehensive field program that will adequately identify many components of the natural environment will require more than aerial reconnaissance and ideally more than one season of field surveys particularly where surveys limited by seasonal constraints or are very time specific (For example, bird nesting periods)</p> <p>Note that Scientific Collectors Permits may be required by MNRF for any collection of fish and/or wildlife associated with field-based surveys.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF strongly recommends Hydro One contact the ministry as soon as possible to discuss proposed field studies; this will help to ensure that the information and conclusions presented in the EA are well-supported. This will also help to ensure that sufficient information is available to enable future permitting/issuance of authorizations by MNRF.</p>	<p>Please see previous response to # 6 (emailed letter) related to the development of a field work plan.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
18				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.1 Table 4-1 p.21-22 and Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators; (B-5, socio- economic environment)</p>	<p>The referenced datasets to be used during the EA will be included in the ToR. All applicable available data sources will be used to describe baseline environmental conditions and determine potential effects to values of</p>	<p>Section 4.2.1 Records Reviewed as Part of the ToR</p>	<p><b>Section 4.2.1 (Records Reviewed as part of the ToR), Table 4-1</b></p>

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				<p><b>Comment</b> MNRF has recently reorganized the information available in LIO. Wildlife values can now be found under Wildlife Values Area and Wildlife Values Site. These layers represent areas and sites associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• breeding</li> <li>• calving and fawning</li> <li>• denning</li> <li>• feeding</li> <li>• staging</li> <li>• nesting</li> <li>• wintering</li> <li>• general habitat areas</li> <li>• nurseries</li> <li>• travel corridors</li> </ul> <p>Consider updating the name of data sets in table 4-1 to reflect the data reorganization.</p> <p>MNRF recommends obtaining the following datasets to inform the EA:</p> <p>a) Data sources from Ontario’s data catalogue (<a href="https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/">https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregate Site Authorized – Inactive</li> <li>• Ministry of Transportation Aggregate Sites</li> <li>• Ontario Trail Network (recreation features)</li> <li>• Trail segments (recreation features)</li> <li>• Fishing access points (recreation features)</li> <li>• Significant Ecological Area (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat)</li> </ul> <p>b) Data sources from Natural Heritage and Information Centre (NHIC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species Observation, locally derived (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat)</li> </ul> <p>c) Data sources from the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE). The following layers will provide information related to whether Crown land already has commitments (leases, easements, land use permits etc.), and where private lands are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crown Dispositions (LUPS, Leases, Easements, etc.)</li> <li>• Patent Land External (provides a visual between private lands and Crown lands)</li> </ul> <p>These layers can be added as data sources to the socio-economic environment, land use criteria in appendix B.</p> <p>Obtaining access to these layers requires membership to the OGDE. MNRF was under the impression that HONI had already obtained access to these layers. Note that parcel information is available for purchase directly from Teranet or MPAC if needed.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please reference the updated wildlife values layer information in the ToR and EA, and use all available data sources to identify the existing environment and determine potential effects to values.</p>	<p>concern.</p> <p>Hydro One will request the referenced datasets from the MNRF as necessary for use during the EA.</p>	<p>Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators</p>	<p><b>Table 4-1 will be updated to reflect the data reorganization:</b></p> <p>Wildlife Values Area and Wildlife Values Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• breeding</li> <li>• calving and fawning</li> <li>• denning</li> <li>• feeding</li> <li>• staging</li> <li>• nesting</li> <li>• wintering</li> <li>• general habitat areas</li> <li>• nurseries</li> <li>• travel corridors</li> </ul> <p><b>Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators</b></p> <p><b>The following layers will be added as data sources to the socio-economic environment, land use criteria in Appendix B:</b></p> <p>a) Data sources from Ontario’s data catalogue (<a href="https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/">https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregate Site Authorized – Inactive</li> <li>• Ministry of Transportation Aggregate Sites</li> <li>• Ontario Trail Network (recreation features)</li> <li>• Trail segments (recreation features)</li> <li>• Fishing access points (recreation features)</li> <li>• Significant Ecological Area (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat)</li> </ul> <p>b) Data sources from Natural Heritage and Information Centre (NHIC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species Observation, locally derived (contains regionally rare plant records that may indicate candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat)</li> </ul> <p>c) Data sources from the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE). The following layers will provide information related to whether Crown land already has commitments (leases, easements, land use permits etc.), and where private lands are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crown Dispositions (e.g., LUPS, Leases, Easements, etc.)</li> <li>• Patent Land External (provides a visual between private lands and Crown lands)</li> </ul>
19				<p>Main Report; S.4.2.1 (p21) and S.4.2.2.5 (p28)</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p>	<p>Please see previous response to # 6 (emailed letter) and # 9 (table attachment) related to the development of a field work plan and fisheries.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>

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				<p>The ToR identifies MNR’s LIO data layers as the source for fish nursery areas and spawning sites. Please note that these data layers are incomplete and should not be considered comprehensive.</p> <p>Ground-based field sampling for all water crossing sites where work in water, or work below the high-water mark may be required for permitting where work is to occur within the time period from September 1st to July 15th.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> As noted above, MNR strongly recommends that HONI expand field collection programs for fish and fish habitat to include ground-based surveys of fish and fish habitat.</p>			
20				<p>Main Report; 4.2.2.7</p> <p><b>Comment</b> As per the SWHTG, and the 3W Ecoregional Criteria Schedule, provincially-rare species (S1, S2, S3, SH), Special Concern species on the Species at Risk list of Ontario (SARO), and federally-protected (i.e. Threatened and Endangered) species under SARA but not listed on SARO, are considered ‘Species of Conservation Concern’ and should be considered as candidate Significant Wildlife Habitat.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNR suggests that the ToR indicate that the EA will be identifying SWH of species of conservation concern.</p>	<p>The ToR will note that the EA will identify Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) of species of conservation concern.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.2.7 Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat</p>	<p><b>The following text will be added to Section 4.2.2.7 (Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat):</b></p> <p>The EA will identify SWH of species of conservation concern.</p>
21				<p>Main Report; Sec. 4.2.2.5, page 28</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The draft ToR references MNR datasets for walleye and small mouth bass nursery areas, yet neither of these species are identified as a characteristic fish species in the ecoregions according to Crins et al. 2009.</p> <p>The proposed transmission line intersects fisheries management zones (FMZ) 4, 5 and 6. Please use the fisheries management plans for these zones to support characterization of fish and fish habitat within the ToR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/document/fisheries-management-plan-fisheries-management-zone-6">https://www.ontario.ca/document/fisheries-management-plan-fisheries-management-zone-6</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-plan-fisheries-management-zone-5">https://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-plan-fisheries-management-zone-5</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-plan-fisheries-management-zone-4">https://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-plan-fisheries-management-zone-4</a></li> </ul> <p>Identifying species of management interest for each FMZ will identify which fisheries management objectives the project, and any mitigation strategies, should align with.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please review the relevant FMZ plans and incorporate the species of management interest for each zone into the description of fish and fish habitat in the ToR.</p>	<p>The suggested fisheries management zones (FMZ) plans will be reviewed and the species of management interest for each zone will be incorporated into the EA once more project detail becomes available.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
22				<p>Main Report; 4.2.2.6</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Locally Significant Wetlands are no longer a designation under the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System. However, that does not preclude a particular wetland that is not considered Provincially Significant based on scoring to be considered as a value for other purposes in this project.</p>	<p>“Locally significant wetlands” will be referred to as “other wetlands”.</p> <p>The ToR will be revised to explain that this category includes wetlands that have not been evaluated under OWES and those that have been evaluated and did not score as a Provincially Significant Wetland (previously referred to as locally significant wetlands).</p>	<p>Section 4.2.2.6 Vegetation and Wetlands</p>	<p><b>The following change will be made to Section 4.2.2.6 (Vegetation and Wetlands) (2<sup>nd</sup> last para.):</b></p> <p>Change “locally significant wetlands” to “other wetlands” and add note that that this category includes wetlands that have not been evaluated under OWES and those that have been evaluated and did not score as a Provincially Significant Wetland (previously referred to as locally</p>

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				<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The TOR and EA can consider these wetlands as locally significant values or non- significant wetlands.</p>			significant wetlands).
23				<p>Main Report; 4.2.2.7</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Wester painted turtle should be “western painted turtle”</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please correct spelling error</p>	Spelling will be corrected.	Section 4.2.2.7 Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<p><b>The following change will be made in Section 4.2.2.7 (Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat):</b></p> <p>Change “Wester painted turtle” to “western painted turtle”</p>
24				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.1 Provincial and Municipal Policy (Page 39 &amp; 40)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Other types of resource management plans used by the MNRF and not mentioned in this section are Fisheries Management Plans and Lake Management Plans.</p> <p>These plans contain additional Crown land direction and should be referenced in this section.</p> <p>The Shebandowan Lake Management Plan, which includes a restricted area order (under the Public Lands Act) will have additional permitting requirements and may restrict the creation of new roads in this area.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please include reference to Fisheries Management Zone Plans (FMZ 4, 5 and 6 plans) and the Shebandowan Lake Management Plan within this section as well.</p>	References to Fisheries Management Zone Plans (FMZ 4, 5 and 6 plans) and the Shebandowan Lake Management Plan will be included in the ToR.	Section 4.2.3.1 Provincial and Municipal Policy	<p><b>References to the following will be made in Section 4.2.3.1 (Provincial and Municipal Policy):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisheries Management Zone Plans (FMZ 4, 5 and 6 plans)</li> <li>Shebandowan Lake Management Plan</li> </ul>
25				<p>4.2.3.2 p. 41</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The description of the NWO demographic as “aging/ baby boomer cohort / out migration of youth” does not acknowledge the growth of the indigenous population nor the trends regarding the in-migration of indigenous people/youth to the region’s urban centres (Thunder Bay / Fort Frances etc.)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The ToR should recognize indigenous population trends in this section.</p>	Section 4.2.3.6 (Indigenous Community Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes) includes information related to Indigenous communities and communities have been asked to provide comment on the draft ToR for consideration. Once received, their comments will be considered and further information on their specific demographics and/or related community trends will be provided in the EA as consultation with Indigenous communities is ongoing.		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.
26				<p>Main Report; 4.2.3 socio- economic environment page 43</p> <p><b>Comment</b> MNRF needs to understand how trees / forest resources in temporarily used areas (e.g. laydown areas, temporary roads, work camps etc.) be harvested and, subsequently, renewed once construction is complete? This information will inform and enable more efficient / timely permitting.</p> <p>Note that seeds for renewal will need to be sourced from the appropriate seed zone area.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF strongly recommends that a harvest and renewal plan be included in the EA to enable the assessment of effects and planned mitigations associated with harvesting of Crown timber / forest resources. MNRF advises including the following information in this type of plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where harvesting will occur including how the areas will be accessed</li> </ul>	Please see previous response to comment # 5 (emailed letter) related to the development of a Timber Clearing/Harvest and Renewal Plan.		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harvesting methods (e.g. mechanical vs. hand clearing)</li> <li>Handling of cleared wood (chipping, fulltree, cut to length)</li> <li>Where wood will be stored (wood to be hauled and slash piles)</li> <li>Measures to reduce fire risk (e.g. burning or chipping of slash/debris, size and depth of chipper debris)</li> <li>Renewal measures for temporarily used areas (e.g. laydown areas, temporary access roads, work camps, slash piles etc.)</li> </ul>			
27				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.1/page 40</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Paragraph 1</p> <p>Other Crown land users includes a wide range of situations. This includes 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 (fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing, berry picking etc.) and general use of land (utility corridors). Some of these activities, particularly the commercial enterprises, are associated with a form of tenure or license.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Suggest rephrasing the last sentence to portray a more comprehensive depiction of Crown land users.</p>	The last sentence will be revised in the ToR to portray a more comprehensive depiction of Crown land users.	Section 4.2.3.1 Provincial and Municipal Policy	<p><b>The following text will be included in Section 4.2.3.1 (Provincial and Municipal Policy):</b></p> <p>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.</p>
28				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.2 Page 41</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The first paragraph states: The Study Area includes the Thunder Bay, Red River and Kenora Districts of northwestern Ontario.</p> <p>Red River is incorrect. If the reference is to MNR administrative districts, Red River should be the Fort Frances district. If the reference is to the northwestern economic region, then Red River should be Rainy River, and it appears that they are economic counties as opposed to economic districts. If the reference is to economic regions, please confirm with ENDM.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Clearly state what type of "district" is being referred to.</p>	This change will be made.	Section 4.2.3.2 Community Well-Being	<p><b>The following change will be made to Section 4.2.3.2 (Community Well-Being):</b></p> <p>Change Red River to Rainy River.</p>
29				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use - Hunting, Fishing and Trapping (Page 43) &amp; 10.2.1/10.2.1.2</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Text under Hunting, Fishing and Trapping heading is missing reference to other resource harvesting activities that MNR regulates under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>, namely baitfish operations and bear management operations.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The project's potential to impact bait harvesters and bear management operations should also be identified and considered as part of the EA. Please add reference to these stakeholders in section 10.2.1.2 as well.</p>	The Project's potential to impact bait harvesters and bear management operations will be identified and considered as part of the EA and a reference to these stakeholders will be included in Sections 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use), 10.2.1 (Stakeholder Identification) and 10.2.1.2 (Interested Persons, Organizations and Other Stakeholders) of the ToR.	<p>Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use</p> <p>Section 10.2.1 Stakeholder Identification</p> <p>Section 10.2.1.2 Interested Persons, Organizations and Other Stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Sections 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use), 10.2.1 (Stakeholder Identification) and 10.2.1.2 (Interested Persons, Organizations and Other Stakeholders) will be updated to reference:</b></p> <p>Baitfish operations and bear management operations.</p>
30				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use; Tourism and Outfitter Operations (Page 44)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Crown land camping is another large, non-consumptive tourism activity that occurs in the NW that is not mentioned in the text.</p>	The Project's potential to impact Crown land camping will be mentioned in the ToR Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use) (under Tourism and Outfitters) and considered as part of the EA. Potential effects to Crown access points and trails will be addressed in the EA.	Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use	<p><b>The following text will be added to Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use) under Tourism and Outfitters:</b></p> <p>Crown land camping is another large, non-consumptive tourism activity that occurs in northwestern Ontario for</p>

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				<p>While this is difficult to measure, impact and proximity of the project to MNRF access points and the Ontario Trail Network is suggested as a proxy. Please include these non- consumptive tourism activities in the description of the existing environment under 'Tourism and Outfitter Operations'.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The project's potential to impact Crown land camping (by way of impacts to Crown access points and trails) should also be identified and considered as part of the future EA.</p>			<p>which access points and trails could potentially be affected.</p>
31				<p>4.2.3.3; p. 44</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The Steep Rock Mine property includes the historical Roberts, Hogarth, and Caland pits. The Steep Rock Mine property is being rehabilitated to address the potential for overflow impacts and is not simply being monitored anymore.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please remove reference to the historical Caland and Steep Rock pits and call them the former Steep Rock mine property. In addition, update the reference to reflect that the property is following a rehabilitation plan.</p>	<p>References in the ToR to the historical Caland and Steep Rock pits will be removed and replaced with the former Steep Rock mine property.</p> <p>The description in the ToR will also be updated to acknowledge that the property is currently following a rehabilitation plan to address the potential for overflow impacts.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use</p>	<p><b>Current text in Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use):</b></p> <p>The historical Caland and Steep Rock Mines are also in the Study Area. These mines have been abandoned and are being monitored by regulators as the pits on these sites have the potential to overflow over the next several years.</p> <p><b>Revised text:</b></p> <p>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.</p>
32				<p>Main Report; Sec. 4.2.3.3, page 44</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Under the heading Tourism and Outfitter Operations the text states approximately 20 tourism operators have been identified as potentially having overlapping operating areas within the study area.</p> <p>The English River Forest alone identifies, in the 2019 Forest Management Plan, that there are 89 resource-based tourism operators on the forest. While not all are in the vicinity of the project, given the importance of tourism to the NW economy it is expected that there would be more than 20 tourism operations that potentially overlap the Waasigan regional study area.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Consider reviewing the list of operators with MNRF planning staff to ensure all types of resources-based tourism operators have been considered to ensure a fulsome consideration of potential impacts and appropriate consultation in the EA.</p>	<p>A list of stakeholders, including tourism and outfitter operators contacted during ToR development, is included in the ToR Record of Consultation; however, Hydro One will contact MNRF in advance of EA commencement to ensure the appropriate outfitters are contacted as part of the EA.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
33				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use - Pit and Quarry Operations (Page 44); Table 11-1 (p.143)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The ToR does not identify where / how HONI plans to secure aggregate resources required to implement the project, including whether the creation of new aggregate pits will be required. The ToR should identify that the EA will address how aggregate will be secured and will identify associated impacts, including the impacts associated with any proposed new pits and quarries. Table 11-1 references aggregate permits under the aggregate resources act for the extraction of aggregate on Crown land, leading the reader to believe that new aggregate pits may be needed as part of the project.</p> <p>Note that any new pits and quarries HONI may propose will require additional approvals from the MNRF.</p>	<p>Please see previous response to comment # 4 (emailed letter) related to aggregates.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>

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				<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      More information is needed in the ToR on how HONI plans to obtain aggregate resources in order for impacts associated with accessing / transporting / applying / rehabilitating of aggregate sources, as applicable, can be evaluated in the future EA.</p>			
34				<p>Main Report; 4.2.3.6, p. 46</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      Indigenous community use of land for traditional purposes should refer to use of land to exercise S 35 rights.</p>	<p>ToR Section 4.2.3.6 (Indigenous Community Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes) makes reference to Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>:</p> <p>“Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized under Section 35 of Canada’s <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> (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.”</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change required.</p>
35				<p>Main Report; 4.2.3 socio- economic environment (p. 43, Forestry); Table 4.4/page 57</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The EA should consider how access is anticipated to change, or what measures would be taken to limit change to (i.e. increases or unwanted) access.</p> <p>As an example, Route 3A that intersects through the White Otter Enhanced Management Area (i.e. Route 3A) is anticipated to be of local public interest. This area possesses high tourism and recreation potential and is used extensively by local residents in all seasons and by guests of resource-based tourism operations seasonally. The role of the EMA area in controlling road access and preserving a certain level of remoteness that the area currently enjoys is considered to be critical to maintaining the quality of recreational and tourism values.</p> <p>As roads into the area are primarily constructed to facilitate forestry activities, remoteness is maintained by applying access restrictions on roads into the area as part of forest management planning and provisions for the abandonment of these roads once they are no longer required for forest management purposes are also contained in the Forest Management Plan. Note that sustainable forest license holders / forest resource license holders in the northwest are responsible for creating and maintain much of the road network in the project area (particularly where there is no local road networks or municipalities). Road use management strategies for these road networks are developed as part of the forest management planning process. These strategies provide insight into how roads in the forest are managed, and where timing restrictions and decommissioning commitments etc. have been made.</p> <p>Note that HONI may be required to enter into agreements with MNR and/or third parties responsible for roads on Crown land that HONI intends to use to implement the project.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Please include in the text that sustainable forest license/forest resource licence holders in the NW are responsible for creating and maintaining much of the road network in the project area (particularly where there is no local road networks or municipalities).</p> <p>The EA should address the effects of the project on existing roads/road use.</p>	<p>ToR Section 4.2.3.3 (Forestry) will be updated to include text that sustainable forest license/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 networks or municipalities) and that the EA will address, to the extent reasonably possible, the effects of the Project on existing roads/road use. Please also see previous response related to the development of an Access Plan during the EA.</p> <p>Please see previous response to comment # 2 (emailed letter) related to access roads. Hydro One will also work with applicable stakeholders (including MNR and Sustainable Forest License Holders) as part of the development of the Access Plan and will take into account how Hydro One intends to access the transmission corridor for construction, maintenance and decommissioning purposes. It would identify changes to existing access (new access and use of existing access), identify ownership of roads being used, and identify impacts of roads and associated mitigation measures (such as decommissioning or access restrictions).</p>	<p>Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use</p>	<p><b>The following text will be added to Section 4.2.3.3 (Economy, Land and Resource Use) under Forestry:</b></p> <p>Sustainable forest license/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 reasonably possible, the effects of the Project on existing roads/road use. Agreements with MNR and/or third parties responsible for roads on Crown land may be required for any that are used for the Project.</p>

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				<p>MNRF strongly recommends that a comprehensive access plan be created as part of the EA. This plan would describe how HONI intends to access the transmission corridor for construction, maintenance and decommissioning purposes. It would identify changes to existing access (new access and use of existing access), identify ownership of roads being used, and identify impacts of roads and associated mitigation measures (such as decommissioning or access restrictions).</p>			
36				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2.3.3 Economy, Land and Resource Use &amp; 4.2.4 Summary of study to be completed during EA; Table 4-4: Economy land use and resource use.</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Some roads may have access restrictions to protect tourism industry; HONI needs to be aware of this in planning how it will implement the project.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Where any changes in access are proposed to implement the project, effects of these changes on tourism operations (and other factors) must be addressed in the EA.</p>	<p>It is understood that the some roads may have access restrictions to protect the tourism industry.</p> <p>A review will be completed during the EA for any changes in access that are proposed to implement the Project, including potential effects to tourism operations.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
37				<p>Main Report; 4.2.3 socio- economic environment Table 4.4/page 57</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Will documentation of income and employment consider tourism and resource harvesters (for example: trapping, baitfish and bear harvesting)?</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> More detail may be needed in the economy, land and resource use section of the TOR to define the studies that would be undertaken to assess effects to tourism and resource harvesting. These industries are important contributors to the local economy and should be considered in the EA.</p>	<p>Tourism and resource harvesting will be documented in more detail during the EA as part of the regional economy and economic development based on available data and information, including income/employment for tourism/resource harvester, where data is available.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
38				<p>Main Report; 4.2.3 Aesthetics Table 4.4/page 57</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Consider using viewshed/viewscape analysis as a means to depict impacts to aesthetics and find ways to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> This would provide land users with an idea of the impacts to aesthetics as it relates to their individual uses, such a tourism where natural aesthetics and remoteness are valued.</p>	<p>Viewshed and/or viewscape analysis will be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.3.4 Aesthetics</p> <p>Table 4-4: Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment</p>	<p><b><i>The existing text in Section 4.2.3.4 (Aesthetics) will be revised to the following (see italics):</i></b></p> <p>Visual illustrations, where possible and appropriate, will be developed to illustrate the anticipated location, height and design of the Project in key areas, including any 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). <i>Viewshed and/or viewscape analysis will be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route.</i> 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.</p> <p><b><i>The following bullet will be added to Table 4-4: Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment:</i></b></p> <p>Viewshed and/or viewscape analysis will be used to determine potential visibility of the Project within the study area and identify key viewpoints along the preferred route.</p>



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39				<p>Main Report; Section 4.2. Page 20</p> <p><b>Comment</b> IK (Indigenous Knowledge) is not defined when first used in the text of the draft ToR.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please define IK (Indigenous Knowledge) when it is first used in the text of the ToR.</p>	<p>Indigenous Knowledge or IK will be defined when first used in Section 4.2 (Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology).</p>	<p>Section 4.2 Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology</p>	<p><i>The following change will be made to Section 4.2 (Description of Existing Environment and Data Collection Methodology):</i></p> <p>Indigenous Knowledge (IK)</p>
40				<p>Main Report; Section 4.3.2; Preliminary Potential Effects Table 4-6 (Page 62)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The discussion in this section does not acknowledge that activities associated with the project that are proposed to occur on Crown lands must be consistent with the approved Crown land use policies for those lands.</p> <p>Note that where activities are not consistent, project modifications or other additional requirements (e.g., potential amendments to Crown land use policies) may apply.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> State in this section that activities associated with the project that are proposed for Crown lands must be consistent with the approved Crown land use policies so that readers of the document are aware of the relevance/significance of Crown land use policies to the project.</p>	<p>Suggested wording will be added to Section 4.2.3.1 (Provincial and Municipal Policy) where Crown land use is discussed as well as a bullet to Table 4-6: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Socio-Economic Environment.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.3.1 Provincial and Municipal Policy</p> <p>Table 4-6 Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Socio-Economic Environment</p>	<p><i>The following text will be added to Section 4.2.3.1 (Provincial and Municipal Policy):</i></p> <p>Activities associated with the Project that are proposed for Crown lands must be consistent with the approved Crown land use policies.</p> <p><i>The following bullet will be added to Table 4-6: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Socio-Economic Environment in the Provincial and Municipal Policy row:</i></p> <p>Compatibility of the Project with existing Crown land use policies.</p>
41				<p>Main Report; 4.3.2 Table 4-6 p. 62</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Preliminary potential effects table frames “changes” in an ambiguous way; change can be positive or negative and this should be explicit; this ambiguity applies to all cases where “changes” are referred to including the section addressing the effects to Indigenous community use of lands and resources.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please add sub note to the table to identify that changes can be either positive or negative.</p>	<p>Comment noted. A sub-note will be added to the table in the ToR to identify that changes can be either positive or negative.</p>	<p>Table 4-6: Preliminary Potential Effects to the Socio-Economic Environment</p>	<p><i>The following sub-note will be added to Section 4.3.2, Table 4-6: Preliminary Potential Effects to the Socio-Economic Environment:</i></p> <p>Note, changes can be either positive or negative.</p>
42				<p>Main Report; Sec. 4.2.4, Table 4-4, page 55 and Appendix B</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Table 4-4: Study to be Completed during the EA has numerous references to the need for field studies. However, Appendix B, the Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators does not list field studies as a Possible data source.</p> <p>As noted in above comments, MNRF will be considering whether the data presented is appropriate and sufficient to support predictions of effects, and adequacy of any proposed mitigation measures where appropriate, to support EA conclusions and potential mitigation strategies.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Recommend that HONI contacts MNRF as soon as possible about their proposed field work, and that the ToR describes the studies/field work that HONI proposes to undertake.</p>	<p>Please see previous response to comment # 6 (emailed letter) related to the development of a field work plan. Also note that additional net effects assessment criteria and indicators have been added to the ToR (Appendix C).</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
43				<p>Main Report; Section 4.0/page 43 Forestry</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Information that HONI will require / will be of value to HONI for the Environmental Assessment is available within forest management plans</p>	<p>Hydro One is aware of the forest management plans currently in effect as noted in Section 4.2.3.3 under Forestry and will continue to work with applicable stakeholders including MNRF and Sustainable Forest License holders during the EA to further understand these plans and forestry activities in the study area and to discuss potential impacts of the Project</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>

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				<p>(FMPs) associated with the six forests that the proposed transmission line passes through. These forests and associated FMPs include: Lakehead Forest (2020-2030 FMP), Boundary Waters Forest (2020-2030 FMP), Dog- River Matawin Forest (2019-2021 FMP extension), Wabigoon Forest (2019-2029 FMP), Dryden Forest (2011-2021 FMP), and the English River Forest (2019-2029 FMP).</p> <p>MNRF advises that HONI understand the direction within these plans and how the proposed project interacts with the direction in them. Where HONI is unable to align with the direction in a FMP, additional approvals/steps may be required (e.g. plan amendment).</p> <p>In addition, there may be opportunities to coordinate and find efficiencies between the Waasigan project and forest operations related to road construction, harvest, and investment into renewal that will reduce impacts on natural values. For example, there may be a planned forest access road that might be beneficial to the Waasigan project during the construction period – aligning the construction of this road to suit both purposes may be warranted.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      MNRF strongly recommends that HONI becomes familiar with the FMPs and reach out to the sustainable forest license holders early on to discuss potential impacts of the project on forest operations, including (but not limited to) road use management strategies, aggregates for forestry purposes, timing restrictions, areas of concern, permanent forestry plots, forest renewal and harvesting methods to accommodate needs of local mills.</p>	<p>on forest operations, including road use management strategies, aggregates for forestry purposes, timing restrictions, areas of concern, permanent forestry plots, forest renewal and harvesting methods to accommodate needs of local mills.</p>		
44				<p>Main Report; Table 4-4 (p.56), 7.1</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The Significant Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Support Tool should be referenced for assessing and mitigating effects to Significant Wildlife Habitat. This Tool works collectively with the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide and the Ecoregional Criteria Schedule for 3W.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      This should be added to the ToR as a source of information for mitigation measures.</p>	<p>The Significant Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Support Tool will be referenced for assessing and mitigating effects to Significant Wildlife Habitat.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.4 Summary of Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment</p>	<p><b>The following bullet will be added to Table 4-4: Study to be Completed during the Environmental Assessment for Terrestrial Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
45				<p>Main Report; Table 4-1, section 4.2.1 (p.21)</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The Forest Resource Inventory Wetland Layer in LIO can be used as a layer to identify potential wetlands as mapped for Forest Resource Inventory purposes to an Ecological Land Classification Ecosite that may not be mapped within the Wetland Layer.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      This could be added to the ToR as a source of information for the EA.</p>	<p>The Land Information Ontario (LIO) Forest Resource Inventory Wetland Layer will be added as a source to Table 4-1: Key Records Reviewed.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.1 Records Reviewed as Part of the Terms of Reference                       Table 4-1: Key Records Reviewed</p>	<p><b>The following resource will be added to Table 4-1: Key Records Reviewed for use during the EA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Resource Inventory Wetland Layer (LIO)</li> </ul>
46				<p>Draft ToR Guide (p.4) and Main Report Sec. 5.1.1.1, page 64 -65</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The width of the proposed transmission corridor RoW is inconsistently stated throughout the draft ToR and supporting documents.</p> <p>The Draft ToR guide states on p. 4 that the ROW width should range from 40 – 45 m. This is inconsistent with the Draft ToR where it states that the ROW is expected to range from 40-76m depending on terrain and distance between transmission structures. Note that the 40-76m range of ROW is a significant variation in width that could considerably increase the footprint of the</p>	<p>The typical anticipated required ROW width is approximately 40-45 m. In some sections of the line, a ROW width of up to 76 m may be required where, for example, larger towers are required for angles or turns or large water body crossings.                      The ROW width requirements will be described in the EA and confirmed during the design phase of the Project.</p> <p>Hydro One will provide further information on the ROW width and temporary use areas during the EA as more detailed project information becomes available; however, these areas are typically identified by the Project constructor and Hydro One has not yet been awarded the</p>	<p>Section 5.1.1.1 Transmission Line</p>	<p><b>The following will be included in Section 5.1.1.1 (Transmission Line):</b></p> <p>The proposed ROW for the Project is expected to be approximately 40 m to 45 m. In some sections of the ROW width of up to 76 m may be required depending on the specific location of the new transmission line, the local terrain and distance between the transmission structures.</p>

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				<p>project.</p> <p>In addition, the ToR states that additional ROW width may be required for general construction access, temporary working space, laydown areas and access roads.</p> <p>Note that authorization for temporary construction areas will be permitted separately from the ROW and are not justification for an increased ROW width. All new temporary construction areas and access roads will be required to be decommissioned and returned to natural forest cover in order to minimize the project footprint.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please provide consistent information on the width of the ROW in the ToR and EA to ensure an accurate and defensible assessment of potential impacts and adequacy of planned mitigations, and to avoid misperceptions among interested parties (including MNRF and its stakeholder groups) of the project impacts.</p> <p>One way to help the characterization of the ROW width is to map the geographic area of the ROW (to show where it is expected to vary from the 40m standard ROW width; for example, where additional width is needed when the ROW crosses an existing ROW, or to accommodate angles in the route).</p> <p>Minimizing the project footprint and scoping the area necessary to be cleared as a result of the project will be a key component of minimizing impacts to the terrestrial and aquatic environments.</p>	<p>construction rights of the Project.</p> <p>Hydro One agrees that minimizing the Project footprint to the extent possible including areas to be cleared is in the best interest of all parties and for minimizing potential effects to both the natural and socio-economic environment. Typically, areas that exhibit previous disturbance are more preferred than other areas for temporary use purposes.</p> <p>Hydro One understands that separate authorization may be required for areas to be used for temporary construction purposes and plans to discuss this further with MNRF.</p>		
47				<p>Main Report; Section 5.1.1.2 Access Roads (Page 66-67)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> As temporary and permanent access roads are anticipated to be required for the construction and operation phases of the project, it should be noted that any new access roads, either temporary or permanent will require authorization by MNRF before construction takes place.</p> <p>Depending on the extent of the upgrade to any existing trails or roads, upgrades may also require authorization before upgrades occur.</p> <p>Discussion on access roads does not speak to the need for water crossings as part of the access road network, nor does it provide any insight as to what types of water crossings (bridges, culverts, ice bridges) will be required.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please include in the EA rationale for why, where, how and when these access roads and trails will be needed, and how temporary access roads will be decommissioned and restored. Minimizing the project footprint and scoping the area necessary to be cleared to implement the project and identifying restoration activities that HONI will carry out will be a key component of minimizing impacts to the terrestrial and aquatic environments.</p> <p>More information is needed about the type of water crossing being considering for this project so that the impacts of these structures can be identified and considered as part of the future EA.</p> <p>Add the following line to this section to refer to the approval requirement for road and water crossings on Crown land:</p> <p>“Permits and/or authorization to construct access roads and water crossing on Crown land will be obtained prior to construction, as applicable.”</p>	<p>As indicated in the draft ToR, temporary and/or permanent watercourse crossings may be required for the Project. However, given the Project is still in the early phases, the location and type of watercourse crossings are not yet known but may include a combination of bridges and culverts. Hydro One will provide more information on this during the EA once a preferred transmission route is selected and potential construction access road requirements can be determined. Hydro One also understands that authorization may be required from MNRF relating to use of and/or upgrades to existing access roads and any new access roads.</p> <p>Please also see previous response to comment # 2 (emailed letter) related to the development of an Access Plan. Hydro One will continue to work with applicable stakeholders (including MNRF and Sustainable Forest License holders) during the EA to further review and discuss access and will provide more information in the EA on the rationale for why, where, how and when these access roads and trails will be needed, and how temporary access roads will be decommissioned and restored.</p>	Section 5.1.1.2 Access Roads	<p><b>The following line will be added to Section 5.1.1.2 (Access Roads) to refer to the approval requirement for road and water crossings on Crown land:</b></p> <p>Permits and/or authorization to construct access roads and water crossing on Crown land will be obtained prior to construction, as applicable.</p>

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48				<p>Main Report; Section 5.1.1.5 Temporary Land Rights (Page 67)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The intent of this section is unclear.</p> <p>Is the intent of this section to speak to the potential temporary use of private lands for the project?</p> <p>Use of Crown lands for stockpiling equipment and materials will require appropriate approvals.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please clarify whether the ‘temporary land rights’ will be required on Crown lands, private lands, or both.</p> <p>If the use of Crown lands is anticipated for this purpose, please refer to the need to obtain appropriate approvals before Crown land can be used for construction activities.</p>	<p>The intent of this section is to indicate that areas along the ROW may be required on a temporary basis to accommodate construction activities, such as providing additional working space, stockpiling, and equipment/material laydown or to facilitate conductor pulling/tensioning and that these areas, if required, will be decommissioned and restored following construction.</p> <p>Given the early stage of the Project, these areas are not yet known; however, more detail will be provided in the EA once closer to identifying a preferred route. It is understood that authorization may be required before Crown land can be used for construction purposes.</p>	Section 5.1.1.5 Temporary Land Rights	<p><b>The following line will be added to Section 5.1.1.5 Temporary Land Rights to refer to temporary use of Crown land for construction purposes:</b></p> <p>Appropriate approvals and/or authorizations will be obtained for any Crown land required for construction activities.</p>
49				<p>Main Report; Section 5.1.1.6 Upgrades to Existing Transformer Stations (Page 68)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Upgrades to existing transformer stations may include expansion of the fenced-in area of the Lakehead, Mackenzie and Dryden transformer stations. It is not clear whether additional lands (Crown land or other private land) is needed for such expansions.</p> <p>Where additional Crown land is needed for these upgrades, appropriate approvals will be required from MNRF.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please clarify in the ToR whether the upgrades to existing Transformer Stations requires additional lands.</p> <p>Additional lands needed for upgrades to transformer stations should be considered as part of the project and its impacts assessed accordingly.</p>	<p>Given the early stage of the Project, details related to any upgrades to the existing transformer stations are not yet known; however, this will be shared with applicable stakeholders, including MNRF, during the EA once known.</p> <p>If additional lands are required to accommodate the transformer station upgrades, including Crown land or private land, this will be discussed with relevant parties and the appropriate approvals will be acquired beforehand. These required areas will be included in the Project Footprint and net effects assessment of the EA.</p>	Section 5.1.1.6 Upgrades to Existing Transformer Stations	<p><b>The following will be added to Section 5.1.1.6 Upgrades to Existing Transformer Stations:</b></p> <p>If additional lands are 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.</p>
50				<p>Main Report; Section 5.2.3 Retirement (Page 70-71)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> This section states that decommissioning will not be planned and assessed in this EA but will be planned and conducted in accordance with the relevant standards and regulatory requirements in effect at the time decommissioning is considered. As such, the retirement or decommissioning of the transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure (e.g. roads) is not being considered. MECP’s Code of practice: ToR encourages all elements of the undertaking’s life cycle to be assessed in order to appropriately protect the environment for current and future generations.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> While the project is not expected to require decommissioning in the near future, known elements of decommissioning (such as removing towers and cables and the creation of roads in order to remove these features from the landscape) should be included as part of the impact assessment of alternate routes in the EA.</p> <p>Furthermore, details are required about decommissioning and rehabilitation of temporary infrastructure (laydown yards, worker camps, access roads etc.).</p>	<p>Decommissioning of the project is not contemplated at this time and, if required, would be undertaken in accordance with applicable standards and regulatory requirements in effect at that time as the regulatory regime will likely change over the next 50 to 100 years.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, the net effects assessment and mitigation measures to be identified during the EA for the construction of project will likely equally apply to the removal of the Project at a future point in time (50 to 100 years from now) and this can be further described in the EA based on available information.</p> <p>Details relating to the decommissioning and rehabilitation of temporary infrastructure (laydown yards, worker camps, access roads etc.) will be provided in the EA.</p>	Section 5.2.3 Retirement	<p><b>The following will be added to Section 5.2.3 (Retirement):</b></p> <p>The net effects assessment and mitigation measures to be identified during the EA for the construction of project will likely equally apply to the removal of the Project at a future point in time (50 to 100 years from now) and this will be further described in the EA.</p> <p>Additional detail relating to the decommissioning and rehabilitation of temporary infrastructure (laydown yards, worker camps, access roads etc.) will also be provided in the EA.</p>
51				<p>Main Report; Section 5.5.2/page 70</p>	<p>Hydro One looks to health agencies and a large number of reputable scientific organizations around the world to assess scientific studies and</p>	Section 5.2.2 Operation and	<p><b>The following will be added to Section 5.2.2 (Operation and Maintenance):</b></p>

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				<p><b>Comment</b> The TOR doesn't appear to consider to how electric and magnetic fields would affect the natural environment (i.e. only human impacts are discussed on page 70)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please address how electric and magnetic fields resulting from the project could impact the natural environment. Perhaps this could be considered under the terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat baseline component in section 4.0 (on page 56). It is acknowledged that acoustic effects of the transmission lines are included in baseline component to be assessed.</p>	provide advice and guidance with respect to electric and magnetic fields (EMF) exposure and have concluded that the scientific research does not demonstrate that EMFs cause or contribute to adverse health effects nor have identified any concern or effects related to wildlife and/or wildlife habitat that Hydro One is aware of. Hydro One looks to Health Canada to provide guidelines on exposure to EMFs, 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 <a href="http://www.hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety/corporate-health-and-safety/electric-and-magnetic-fields">www.hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety/corporate-health-and-safety/electric-and-magnetic-fields</a> .	Maintenance	The EA will include additional information related to the Project and EMF.
52				<p>Main Report; 6.1; p.72</p> <p><b>Comment</b> In the description of alternatives to the Undertaking, the ToR pre-supposes that an analysis against the "do nothing" option will confirm the advantages of proceeding with the project. Language used in this section is biased towards an outcome before the analysis has been completed.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Suggest that the 2nd paragraph in 6.1 be deleted as it appears to pre-suppose the outcome of the evaluation of the Project against the "do nothing" alternative.</p>	This paragraph will be deleted.	Section 6.1 Alternatives to the Undertaking	<p><b>The following will be deleted:</b></p> <p>The comparative evaluation of the Project against the "do nothing" alternative will provide a final confirmation that, on balance, the advantages of proceeding with the Project exceed those of not proceeding with it and thus will confirm the rationale for the Project.</p>
53				<p>Main Report; Table 6-4</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The table discussing general route selection considerations doesn't contemplate a "rule" to minimize use of greenfield options by paralleling existing linear infrastructure. In the corridor workshop held in June 2019 it was discussed that minimizing effects and disturbance to existing built up areas defaults the project to prefer undisturbed areas, which increases environmental impacts. This is discussed in section 6.0 on page 78.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Maximizing use of existing roads and infrastructure corridors (where appropriate) in order to minimize environmental impacts should be considered in the table.</p>	This suggestion will be added to the table.	Section 6.2.2 Alternative Route Identification	<p><b>The following will be inserted into Section 6.2.2 (Alternative Route Evaluation) Table 6-4: General Routing Selection Considerations under Technical:</b></p> <p>Maximize use of existing roads and infrastructure corridors (where appropriate) in order to minimize potential environmental effects.</p>
54				<p>Main Report; Section 6.2.2.1 Section 1 – City of TBay to Town of Atikokan (Page 88)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> While the preceding text to this section speaks to the preference for twinning with existing infrastructure it does not state why the preference is to twin the existing 230 kV line only for the approx. 100 km stretch from West of the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake.</p> <p>Twinning of both the 230 kV and of the 115 kV lines should be considered as options for consideration within this stretch.</p> <p>Consideration of alternatives is a key component of the EA and important in identifying and justifying the selection of the preferred route.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Evaluate additional alternative routes in Section 1 (Thunder Bay to Atikokan) within the section from the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake, including the option of twinning along the existing 115 kV line where it deviates from the 230 kV line.</p>	TBC		TBC

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55				<p>Main Report; Figures 6.2 &amp; 6.7 p.96</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The rationale for why alternate routes 3b and 3c are included in the ToR needs to be clarified. The meaning of the statement “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” is not immediately clear.</p> <p>Is the point trying to be made that including these alternatives in the EA makes sense because there was only one route identified through/as a result of transmission line sighting workshop, and it happens to travel through multiple protected areas (Conservation reserve and Provincial Park) and an enhanced management area – so alternate routes 3b and 3c are included to provide viable options that minimize impacts to protected areas?</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please re-word this section to make it clear to the reader why routes 3b and 3c are being evaluated as alternate routes.</p>	<p>Correct. While routes 3b and 3c were not included as part of the top 3% of all possible routes identified in the siting model, they did present strongly within the Natural Environment perspective/corridor and provide an alternative crossing location of the potentially sensitive Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park. This alternative route also avoids the crossing of the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and White Otter Enhanced Management Area which have been identified as important features by Ontario Parks. This alternative route was thus included for further assessment during the EA which will be subject to more detailed assessment. The addition of these alternative routes allows for the consideration of a greater number of alternatives to be examined in the EA. Wording will be clarified in the identified ToR section.</p>	<p>Section 6.2.2.3 Section 3 – North Atikokan to Wabigoon Lake</p>	<p><b>The following text will be added to Section 6.2.2.3 Section 3 – North Atikokan to Wabigoon Lake to clarify why these routes were included (italics):</b></p> <p>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 corridor presented previously in Figure 6-2. The corridors represent the top 3% 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 environment perspective and also provides an additional crossing location of the potentially sensitive Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park. This alternative route also avoids 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.</p>
56				<p>Main Report; Table 6-4 (Page 87)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Add Significant Wildlife Habitat to the list of bracketed examples.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Add Significant Wildlife Habitat to the list of bracketed examples.</p>	<p>The table will be updated accordingly.</p>	<p>Section 6.2.2 Alternative Route Identification</p>	<p><b>The following will be updated in Table 6-4: General Routing Selection Considerations under Natural (italics):</b></p> <p>Minimize potential disturbance to significant natural features (e.g., ANSIs, SAR, environmentally sensitive areas, wetlands, waterbodies, Significant Wildlife Habitat), critical Landform/Vegetation types and adhere to appropriate setback requirements.</p>
57				<p>Main Report; Section 6.2.2.1; Section 1 – City of TBay to Town of Atikokan; (Page 88) Section 6.3 Alternative Route Evaluation in the EA; (Page 103)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Section 6.3 speaks to future analysis ‘to select, on balance, the route alternatives that has more advantage than disadvantages.</p> <p>Given that this is a key goal of the EA, additional alternatives should be provided and evaluated in the EA in order to arrive at the preferred route and associated rationale for it.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the transmission line sighting workshop and associated preliminary modelling was used to narrow down the study area into a suite of potential alternative routes to evaluate within the EA. In some areas of the ToR, the modeling output provided only one route option, but in other areas, additional routes were added in order to provide a suite of alternatives (e.g. between Atikokan and the Trans-Canada Highway to provide an alternative that may have less impact on the provincial parks and conservation reserves).</p> <p>An area that would benefit from the addition of a second alternative route is around Shebandowan Lake (see Crown Land Use Policy Atlas, land use area # G2699). Uses in this area are governed by Crown Land Use Policies and the Shebandowan Lake Management Plan, which includes a Restricted Area Order under the Public Lands Act.</p> <p>The area is used substantially by cottagers; there will very likely be interest in the proposed development from individual cottagers as well as the local</p>	<p>The ToR will be updated to explain the consideration of route alternatives between Eva Lake to Kaministiquia River, and in particular the route section between Shebandowan Lake and Kashabowie Provincial Park.</p>	<p>Section 6.2.2.1</p>	<p><b>Section 6.2.2.1 updated to include the following additional information under this subsection: Alternative Route 1, 230 kV Transmission Line.</b></p> <p>Alternative routes were identified using the siting model that considers existing baseline data and a set of criteria representing natural environment, socio-economic environment (e.g., land use), technical, and Indigenous perspectives. 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 line transmission line. An area of sensitivity that Hydro One is aware of is the section that runs along the north side of Shebandowan Lake, just south of Kashabowie Provincial Park. It is an area governed by Crown Land Use Policies 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 alternatives routes. To the north is Kashabowie Lake and then the larger Lac des Mille Lacs, 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 run a considerable distance away from the existing 230 kV ROW. This would add to the route length</p>

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				<p>cottagers association.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Recommend that more alternatives be evaluated in sections where there is only 1 route proposed, in order to help substantiate route selections.</p> <p>Specifically, consider/evaluate additional alternative routes in Section 1 (T.Bay to Atikokan) within the section from the Kaministiquia River to Eva Lake.</p> <p>Recommend that local cottager associations as well as individual cottagers be included in consultation efforts.</p>			<p>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.</p> <p>From the Shebandowan Lake area to Eva Lake, there is a rail line that runs to the north of the 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 that no major significant natural features have been identified along the existing transmission line ROW, following the rail line was not explored further as an alternative route.</p> <p>During the EA, Hydro One will consult with the MNR, 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 effects.</p>
58				<p>Main Report; Section 6.2.2.1; Section 1 – City of T.Bay to Town of Atikokan; (Page 88)</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      While the model preference most strongly favours twinning, additional consideration must be given to the potential impacts of adding a 3rd RoW in places where the existing 230 kV line and 115 kV are already twinned.</p> <p>At what point does too wide of a linear corridor result in habitat fragmentation?</p> <p>The environmental impacts of twinning one existing line are different than adding a 3rd line to an already twinned section and therefore should be discussed and evaluated for potential impact separately.</p> <p>(Same comment could be applied to route Section 4 Page 99).</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      The environmental impacts of twinning one existing line are different than adding a 3rd line to an already twinned section and, therefore, should be discussed and evaluated for potential impact separately.</p>	<p>As noted in Section 6.2.1.2 (Calibrating the Siting Model with Internal and External Input) there are several benefits associated with co-location and Hydro One is encouraged to co-locate per the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) which states that co-location of infrastructure should be promoted. This was also consistent with feedback received at Corridor Workshops and others during the development of the ToR. The widening of the existing ROW in areas of co-location would only amount to an additional ROW expansion of approximately 40 to 45 m. Notwithstanding this, Hydro One will further review this as part of the EA once specific habitats are identified along the alternative routes.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
59				<p>6.2.2.2; Section 2 Town of Atikokan; 3rd paragraph</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      More Information is required to determine if the proposed routes, especially Alternate Route 2A encroach the Steep Rock property limits.</p> <p>The proposed transmission line location and transmission line infrastructure must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the current site and future landscape of the former Pit Lakes (Roberts,</li> </ul>	<p>The alternative routes provided in the draft ToR are considered preliminary and meant to provide a general context with respect to routing options. These alternative routes will be carried into the EA where they will be evaluated, including their impact (or not) on the former Steep Rock mine property and associated rehabilitation plan. Should a route in the vicinity of the former Steep Rock mine property be identified as the preferred, there will be further opportunities to refine it to minimize any potential effects to the former Steep rock mine property and associated rehabilitation plan. Hydro One will further engage the MNR and other applicable stakeholders as part of the alternative route assessment to</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>

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				<p>Hogarth, and Caland) and adjoining waterbodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam structures located within the Steep Rock site</li> <li>• Hazard lands (current and future) identified by MNRF</li> </ul> <p>Failure to recognize the current and future conditions may lead to costly impacts to Hydro One’s transmission line infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The proposed transmission line infrastructure will have to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the estimated final pit lake elevations 394.00 m (2056 – 2072 depending on the MNRF rehabilitation strategy)</li> <li>• the estimated lake outline, based on the contour 394.00 m,</li> <li>• the proper flood hazard limit offsets (to be determined using MNRF flood limits policy documents).</li> </ul> <p>MNRF strongly advises Hydro One to consult with the ministry as soon as possible regarding the former Steep Rock Mine site and the long-term strategic plan for the area.</p>	<p>ensure that any route selected as preferred avoids and/or minimizes adverse effects to this area.</p> <p>During the EA, Hydro One will consult with the MNRF on the former Steep Rock mine property and the long-term strategic plan for the area as part of the alternative route evaluation during the EA to determine the feasibility of any routing options in this area.</p>		
60				<p>Main Report; Section 6.2.2.3 Page 98</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Section 3B and 3C are identified incorrectly on the map. Please change the labelling on the map.</p>	<p>The route descriptions will be updated to reflect the route nomenclature on Figure 6.7 (Section 3: North of Atikokan).</p>	<p>Section 6.2.2.3 Section 3 – North Atikokan to Wabigoon Lake</p>	<p><b>The following text will replace the current text for alternative routes 3B and 3C in Section 6.2.2.3 (Section 3 – North Atikokan to Wabigoon Lake):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alternative Route 3B, Highway 622/Snake Bay Road</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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. Both sides of Highway 622 and Snake Bay Road will be considered in the EA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Alternative Route 3C, Highway 622/230 kV Transmission Line</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This route starts at 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. Both sides of the highway/ transmission line will be considered in the EA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
61				<p>Main Report; Figure 6.4 (Page 91)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Mapping error in Figure 6.4 in the Eva Lake area.</p> <p>Figure 6.4 currently shows Route 1 as branching off to the 115kv line south of Eva lake. According to text and figure 6.5, this is route 1C as route 1 continue along the 230 kV line. (not shown as an alternative at all on Figure 6.4)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Fix Figure 6.4 accordingly to match with text description and Figure 6.5. Please show alternate route 1c and route 1 around Eva Lake on figure 6-4.</p>	<p>This will be updated in the ToR.</p>		<p><b>The following will be updated in Figure 6.4 (Section 1: Lakehead TS to Mackenzie TS: Centre Section):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust west end of Route 1 to follow existing 230 kV transmission line.</li> <li>• Add Route 1C to the west end of this figure along the 115 kV transmission line.</li> </ul>



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62				<p>Main Report; Section 2: Atikokan; Figure 6.6; page 95</p> <p><b>Comment</b> It is difficult to see how the alternate routes might intersect the Steep Rock site. Please include additional information in the map as the Steep Rock pit lakes and adjoining lakes not shown in enough detail.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please include maps to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steep Rock limits; and</li> <li>• outline of the Steep Rock pit lakes, current elevations and, if possible, the outline of estimated final pit lake contour elevations.</li> </ul>	<p>The alternative routes provided in the draft ToR are considered preliminary and meant to provide a general context with respect to routing options. These alternative routes will be carried into the EA where they will be evaluated, including their potential effects to the former Steep Rock mine property and associated rehabilitation plan. Should a route in the vicinity of the former Steep Rock mine property be identified as preferred, there will be further opportunities to refine it to minimize any potential effects to the former Steep Rock mine property and associated rehabilitation plan. Hydro One will further engage the MNR and other applicable stakeholders as part of the alternative route assessment to ensure that any route selected as preferred avoids and/or minimizes adverse effects to this area.</p> <p>As part of the EA, Hydro One will also discuss the former Steep Rock mine property and the long-term strategic plan for the area as part of the alternative route evaluation during the EA to determine the feasibility of any routing options in this area. More detailed mapping can be provided as part of these discussions.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
63				<p>Main Report; Section 7.1 (potential effects assessment, p.105); Section 6.3 p.103; Appendix B.</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Our understanding is that the effects assessment of the alternative routes will identify a preferred route. However, will the assessment only be based on the major infrastructure within the ROW (the transmission corridor)? Or will it take into consideration all project infrastructure and components (such as potential laydown yards, work camps, water crossings and roads)?</p> <p>Appendix B suggests that indicators are limited to the evaluation of impacts within the ROW (e.g. Number and area (ha) of unevaluated wetlands within the ROW).</p> <p>The ROW is only one component of this project and an assessment of all project components should be used as indicators when determining the route with the least amount of environmental impacts (i.e. ROW and roads, and laydown areas) to properly assess the full impacts of that route alternative.</p> <p>In addition, will the alternative route effects assessment take into consideration all phases of the project (construction, maintenance and decommissioning)? Both these pieces should be considered in the effects assessment as cumulative effects of minor components (such as laydown areas, etc), or effects through time (e.g. roads that need to be re-built to enable decommissioning) are important considerations in weighting the various route options. The ToR includes criteria and indicators associated with the alternate route effects assessment (appendix B), but does not yet include a suite of criteria and indicators associated with the full net effects assessment for the preferred route.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please update Appendix B to include all project components (ROW + roads, laydown yards etc.) as the area for criteria/ indicator assessment as part of the alternative route assessment.</p> <p>Please provide added detail on the difference between the route effects assessment and the preferred route project net effects assessment in the ToR.</p>	<p>Section 7.1 (Potential Effects Assessment) provides a complete overview of the evaluation of alternative routes and the subsequent net effects assessment. As noted therein, the net effects assessment will 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 and watercourse crossings). The net effects assessment will be completed using the effects assessment criteria and indicators that have been added to Appendix C. Those provided in Appendix B will be used to complete the alternative route assessment.</p> <p>The EA will also document baseline conditions of any known areas outside of the transmission line ROW that will be required for the Project.</p> <p>Although this information is already stated in the Section 7.1 of the ToR, a further clarification will be provided.</p>	<p>Section 7.1 Potential Effects Assessment</p>	<p><b>The following will be added to the beginning of the third paragraph in Section 7.1 (Potential Effects Assessment):</b></p> <p>An additional list of criteria and indicators, provided in Appendix C, will be used to complete the net effects assessment. The net effects assessment will include the preferred transmission line ROW, as well as any other identified known lands required on either a temporary or permanent basis.</p>
64				<p>Main Report; Section 8.0 (project effects and compliance monitoring)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> It is acknowledged that monitoring for compliance will occur in all phases of the project, however it is not very clear if monitoring will include the</p>	<p>The noted recommendations are addressed in Section 8 (Environmental Commitments and Monitoring) of the ToR which states the following:</p> <p>Hydro One will develop a monitoring framework during the EA and will consider all phases of the Project, and a construction and post-</p>	<p>Section 8 Environmental Commitments and Monitoring</p>	<p><b>The following will be added to this section:</b></p> <p>Both the natural and socio-economic environments will be considered when developing the monitoring framework.</p>

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				<p>social/economic environments in addition to the natural environment.</p> <p>For example, the TOR could identify monitoring plans that will be in place (such as specific social/economic and environmental monitoring plans or another if known from similar projects) and how these plans will address commitments made during TOR process, as well as how any negative effects and benefit enhancement measures will be managed to ensure project success. The plans should include monitoring objectives, schedules and frameworks as developed during the EA.</p> <p>Some examples of monitoring might include – monitoring impacts to recreational use of Crown land due to any temporary road closures, or monitoring whether measures put in place to limit the creation of unwanted access to remote areas, or whether noise control measures are effective.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Further elaborate on what the monitoring will be conducted, and what the various monitoring plans will measure /monitor. For example, elaborate on whether activities are intended to measure / monitor mitigation effectiveness; compliance with applicable legislation/regulations/standards and permits; and compliance with commitments made in the EA. Also identify whether monitoring will include for activities to monitor commitments related to socio-economic environments in addition to the natural environment.</p>	<p>construction monitoring plan will be developed and included in the EA to ensure environmental commitments are met. As described in this section of the ToR, 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, assessing the effectiveness of the mitigation measures implemented to reduce these effects and evaluating the need for any modified or new measures. Hydro One will also employ the services of an Environmental Inspector(s) during construction of the Project to assist with monitoring and will identify actual Project-related environmental effects, and the effectiveness of mitigation and reclamation measures.</p> <p>Additional wording can be added to indicate that both the natural and socio-economic environments will be included in monitoring plans.</p>		
65				<p>Main Report; Section 8.2; Project Effect and Compliance Monitoring; (Page 109)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> How does HONI intend to approach / manage the possibility of encountering previously unknown values during construction (e.g. previously undocumented bird nests, wetlands, water crossing etc.).</p> <p>As desktop data is sparse in places, HONI should be prepared for how it will protect/ mitigate impacts to new values that are encountered.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The ToR should speak to the preparation of plans / protocols for addressing a) actions HONI will take to check areas for values that may not have been previously known/identified prior to commencing construction (and/or operations) in a specific area; and b) actions that will be taken to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate any potential negative effects to those values.</p> <p>In addition, the EA should address protocols / contingencies that will be followed in the event that construction timelines (and associated assumptions about the avoidance of impacts) change.</p>	<p>This information will be provided in the EA, typically as part of pre-, during, and post-construction monitoring plans and once all baseline data, including field study results, are received and reviewed.</p>	<p>Section 8.2 Project Effect and Compliance Monitoring</p>	<p><b>The following will be added to this section:</b></p> <p>In addition, the EA will address protocols/ contingencies that will be followed in the event that construction timelines (and associated assumptions about the avoidance of impacts) change.</p>
66				<p>Main Report; Section 8.2; Project Effect and Compliance Monitoring; (Page 109)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Text states: 'The required duration of monitoring and/or follow-up programs will be established <u>during</u> the EA and will be based on environmental features and any conditions associated with approvals and/or permit <u>received</u>'</p> <p>This statement is incorrect as permits cannot be issued until <u>after</u> the EA is completed and approved.</p> <p>While general conditions for future approvals may be able to be determined in advance, the monitoring plans should not be based on them, but be flexible to incorporate them in the future once permits are received.</p>	<p>The suggested change will be made.</p>		<p><b>Section 8.2 (Project Effects and Compliance Monitoring) will be updated to remove existing text and replaced with the following:</b></p> <p>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.</p>

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				<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Edit text: 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 permit required.'</p>			
67				<p>Main Report; Section 8.2 (project effects and compliance monitoring)</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      Suggest the addition of monitoring Forestry related commitments of the project</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Please add the monitoring and compliance of forestry activities. Note that monitoring/compliance of the following activities should be identified in the EA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Renewal- monitoring rehabilitated sites (plantations) to ensure they reach the Free-to- Grow stage (8 years post plant). The renewal agreement may include wording that the forest companies will take these areas back after planting is completed.</li> <li>2. Access Roads- Roads will need to be inspected to ensure that all Road Use Management Strategies were followed. The water crossing installations and removals will need to be inspected during and after project is complete.</li> <li>3. Harvesting and burning of slash piles</li> </ol>	<p>Hydro One is committed to environmental protection and responsible environmental management. Project monitoring will be tailored to the preferred route (once selected) and areas of potential impact and thus the ToR only provides a high-level overview and commitment to develop detailed monitoring plans during the EA as more information becomes available.</p> <p>The information noted in the comment is more appropriate to be included in the monitoring plans to be developed during the EA once more project-specific information and baseline data becomes available.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>
68				<p>Main Report; Section 8.2 (project effects and compliance monitoring)</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      Public health and safety is an important consideration that should be reflected in the EA and this section of the TOR is silent on this. How does Hydro One plan to monitor the effects of, and compliance with, factors related to public health and safety?</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Please add a section in the TOR on how the EA will assess safety risks to directly affected stakeholders – i.e. stakeholders that are directly affected by construction on a daily basis—and how these risks will be avoided and/or mitigated. An example of this is the Turtle Lake Cottage Owners that would encounter construction traffic, dust, and noise on a daily basis during construction in that area should the route go through that area. MNRF recommends that that the EA includes a safety plan.</p>	<p>Construction nuisance effects are addressed under the Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases and Acoustic Environment headings in the draft ToR with potential effects identified in Table 4-6: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Socio-Economic Environment. Both construction nuisance effects and public safety will be addressed as part of the net effects assessment to be completed during the EA once a preferred route is selected and potential effects are identified. The net effects assessment will identify potential effects to communities to ensure that the appropriate mitigation measures are in place to address any safety-related construction concerns.</p> <p>Consultation with potentially affected stakeholders, including Turtle Lake cottagers, will be ongoing during the EA and will provide additional opportunities for comment so that Hydro One can better understand how the Project could potentially affect specific communities and the nature of any health and/or safety concerns that need to be addressed.</p> <p>A commitment to prepare a Safety Plan prior to construction will be made in the EA.</p>	<p>Section 4.2.3.2 Community Well-Being</p> <p>Table 4-6: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Socio-Economic Environment</p>	<p><b>The following will be added to Section 4.2.3.2 Community Well-Being (italics):</b></p> <p>The EA will document additional detail relating to population, demographics and other components of the social environment, such as housing and educational attainment. <i>Public health and safety will also be reviewed.</i></p> <p><b>The following will be added to Table 4-6: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Socio-Economic Environment under Community Well-Being:</b></p> <p>Changes to public health and/or safety.</p>
69				<p>Main Report; 10.3.1</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The newspaper identified as the Sioux Lookout Wawatay News is incorrect; there is the Sioux Lookout Bulletin (which is centered on Sioux Lookout proper), and then there is Wawatay News (which is centered on the Far North of Ontario)</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Decide if one or both are needed and use the proper name(s).</p>	<p>Clarification will be made in the ToR.</p>		<p>Sioux Lookout Wawatay News will be changed to "Wawatay News".</p>
70				<p>Main Report; Section 10.2.1/page 115 10.2.1.2</p> <p><b>Comment</b>                      The EA Consultation Plan loosely lists anticipated stakeholders but suggests</p>	<p>Please see previous response to comment #7 (emailed letter) related to consultation.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change required.</p>

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				<p>that a project contact list has been created.</p> <p>Stakeholders commonly involved with MNRF include license and permit holders, tourism groups, cottagers and those not already identified that are involved in forest management planning. MNRF can assist with providing information to these stakeholders.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the project contact list may evolve as the EA progresses; however, the consultation plan should outline in more specific terms who will be consulted with during the preparation of the EA as per the Code of Practice (Preparing and reviewing term of reference for Environmental Assessment). For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will all known stakeholders within the RSA (5km) be identified?</li> <li>• Will stakeholders that use access within the 5km but are outside the RSA be notified?</li> <li>• Will stakeholder engagement identification include access for construction (e.g. road upgrades and use)?</li> <li>• Will this detailed analysis cover all of the identified alternate routes in the Draft TOR?</li> </ul> <p>MNRF may have consultation requirements in order to issue permits and authorizations. Issuance could be delayed if adequate consultation has not taken place through the course of the EA</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The EA Consultation Plan should more fully describe who will be consulted, how and at what points in the EA process to: a) ensure that appropriate parties have the opportunity to provide input to the EA process; and b) the effects of stakeholder engagement/consultation on the evaluation of alternatives can be seen by MNRF and all parties interested in the EA / project.</p> <p>MNRF recommends that HONI contact the Ministry to discuss the consultation plan as soon as possible.</p>			
71				<p>10.5</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Indigenous Engagement Plan – consider including a reference to meeting the duty to consult through the delegation of procedural aspects of consultation at the beginning of the section in addition to the reference in 10.5.1</p>	<p>A reference to the Duty to consult will be provided in Section 10.5 Indigenous Engagement Plan.</p>	<p>Section 10.5 Indigenous Engagement Plan</p>	<p><b>The following text will be included in Section 10.5 (Indigenous Engagement Plan) of the ToR:</b></p> <p>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 Hydro One.</p> <p>On behalf of the Crown, ENDM, in a letter dated October 25, 2018 (and follow-up letter dated April 15, 2020), provided Hydro One with a list of Indigenous communities to be consulted for the purpose of the Crown’s constitutional Duty to Consult. The letter indicated that the Crown has delegated certain procedural aspects of consultation through a MOU signed between Ontario (represented by the former Minister of Energy) and Hydro One in September of 2016 and that these communities be consulted on the basis that they have, or may have, constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>, that may be adversely affected by the Project.</p>
72				<p>10.5; p.138</p>	<p>A summary of key issues raised/resolved will be provided in the main body of the EA with cross-reference to the Record of Consultation.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.</p>

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				<p><b>Comment</b> Consultation summary and link to record of consultation</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please include a summary of key issues raised/resolved in the main body of the EA as well as a cross reference to the record of consultation. This will provide a link from higher-level summaries used for general information dissemination to the details in the record of consultation.</p>			
73				<p>Main Report; Section 11.0; Other Permits, Approvals and Authorizations; (Page 140)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> While text is correct that ‘some permits and approvals rely on more detailed engineering that is available during the EA process;’ the more information that is provided within the EA the faster and more efficiently future permits can be issued.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Note: the more information/studies/requirement provided earlier on within the EA, the faster and more efficiently future permits can be issued.</p>	Hydro One will endeavor to provide as much detail as early as possible during the EA.		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.
74				<p>Main Report; Table 11.1/page 143</p> <p><b>Comment</b> This section has additional MNRF permit/approval and authorization requirements and requires correction of some inaccuracies in permitting requirements.</p> <p>1) Not all land use occupational authority provides right, title or interest (for example LUPs). Temporary accommodation camps, laydown areas or other project requirements that cannot meet the requirements as set in O. Reg 161/17: Occupation of Public Lands under section 21.1 of the Public Lands Act generally require land use occupation authority.</p> <p>The first bullet seems to be largely capturing Public Lands Act work permit requirements for work on shorelands (on both Crown and private lands) or in-water work. Note that LRIA permits may be required for water crossings on private land.</p> <p>In addition, PLA work permits are also required for road/trail construction and water crossing construction. Please re-phrase the first bullet to accurately reflect MNRF’s permitting requirements under the PLA (as opposed to the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act).</p> <p>2) Burning authorizations could take form of an approved prescribed burning plan (as part of an FMP as per previous comment re: harmonizing efforts and communications plan with Forest Industry) or through Aviation Forest Fire and Emergency Services as per the Forest Fire Protection Act.</p> <p>3) Amendments to CLUPA policies for general use areas may also be required.</p> <p>4) As of April 1, 2019, the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves portfolio was transferred for MECP and is no longer the mandate of the MNRF. However, note that the White Otter Enhanced Management Area is still under MNRF’s mandate. Please remove bullets 9 and 10 from MNRF and move to MECP.</p> <p>5) Travel permits may be required for the use of restricted roads.</p>	The noted updates will be made to the MNRF row in Table 11-1: Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations.	<p>Section 11.1.5 Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p> <p>Table 11-1: Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p>	<p><b><i>The following changes will be made to Table 11-1 (Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations) related to the MNRF (in italics unless otherwise noted):</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidated Work Permit as per the <i>Public Lands Act, 1990 (PLA)</i> for work planned on shore land and within water bodies (<i>on both Crown and private lands</i>), including work and burn authorization for clearing and burning of cleared vegetation. <i>Burning authorizations could take 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 Forest Fire Protection Act. 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 PLA generally require land use occupation authority.</i></li> <li>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 Forest Fires Prevention Act, 1990.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Research Authorization for provincial parks and conservation reserves (for work to be completed in provincial parks).</li> <li><i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997</i>, authorization should the Project affect nesting areas, beavers or black bears.</li> <li>Forest Resource Licence to harvest timber on Crown lands as per the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994.</li> <li>Crown Lease or Land Use Permit <i>for effect on use of Crown land under authority of appropriate tenure.</i></li> <li>Permit under the Aggregate Resources Act, 1990, for</li> </ul>

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				<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Suggest change wording of bullet 7 (under MNRF agency row) to effect of use of Crown land under authority of appropriate tenure.</p> <p>Under the MNRF heading, the following additions to required permits should be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LRIA permits requirements for water crossings on private land.</li> <li>• PLA permits for water crossings on Crown land</li> <li>• PLA (Work Permits) for construction of roads and trails</li> </ul> <p>Move authorizations required for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves to the appropriate agency in the table (i.e. MECP)</p>			<p>the extraction of aggregate on Crown land.</p> <p><b>The following will be added to the list:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel permits for the use of restricted roads.</li> <li>• Amendments to CLUPA policies for general use areas</li> <li>• <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, 1990</i> (LRIA) permits requirements for water crossings on private land.</li> <li>• PLA permits for water crossings on Crown land.</li> <li>• PLA (Work Permits) for construction of roads and trails.</li> </ul> <p><b>The following will be moved to the MECP row:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval to work within, or cross, provincial parks as per the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006</i>.</li> <li>• Amendment to management direction for applicable provincial parks and conservation reserves.</li> </ul>
75				<p>Main Report; Table 11.1/page 143</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Clearing trees on Crown land OR Crown trees on private lands may require approval under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Potential authorizations include a Forest Resource License, Permit to Remove, B-License (for trees reserved to the Crown on patent land).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>[Note also that where the area proposed for clearing is already licensed to another party under a Forest Resource License or Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) and is allocated for harvest in accordance with an approved Forest Management Plan (FMP), the FRL or SFL holder should be offered the opportunity to harvest the forest resources (trees).]</p> <p>Additional authorizations that may be required include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burn permits (i.e. submission of prescribed burn plan as a revision to the applicable Annual Work Schedule for approved FMPs)</li> <li>• Road Maintenance Agreements (with appropriate SFL holder for use of roads covered by an FMP that are under custodianship of an SFL holder e.g., the Ann Bay Road in MNRF's Fort Frances district).</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please add these approvals to the table.</p>	<p>These additional approvals will be added to the list.</p>	<p>Section 11.1.5 Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p> <p>Table 11-1: Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p>	<p><b>The following will be added to the MNRF row in Table 11-1 (Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing trees on Crown land or Crown trees on private lands may require approval under the Crown <i>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).</li> <li>• Burn permits (i.e., submission of prescribed burn plan as a revision to the applicable Annual Work Schedule for approved Forest Management Plans)</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
76				<p>Main Report; Table 11.1/page 143</p> <p><b>Comment</b> As noted elsewhere in these comments, many of the existing roads in the project area are under custodianship of the SLF holder in the relevant Forest Management Unit, or may be under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Crown and another party.</p> <p>For example, the Plateau Lake Road, which could be used to access alternative route 1C, is subject to an MOU.</p> <p>Consideration must be given to parties that hold MOUs with the Crown for road custodianship. A list of these roads can be provided.</p>	<p>Comment noted; this information will be incorporated into the ToR.</p> <p>A list of roads that parties hold MOUs with the Crown for road custodianship will be requested from the MNRF.</p>	<p>Section 11.1.5 Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations</p> <p>Table 11-1: Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and</p>	<p><b>The following bullet will be added to the MNRF row in Table 11-1 (Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in a Memorandum of Understanding (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.</li> </ul>

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				<p>Additionally, any new roads/water crossings to be constructed as part of this project outside of the hydro corridor would need to have a Use Management Strategy addressing maintenance, monitoring, reporting of hazards, access control and decommissioning. Assignment of road responsibility to Hydro One through an MOU with the Crown, which scopes responsibilities (i.e. maintenance), insurance requirements, performance guarantees, permits and approvals as well as ownership of structures (i.e. water crossings) would be required.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> The table should include the possibility of Hydro One engaging in Memorandum of Understanding, 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.</p>		Authorizations	
77				<p>Main Report; Section 11.1.1; Other Provincial Environmental Assessment Process; (Page 140)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> This section identifies that dispositions of rights to Crown resources may be subject to MNR's Resource Stewardship and Facility Development (2015) Class EA.</p> <p>HONI should be aware that the Individual EA for the project should cover all components of the project including any dispositions required from MNR, including evaluating the effects of the disposition and associated activities. In this case, the IEA process precludes the need for additional / subsequent application of the RSFD Class EA (section 2.6.2 of the RSFD Class EA – Page 13).</p> <p>If not (including if the need arises for a disposition of rights to Crown resource after the IEA has been approved) then additional EA Act requirements may apply, including possibly application of the Class EA RSFD. Note that 2002 is the last approved version of the Class EA RSFD, not 2015.</p> <p>In addition, note that scientific collector's permits (i.e. to conduct fieldwork in advance of completion of the Individual EA for the project) are no longer subject to MNR's Class EA RSFD. MNR may still have Indigenous consultation requirements associated with these permits.</p> <p>MNR advises that HONI check with MECP regarding other recent changes to EA that affect the Class EA PPCR (reference to this in the first paragraph will likely also need to be changed).</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please modify this section to clarify and update EA requirements for the project.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that scientific collector's permits (i.e. to conduct fieldwork in advance of completion of the Individual EA for the Project) are no longer subject to MNR's Class EA RSFD and that MNR may still have Indigenous consultation requirements associated with these permits. The potential need for this permit will remain in Table 11-1 (Other Relevant Provincial Legislation, Permits, Approvals and Authorizations).</p> <p>Note that this section does state that "should any of the above-noted requirements be determined to be applicable, it is Hydro One's intention that they will be met through the EA process for the Project." Wording in this section will, however, be updated for clarity. It is further noted that several upcoming changes are expected to these Class EA processes as a result of the MECP's proposed changes to the EA process in Ontario.</p> <p>The reference to the document will be updated to 2002 as noted. The 2015 version includes MNR's request for amendments which will be removed per the comment.</p>	Section 11.1.1	<p><b>Section 11.1.1 (Other Provincial Environmental Assessment Processes)</b></p> <p><b>Reference List</b></p> <p>Change reference to MNR's Resource Stewardship and Facility Design Development to 2002 from 2015. Adjust reference for Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (2015a) to remove the 'a.'</p> <p><b>Update Section 11.1.1 (Other Provincial Environmental Assessment Processes) to the following (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph):</b></p> <p>The Project may also be subject to the MNR'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 Individual 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 EA have been formalized).</p>
78				<p>Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators; General comment</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The list of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators does not cover the full range of MNR interests as related to our mandate.</p> <p>Specifically, the following criteria/indicators do not appear to be included: soils and sediment quality; sedimentation; water quality (as it relates to habitat for aquatic species and communities); aquatic species, communities and their habitats; terrestrial wildlife and habitat linkages or corridors ( e.g., fragmentation, alteration and/or critical loss); drainage or flooding; access (new or different); noise (as related to effects on wildlife); increased demands on government services; local, regional and provincial economies; and public</p>	<p>As described in Section 7.1 (Potential Effects Assessment) (3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph) of the draft ToR, the criteria and indicators provided in Appendix B will be used to complete the alternative route evaluation to select a preferred route. These criteria and indicators were selected because measurable data is available. Following this, a net effects assessment will be completed using a separate, but related, set of effects assessment criteria and indicators which have been added to Appendix C.</p>		<p>Comment noted; no change required.</p>

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				<p>health and safety. It is noted that some of these appear to be considered in the potential effects table in section 4.3.1- how will these effects be tied to criteria and indicators?</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please incorporate additional criteria in the evaluation of effects to demonstrate how MNR's mandated areas of interest will be affected by the project.</p>			
79				<p>Appendix B; List of Prelim. Evaluation of Criterial and Indicators</p> <p><b>Comment</b> For the "soils" criteria (under Natural Environment) the only indicator considered is the area of agricultural lands within the ROW. Given that heavy machinery will be used for clearing, the potential impacts of clearing on all areas within and outside of the ROW (e.g., for laydown yards, or any temporary worker camps) should be considered.</p> <p>The EA should address actions to minimize adverse effects to soil throughout the project area, as this would result in benefits to both the terrestrial and aquatic environment and the associated flora and fauna.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Expand the criteria for soils to consider impacts of clearing on all types of lands to be cleared.</p>	<p>The EA will address potential effects to soils and recommend mitigation measures. As described in Section 7.1 (Potential Effects Assessment) (3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph) of the draft ToR, the criteria and indicators provided in Appendix B will be used to complete the alternative route evaluation to select a preferred route. These criteria and indicators were selected because measurable data is available. Soil is included as a criterion with the indicator 'Area (ha) of agricultural lands in the ROW.'</p> <p>Following completion of the alternative route evaluation, a net effects assessment will be completed using a separate, but related, set of effects assessment criteria and indicators which have been added to Appendix C. These criteria and indicators, which include soil, will cover potential effects of all known areas to be disturbed by the Project, including for temporary construction purposes providing this information is available. Table 7-1 (List of Key Natural and Socio-Economic Environment Considerations) provides an overview of the key natural and socio-economic features to be considered as part of the net effects assessment during the EA of which soil is included. The EA will address actions to minimize adverse effects to soil throughout the Project area.</p>		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.
80				<p>Appendix B</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Better explanation is needed on the method of the route effects assessment process.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Please clarify whether the indicator is counted when effects will occur despite / after applying mitigation measures, or whether it based on no mitigation being applied.</p>	<p>As described in Section 7.1 (Potential Effects Assessment) (3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph) of the draft ToR, the criteria and indicators provided in Appendix B will be used to complete the alternative route evaluation to select a preferred route. Other than the assumption of standard mitigation and best management practices being implemented for the Project, specific mitigation will not be explicitly considered in the evaluation of the alternative routes as it is expected that similar, if not the same, mitigation would be available and equally effective for all the alternative routes and so it would not assist in the identification of differences among the alternatives.</p> <p>Following the route evaluation, a full net effects assessment will be completed for all identified project components using a separate, but related, set of effects assessment criteria and indicators which have been added to Appendix C. Specific mitigation recommendations will be made as part of this effects assessment. Table 7-1 (List of Key Natural and Socio-Economic Environment Considerations) provides an overview of the key natural and socio-economic features to be considered as part of the net effects assessment during the EA. The net effects assessment will identify the potential effects of the Project on the natural and socio-economic environments, propose mitigation, identify the net effects (effects remaining following implementation of mitigation measures) and then determine the significance of the net effects.</p>		Comment noted; no change required.
81				<p>Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators; B-8 (recreation and tourism)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Recreation and tourism are important contributors to the local economy of the project area. Current Forest Management Plans offer valuable information on areas of concern and associated prescriptions that have been identified through the FMP planning process to protect recreation and tourism values.</p>	<p>The suggested additions will be incorporated into the ToR.</p>	<p>Appendix B: List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators (Recreation and Tourism)</p>	<p><b>The following will be added to the "Possible Data Sources" column in Appendix B for Recreation and Tourism:</b></p> <p>Forest Management Plans including areas of concern (AOC) and associated prescriptions.</p> <p><b>The following indicators will also be added to the Recreation and Tourism criteria:</b></p>



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				<p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> MNRF advises that the ToR identify FMPs and, specifically, areas of concern and associated prescriptions, as an information source for the EA.</p> <p>Further, MNRF recommends that the following indicators be added to the Recreation and Tourism Criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Area (ha) of AOC with an associated tourism and recreation prescriptions in the FMP (Area Of Concerns) in the ROW.</li> <li>2. Number (ha) of cabins and cottages in the ROW.</li> <li>3. Area (ha) of tourism AOCs in the ROW.</li> </ol>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area (ha) of AOC with an associated tourism and recreation prescription in the Forest Management Plan in the ROW.</li> <li>• Number (ha) of cabins and cottages in the ROW</li> <li>• Area (ha) of tourism AOCs in the ROW</li> </ul>
82				<p>Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators; B-8 (Aesthetics)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> Related to the above comment: Current Forest Management Plans can offer valuable information about the impacts of clearing of land to visual aesthetics (these have been identified through FMP planning processes).</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Add the following indicator to the Visual Landscape (Aesthetics) Criteria: Area (ha) of visual Aesthetics AOCs in the ROW (as opposed to only including the number of scenic viewpoints).</p>	The suggested additions will be incorporated into the ToR.	Appendix B: List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators (Aesthetics)	<p><i>The following will be added to the "Possible Data Sources" column in Appendix B for Visual Landscape (Aesthetics):</i></p> <p>Forest Management Plans</p> <p><i>The following will be added as an indicator to the Visual Landscape (Aesthetics) criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area (ha) of visual Aesthetics AOCs in the ROW</li> </ul>
83				<p>Appendix B- List of Preliminary Evaluation Criteria and Indicators; B-11 (technical - project size)</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The project size does not include any project-related infrastructure/indicators that are located outside of the ROW, such as laydown areas, wood landing areas, chipping pads as well as construction and maintenance access roads.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> It is important to consider the full scope of effects of the project, which will include any temporary or permanent infrastructure requirements that are located outside of the powerline ROW. MNRF will require this information at the permitting stage (i.e. road construction). Some examples of project-related indicators that are located outside of the ROW are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laydown areas</li> <li>2. Wood landing areas</li> <li>3. Chipping pads</li> <li>4. Access roads</li> <li>5. Construction offices</li> <li>6. Worker camps (i.e. forest harvesting, line construction)</li> </ol>	Please see previous response provided for comment # 73.		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.
84				<p>Consultation; 2.1.4</p> <p><b>Comment</b> The Path of the Paddle organization will need to be included in all planning and correspondence associated with the EA.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b> Ensure other Crown land users are included in the EA process and are provided with all consultation materials.</p>	<p>The Path of the Paddle Association will be included in planning and correspondence in the EA.</p> <p>Other Crown land users identified and contacted to-date are included in the Record of Consultation. If additional contacts should be included and are not currently identified in the Record of Consultation, please provide them and they will be added to the contact list.</p>		Comment noted; no change to ToR required. Will be considered in the EA.
85				General Comment	This information will be incorporated into the EA. Mitigation measures will be developed during the EA as part of the net effects assessment,	Section 4.3.1: Preliminary	<i>The following potential effect will be added to Table 4-5 (Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Natural</i>

ID #	Comment Received - Date	Event Type (email, letter, comment form, phone call, etc.)	Name of Commenter & Contact Information	Comment Description	Proposed Response	Applicable draft ToR/RoC Section	Proposed Revision to ToR/RoC
				<p><b>Comment</b>                      MNRF administers the Forest Fire Prevention Act and is responsible for responding to wildland fires. The construction of the Waasigan transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure may increase the probability of human-caused wildland fires. Despite good fire prevention legislation, accidents happen. New all-season transportation infrastructure may provide access to more areas for more people. Where people go, human caused fires happen.                      Linear assets like electrical transmission lines that span hundreds of kilometers have a much higher probability of exposure to wildland fires than a point-based asset such as a house or mine.</p> <p>What are the considerations that HONI is proposing to mitigate the increased probability of human-caused wildland fires or the impact of fire on its infrastructure? Mitigation measures may include but are not limited to access restrictions, decommissioning temporary roads and following the Industrial Operation Protocol (<a href="https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-industrial-operations-protocol-2018-en-13-01-2020.pdf">https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-industrial-operations-protocol-2018-en-13-01-2020.pdf</a>), other measures to reduce the impact of fire on infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Recommendations/Preliminary Conclusions</b>                      Please include reference to the development of mitigation measures related to wildland fire within the ToR.</p>	<p>including for wildland fires. This potential effect will be added to the ToR.</p>	<p>Potential Effects to the Natural Environment</p> <p>Table 4-5: Summary of Preliminary Potential Effects to Natural Environment</p>	<p><b>Environment) in the Vegetation and Wetlands row:</b></p> <p>Change in potential for wildland fire.</p>

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

<b>Comment #</b>	<b>Section/Page/T able/Figure</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	4.1 Desktop review	<p>The draft field plan states that species specific habitat modeling will not be completed as part of the alternative route evaluation.</p> <p>The assessment of potentially impacted wildlife habitat is generally considered a standard criterion in the assessment of effects between options.</p>	<p>MNRF recommends using impacted wildlife habitat as part of the alternative route evaluation to help determine the preferred route.</p> <p>Alternatively, please provide rationale for using wildlife habitat solely as part of the assessment of the preferred route.</p>	<p>The 2020 field work plan has been updated to clarify that mapping of sensitive wildlife habitats will be completed to support the aerial reconnaissance field surveys and to inform the alternative route evaluation. To clarify, habitat suitability modelling (e.g., using habitat suitability index models to rank habitat quality) will be completed as part of the net effects assessment.</p>
2	4.1 Desktop review	<p>Section 4.1 lists the data layers that HONI may use in the desktop review of the alternative route evaluation. In addition to those listed, MNRF recommends including the following data sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant Ecological Areas,</li> <li>• Wildlife Concentration Areas,</li> <li>• Species Observations, locally-derived (for regionally rare plant records),</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, modelling to predict stream occurrence is available for the Lakehead, Dog River-Matawin and Black Spruce forests. This information may be helpful to support verification of surface water conditions.</p>	<p>Please include the identified data sources to support the desktop review associated with the alternative route evaluation.</p> <p>MNRF can provide predicted stream models for the beforementioned forests.</p>	<p>These data sources have been added to the list as requested. Please note that the list is not exhaustive and these and other data sources are also being evaluated as appropriate.</p> <p>A detailed review of available mapping and high resolution aerial imagery were used to identify the mapped and unmapped water body crossings for the Project. As suggested by the reviewer, the results from the stream occurrence modelling will also be relied on to the extent possible to further refine the water body crossing list, recognizing that the modelling covers a portion of the total project footprint.</p>
3	General comment	<p>Desktop review of wildlife habitat may be derived, for some species, through queries associated with inventory data to identify specific habitats within the study area. For example, queries to the Forest Resource Inventory data may identify seasonal habitat availability such as late or early winter moose habitat.</p> <p>MNRF recommends sharing the parameters associated with these queries with our Ministry in advance, to ensure appropriateness of the approach prior to presenting the information within the EA.</p>	<p>Please provide MNRF with the parameters associated with queries used to identify habitat.</p>	<p>The desktop review of FRI ecosites to identify potentially suitable habitats for wildlife will be performed for both the alternative route evaluations and associated aerial reconnaissance, but also to model the habitat suitability for wildlife criteria and indicators in the EA. Further detail about the screenings performed for the aerial reconnaissance has been provided in the updated 2020 field work plan.</p>

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

<b>Comment #</b>	<b>Section/Page/Table/Figure</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions</b>	<b>Response</b>
4	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>MNRF has created a framework to describe, confirm, and mitigate impacts to Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH). MNRF provides criteria for delineating SWH in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (SWHTG) or in the associated Ecoregional Criteria Schedules for delineating SWH.</p> <p>MNRF has spatial information within LIO to help delineate Moose Aquatic Feeding Areas; however, the MNRF does not have spatial layers specific for all SWH features. Note that it is HONI's responsibility to apply the criteria to delineate and confirm SWH.</p>	The EA should present delineated and confirmed SWH within the study area	<p>The SWHTG and draft SWH Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W have been consulted to inform the selection of criteria and indicators for the alternative route evaluation, as well as to apply search/sensitivity buffers to potential SWH identified through various databases.</p> <p>Detailed SWH mapping will be completed along the preferred route, again consulting the SWHTG and draft SWH Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W and based on additional detailed field work for the preferred route in 2021-2022, and reported on in the net effects assessment (EA).</p>
5	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	On the ground surveys will be needed in addition to aerial reconnaissance for certain surveys. Vegetation, and confirmation of water feature permanency or instream barriers are some of the features that require ground-based field surveys to ensure an appropriate level of accuracy is obtained.	MNRF strongly recommends conducting adequate ground surveys to support the EA analysis and conclusions about potential impacts.	The aerial reconnaissance is intended to 1) support the alternative route evaluation and 2) identify areas or features warranting further investigation during appropriate timing windows and using appropriate survey methodology. Detailed ground-based surveys will be completed along the preferred route in 2021-2022, the results of which will be used to inform the EA.
6	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>For large projects where it is not feasible to sample and field survey every portion of the route, MNRF recommends developing a stratified field sampling method to achieve a reasonable amount of field surveys and coverage to identify wildlife and vegetation values and describe baseline conditions.</p> <p>The Forest Resource Inventory associated with each forest can be a good tool to help stratify the proposed project footprint into measurable units based on ecosystem or habitat. Where prudent, it is also important to provide additional effort in habitat units that are rare or have the potential to contain Species of Conservation Concern or other Natural Heritage features or values (i.e. PSW, ANSI, SWH).</p>	MNRF recommends using a stratified sampling design to adequately survey the study area.	Noted. Comment will be considered in the development of the 2021-2022 field work plan. Please see response to comment 5 regarding intent of the aerial reconnaissance.

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Comment #	Section/Page/Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions	Response
7		<p>MNRF is encouraged that fish community and water quality sampling, as well as fish habitat assessment will be completed for a subset of water crossing sites. However, the field plan does not indicate how water crossing sites will be selected. MNRF has a number of recommendations associated with the selection of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MNRF’s principal interest with regard to water crossings is in sites where there will be work in water, or below the high-water mark. As a result, surveying sites where a clear-span bridge will be used is not necessary and may not be an effective use of survey resources.</li> <li>• MNRF is particularly interested in short-reach small watercourses connected to cold water streams, which may provide critical young-of-year habitat for brook trout. Many of these are seasonal and will not appear in a fall survey; those that do may not have fish present in a fall field survey. For this reason, a single fall field survey will not be considered definitive / adequate to support future permitting.</li> <li>• Finally, a reminder that beaver dams are transient and that the presence of a beaver dam on a watercourse does not necessarily indicate that there are no fish upstream of the dam.</li> </ul>	<p>MNRF recommends that HONI focus its water crossing sampling on sites that may require working in water or below the high-water mark. In addition, the timing of a survey or specific conditions of a waterbody may not enable HONI to accurately characterize a system as having an absence of fish. Additional work to confirm a true absence of fish (or fish species) may be needed where work is planned outside of the timing window.</p>	<p>Noted. The comment will be considered in the development of the 2021-2022 field survey work planning. Specifically, the 2021-2022 field survey sites will be selected where in-water or near water (e.g., clearing of riparian vegetation near a waterbody) work is proposed and/or will be selected to sample a diverse variety of waterbodies along the entire route. It is noted that the presence of potential barriers to fish movement or migration does not necessarily preclude the presence of fish upstream; this has been addressed in the field plan and will be acknowledged in the baseline report.</p>

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Comment #	Section/Page/Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions	Response
8	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The section seems to be focused on 'confirming absence' of mapped streams. An absence of a mapped stream is rare, however there are lots of instances of unmapped streams. MNRF suggests shifting the focus of this section from confirming absence to identifying unmapped streams.</p> <p>Predictive modelling to determine stream occurrence is available from the MNRF for the Lakehead, Dog River-Matawin and Black Spruce forests. This information may be helpful to focus the field verification of surface water conditions.</p> <p>Using the predictive modelling information (where available) in conjunction with ground-based field work to identify unmapped streams is more likely to provide reliable results as compared to aerial reconnaissance surveys alone.</p> <p>In addition, it is challenging enough to categorize stream permanency using ground-based surveys, particularly for small, spring-fed headwater streams which can have high fisheries values. For this reason, MNRF does not recommend using aerial surveys alone to categorize stream permanency.</p> <p>Similarly, the reliability of aerial surveys to identify instream barriers is not likely to be adequate, aside from identifying the presence of a high waterfall. In many instances, instream barriers are flow dependent such that they allow fish passage during certain flow conditions.</p>	<p>MNRF strongly recommends using field verification as opposed to aerial reconnaissance to identify small streams, categorize stream permanency and identify instream barriers.</p>	<p>The 2020 field work plan has been updated to focus on identifying unmapped waterbodies.</p> <p>A detailed review of available mapping and high resolution aerial imagery were used to identify the mapped and unmapped water body crossings for the Project. As suggested by the reviewer, the results from the stream occurrence modelling will also be relied on to the extent possible to further refine the water body crossing list, recognizing that the modelling covers a portion of the total project footprint.</p> <p>During the aerial reconnaissance, inferred permanency will be assessed at every waterbody on the waterbody crossing list, where visible from the air, with a plan to further refine these estimates based on a combination of the results from the ground-based field studies and desktop analyses (e.g., review of historical flow records from available stream gauge stations for similar-scaled catchments). The 2020 field work plan has been updated.</p> <p>The purpose of identifying barriers during the aerial reconnaissance is to identify potential barriers that may limit fish movement or migration. It is acknowledged that potential barriers may be seasonal in nature and that it will be difficult to classify them as actual barriers during the aerial reconnaissance. The 2020 field work plan has been updated.</p>

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

<b>Comment #</b>	<b>Section/Page/Table/Figure</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions</b>	<b>Response</b>
9	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	<p>The aerial reconnaissance flight will focus on confirming and updating or filling in gaps of existing data for vegetation, wetlands and waterbodies as well as identifying potential species at risk habitat.</p> <p>Surveys may be more productive if areas of potential habitat are mapped and then confirmed during the flight. This would provide a more rationalized approach as opposed to an encountered approach.</p>		The 2020 filed work plan has been updated to clarify that mapping of sensitive wildlife and vegetation habitat, as well as areas of potential wildlife habitat, will be mapped prior to the aerial reconnaissance and confirmed during the flight and subsequently used to inform the alternative route evaluation.
10	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	The details of the aerial reconnaissance are not included in the field plan. For example, will the survey consist of a single flight down the center line of a corridor? How wide an area is proposed to be surveyed? The number of transects or passes and the ability of an observer to identify habitat should be considered and included in the survey design.	Please include survey details of the aerial reconnaissance flight in the field plan.	The details of the aerial reconnaissance have been added into the 2020 field work plan. In summary, the helicopter will fly a single transect down each alternative route at a height and speed that observers can visually assess features hundreds of meters beyond the centerline. Additionally, the observers will have iPads with vegetation, wetlands and wildlife habitat features mapped which they will target and veer off the centerline to get a better view and assessment of the quality of the features within 500 m of each alternative route.
11	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	When surveying for significant wildlife features that have an associated buffer (added to minimize impacts from activities), these buffer zones should be identified, mapped and considered during the survey. For instance, many bird species inhabiting stick nests can be impacted by activities within 400m of the nesting site; therefore, a buffer zone of 400m is applied surrounding the nest. Where a stick nest is outside of the study area, but the buffer zone extends within the study area, the survey design should be modified to include the stick nest.	Please ensure aerial reconnaissance and ground field work incorporates features outside of the study area that have buffers, or a zone of influence, that extend into the study area.	SWH and other sensitive wildlife features available through various databases will be buffered following guidelines in the SWHTG and draft SWH Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 3W and all buffered SWH and other sensitive wildlife habitat features that intersect the study area for the alternative route evaluation will be considered in the evaluation and investigated as needed during the aerial reconnaissance.

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

<b>Comment #</b>	<b>Section/Page/T able/Figure</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions</b>	<b>Response</b>
12	4.2.1 Aerial Reconnaissance	An example of an unmapped wildlife habitat resource planned for consideration in the aerial reconnaissance flight, are cracks/ crevices in bedrock features that have the potential to support bat hibernacula. In addition to cracks/crevices within bedrock, consider identifying abandoned anthropogenic structures which are recognized as often supporting bat populations.	MNRF recommends considering these anthropogenic features as potential significant wildlife habitat (bat hibernacula) during the aerial reconnaissance flight, and where sites are identified, following up with ground surveys to determine use by bats.	Unmapped wildlife habitat resources such as cracks and crevices in bedrock features will be noted during the aerial reconnaissance survey. Additionally, abandoned anthropogenic features within the AMIS data are being used to determine their potential as candidate bat hibernacula based on the mine site survey and if they are candidate sites, the intent is to acoustically monitor these features during the swarming period to determine if they are being used by bats.
13	4.2.2. Mine Site survey	Section 4.2.2 states that five AMIS features intersect the alternative routes. What parameters were used to identify these 5 sites? Similar to the comment above about buffer zones or zones of influence, are there any AMIS sites that do not intersect the alternate routes but the buffer (as identified in the significant wildlife habitat guidelines for protecting bat hibernacula) does intersect the alternate route study area? If any of the AMIS sites identified are within the Steep Rock Mine area, please contact the MNRF who can provide information on specific sites prior to conducting ground investigations. Numerous former mine structures and hazards within the Steep Rock Mine site have been decommissioned in recent years, while others are in areas that are closed under the Public Lands Act and are behind locked gates. The MNRF may have recent information on potential use by bats for these sites and can provide details of this information for specific sites upon request, or assist with site access, if needed.	<p>Please state the parameters used to identify the five AMIS sites that may be impacted by the alternative routes.</p> <p>Ensure surveys of bat hibernacula include sites where the buffer (as identified in the significant wildlife habitat guidelines for protecting bat hibernacula) intersects the alternate route study area, but where the point feature (entrance to hibernacula) is outside of the study area.</p> <p>Please contact MNRF for more information about hibernacula or to gain access for field work within the Steep Rock area.</p>	<p>A 500 m was applied to each alternative route and used as the search area for AMIS features during the desktop review. The AMIS features with potential to support bat hibernacula within 500 m each alternative route will be investigated during the mine site survey. The AMIS criteria used to determine whether or not an abandoned mine feature was a candidate hibernacula were: characteristics of the feature (e.g., keywords such as adit or shaft hold more potential than trench or open excavation), dimensions of the feature (i.e., minimum of 15 m deep (referred to as either depth or length of feature in AMIS dataset), and additional details on natural or anthropogenic alterations to these features. This detail has been added to the work plan.</p> <p>Based on this revised approach, three mine sites are within the search area, with most containing multiple features within the site warranting investigation (e.g., adits, shafts; see also response to comment 14).</p>



**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Comment #	Section/Page/T able/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions	Response
14	4.2.2 Mine Site Survey	<p>Five AMIS mine site areas are proposed for investigation in the fall of 2020. Please identify in the field plan the physical characteristics that will be used to identify the potential for the site to be considered bat hibernacula habitat.</p> <p>The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) released interim guidance in June 2020 with respect to reducing the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to bats.</p> <p>Please see:  file:///C:/Users/Berglundna/Downloads/CWHC%20Bat%20Health%20and%20Covid-19%20(Vers%201.1%20June%2025%202020).pdf</p>	<p>In order to reduce the risk of spreading disease to bats from one hibernaculum to another, all current guidance from the CWHC should be adhered to during all bat related field activities and the field plan should specify how the guidance was considered.</p>	<p>Each candidate bat hibernacula will be assessed with a visual inspection conducted from the exterior of cave or mine openings using the methods outlined in the <i>Protocol for Assessing Bat Use of Potential Hibernacula</i> (Pennsylvania Game Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service 2012). If a candidate hibernaculum meets any of the following criteria, the habitat will not longer be considered as candidate hibernacula (Pennsylvania Game Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service 2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ There is one horizontal opening, less than 15 cm in diameter, and no or very little airflow is detected.</li> <li>■ The opening is a vertical shaft less than 0.3 m in diameter.</li> <li>■ The passage terminates at a distance for which the observer can clearly ascertain by visual inspection from the opening that there are no fissures that bats can access.</li> <li>■ The mine is prone to flooding, collapsed shut and completely sealed, or otherwise inaccessible to bats.</li> <li>■ It is a “new” opening, which has occurred recently (less than 1 year old) due to subsidence.</li> </ul> <p>This detail has been added to the 2020 field work plan.</p> <p>There will be no handling of bats or entry into the mine features. This detail has been added to the work plan.</p> <p>References:  Pennsylvania Game Commission and US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2012. Protocol for Assessing Bat Use of Potential Hibernacula. US Fish and Wildlife Services. Accessed October 2020.  <a href="https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/pdf/Cave_and_Mine_survey_protocol_appendix%20A_091012.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pafo/pdf/Cave_and_Mine_survey_protocol_appendix%20A_091012.pdf</a></p>

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Comment #	Section/Page/Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions	Response
15	5.0	<p>MNRF's understanding is that the EA criteria and indicators will be used to evaluate the alternative routes and to inform the full net effects assessment of the preferred route.</p> <p>It is important to ensure the field activities and proposed surveys are related to the specific criteria and indicators identified and that survey results can inform the assessment of potential impacts. For example, it is unclear how frog/toad acoustic monitoring will relate to the above.</p>	<p>Please describe how the 2021/2022 field plan surveys relate to the EA criteria and indicators, including how they will enable the evaluation of alternate routes and the net effects assessment of the preferred route.</p>	<p>The criteria and indicators for the alternative route evaluation differ from those that will be identified for the net effects assessment as the objectives of the evaluations differ. In addition to the list of criteria and indicators proposed in the draft ToR for the route evaluation, an additional preliminary list of criteria and indicators for the net effects assessment will be proposed in the updated ToR. These are based on previous EA experience in the region and used to develop the field program. Final selection of the net effects assessment criteria will be dependent on the selection of the preferred route and outcome of the field investigations along the preferred route. The field surveys support the characterization of the existing environment along the preferred route and thereby allow for the determination of project interactions with the environment and identification of appropriate criteria (e.g., species whose habitat was determined to overlap with the preferred route). This approach will be further detailed in the 2021/2022 work plan.</p>
16	5.0	<p>Details in this section are limited, presumably because they will be provided in the 2021-2022 work plan. To ensure adequate time for MNRF to review and provide comment, the work plan should be shared with the review team well in advance of beginning of the 2021 field season, and it should include detailed information on survey methods, including protocols to be used, site-selection methodology, survey site locations, and survey timing.</p>	<p>Please share the 2021-2022 work plan with MNRF to ensure proposed surveys are appropriate.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

**Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Comment #	Section/Page/Table/Figure	Comment	Recommendations / Preliminary Conclusions	Response
17	General	<p>MNRF's understanding is that the aerial reconnaissance flight and desktop surveys, which are focused on confirming and updating known values and investigating potential SAR habitat, are the only works to be completed prior to selecting a preferred route.</p> <p>Aerial characterization of potential habitat has limited efficacy in identifying areas that will be used for critical life processes (e.g. big brown bat hibernacula). Similarly, these initial desktop reviews and aerial surveys will not allow for a comparison of general biodiversity indicators amongst routes.</p> <p>This high-level assessment will not provide the detail necessary for a thorough evaluation of the criteria and indicators needed for the alternative route assessment.</p> <p>The alternative route assessment would be better substantiated by completing the survey activities described in section 5.0 on all route alternatives prior to selection of the preferred route. This would enable the preferred route selection process to take into account differences in ecological indicators (including general biodiversity indicators such as anurans, forest birds, marsh birds, etc.) amongst all proposed routes.</p> <p>As it is not feasible to sample and field survey every portion of the suite of alternative routes, MNRF recommends developing a stratified field sampling method to achieve a reasonable coverage of the study area for which the collection of ecological indicator data could be used to support a more robust alternative routes assessment.</p>	<p>MNRF strongly suggests expanding the field program beyond updating existing values, identifying SAR habitat and AMIS surveys, to support the alternative route assessment. MNRF further recommends developing a stratified field sampling method to achieve reasonable coverage of the study area for the same purpose of supporting a robust alternative routes assessment.</p>	<p>See Appendix A.</p>

## Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNR review

### Appendix A - Response to Comment #17

The routing and alternative assessment methodology proposed for this Project is based on the EPRI-GTC Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology (EPRI-GTC 2006) which has been successfully applied on numerous transmission projects in Canada and the USA. A recent Canadian example of this approach is the Manitoba – Minnesota Transmission Project (Manitoba Hydro 2015).

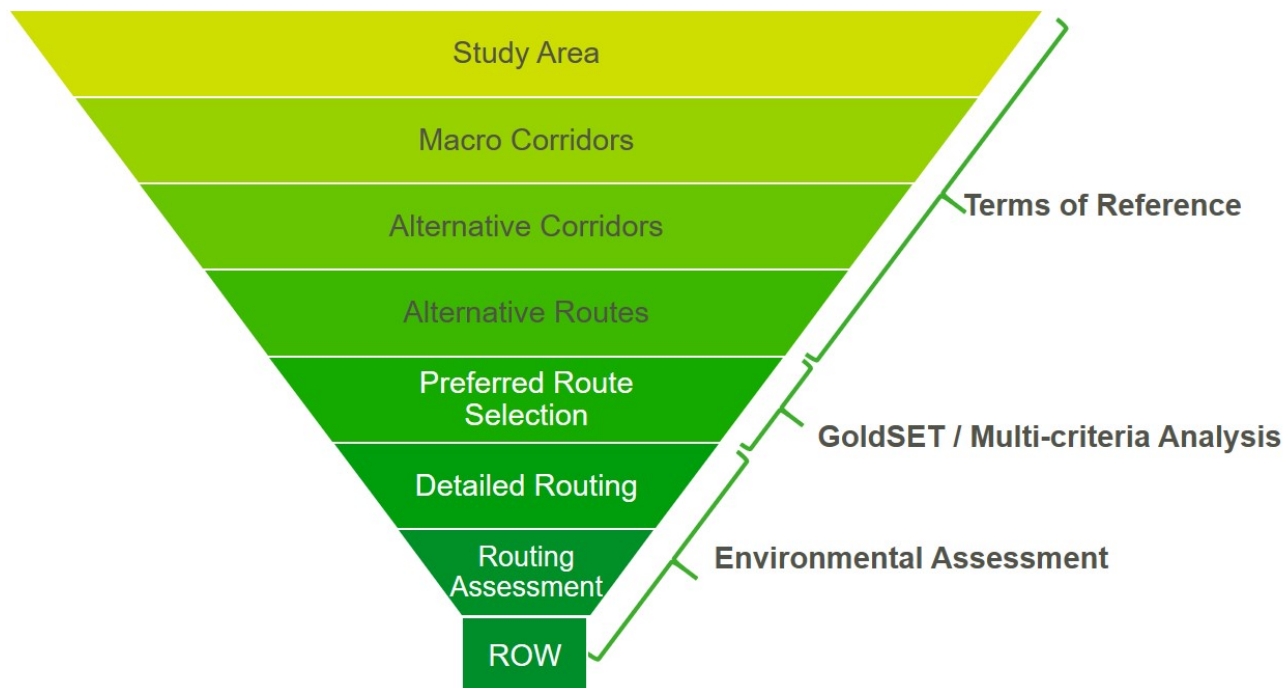


Figure 1: EPRI-GTC Methodology Conceptual Overview of Process Flow

A cornerstone of this approach is the narrowing of focus beginning at a regional study area, within which, macro corridors are identified through a process of GIS multi-criteria analysis typically including environmental, social and technical considerations (Figure 1). The corridors are derived and selected based on available local, regional and landscape level data where information is readily obtainable from public and government sources.

It is generally understood that data at this scale contains errors and uncertainty that are likely distributed evenly across corridors, i.e., all corridors are equally accurate (or inaccurate) such that the corridors can be directly compared to one another. Accuracy is defined as the degree or closeness to which the information on a map matches the values and characteristics of the real world and signifies how reliable the measured or calculated quantity is. Accuracy should not be confused with precision which signifies the degree to which the measured feature can be detected or resolved. Data can be accurate but not precise and vice-versa. For example, a map polygon can correctly delineate the extent of a wetland area but may not precisely show the exact locations and distribution of individual wetland features within the polygon. However, it is still useful to know that the polygon contains wetlands at that scale over a given area, and exactly *where* the wetland features are may not be useful to how we apply the information to make decisions at a macro or corridor scale.

## **Waasigan Transmission Line – 2020 Field Work Plan: MNRF review**

Accuracy and precision are a function of scalability, with both increasing as scale becomes smaller (i.e., higher resolution). However, as the map scale becomes more highly resolved for a given extent, the cost, effort and time required to obtain the more precise data can increase exponentially as progressively more expensive methods must be adopted such as aerial and/or ground truthing. In general, sufficient local and regional level data is available from existing public databases, agencies and Forest Management Plans to allow for an appropriate comparison of alternatives. This desktop process will also be supplemented by an aerial reconnaissance which will be used to verify the desktop data and, where required, fill in any gaps in the data used for the assessment. As a result, for the alternative corridor level option assessment, regional scale information, supplemented with an aerial reconnaissance, is considered sufficient for the purposes of differentiating between alternatives in the most cost-effective and timely way.

To build on the previous example of wetlands, accurately knowing the total area of wetlands encompassed by different corridor options will allow us to make decisions about which corridor may be best (i.e., least impactful) by selecting the one with the lowest wetland area contained. Knowing where the detailed wetland features are precisely is not important at the corridor stage, only that we have selected the option with the lowest level of occurrence. By extension, by reducing the amount of wetland area in the corridor, we logically have reduced the number of potential features which may occur in that location.

Once a preferred route has been selected it drastically reduces the area of interest which must be studied at more precise scales and allows sample density and intensity to be maximized for a given level of effort, time and cost. It is at this stage that the ground-based biophysical surveys, as outlined in Section 5 of the field work plan, are appropriate and provide sufficient value. The information collected during these surveys can then be used to refine the project footprint to avoid or minimize negative effects on sensitive features resulting in the least-impactful ROW.

The completion of ground-based biophysical surveys on all alternative corridor options would also significantly delay the overall project schedule by delaying the selection of a preferred route and ultimately the development of a full project footprint. This would then in turn delay the start of other project requirements such as starting archaeological field programs which requires both a final project footprint and can also take years depending on the results.

### **References:**

- EPRI-GTC. 2006. "EPRI-GTC Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology", Electric Power Research Institute publication # 1013080.
- Manitoba Hydro 2015. Manitoba – Minnesota Transmission Project, Environmental Impact Statement. Transmission Line Routing – Chapter 5. Available at [https://www.hydro.mb.ca/docs/regulatory\\_affairs/projects/mmtp/eis/mmtp\\_eis\\_chapter05\\_transmission\\_line\\_routing.pdf](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/docs/regulatory_affairs/projects/mmtp/eis/mmtp_eis_chapter05_transmission_line_routing.pdf). Accessed September 29, 2020.

**Hydro One Networks Inc.**

Sarah Cohanin

Via email

October 16, 2020

**RE: Waasigan transmission line project – Revised 2020 Field Plan - MNRF Response to HONI's Comments**

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) with Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (HONI) responses to the ministry's comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project, and the updated 2020 Field Work Plan (both dated October 15, 2020).

Our understanding is that the 2020 field work is already partially complete, and that reconnaissance flights are planned to occur next week (Oct. 20-24).

Given that the reconnaissance flights are imminent, the ministry is providing comments today focused on the methodology for the reconnaissance work; we may also provide additional comment on other information in the updated 2020 Field Work Plan in the future.

MNRF understands that HONI plans to conduct these flights using a single transect at a height of 6-15m above the tree tops, with crews viewing the landscape 500m either side of the flight line. As you may be aware, MNRF has extensive experience in conducting aerial inventories for various species / habitat features and is concerned that employing this methodology to assess features will result in values / potential values being missed. For example, moose aerial inventories are flown at an average height of 150m above ground level and at this height observers are looking to thoroughly survey an area approximately 250m on either side of the machine. Flying at decreased heights will provide a greater level of detail for the immediate flight area but will limit the range of observations significantly.

The 2020 Field Work Plan, draft Terms of Reference and additional detail and explanation provided by HONI state that HONI intends to rely solely on desktop analyses and information from aerial reconnaissance to inform its identification of the preferred transmission line corridor (i.e. no ground-based field studies to verify or further inform the analysis); as such, the potential shortcomings of the planned aerial reconnaissance methodology are significant. MNRF's ability

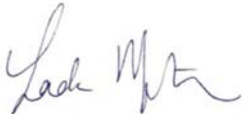
to understand and validate any conclusions presented in the Environmental Assessment on the basis of information collected via aerial reconnaissance will be considerably constrained.

As mentioned above, we are providing these comments today given that flights are planned to occur next week. Should HONI wish to discuss these comments in consideration of making changes to its reconnaissance methodology, we would be happy to do so.

We also wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our earlier comments on the draft 2020 Field Work Plan and draft Terms of Reference that aerial reconnaissance and desktop analysis are not sufficient to inform the selection of the preferred corridor given the lack of existing data points / information in the project area, and that on the ground surveys should be used to help fill in data gaps in order to better inform the preferred route selection.

In closing, we trust that the above will be of assistance to Hydro One when conducted field work to be used during preparation of the EA, and selection of the preferred route. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any inquiries to Heather Nelson at [heather.nelson@ontario.ca](mailto:heather.nelson@ontario.ca).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Londa Mortson".

Londa Mortson  
Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Cc : Bruce Hopper

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**Hydro One Networks Inc.**  
Sarah Cohanim  
Via email

April 9, 2021

**RE: Waasigan transmission line project – MNRF review of the 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan**

Dear Sarah Cohanim,

Thank you for providing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) with the draft 2021 Alternative Routes Field Work Plan (henceforth the “2021 Field Plan”) and the table of Criteria and Indicators that Hydro One Networks Inc (HONI) proposes to use for the alternatives analysis for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project. The Ministry has reviewed the documents and is providing our comments via this letter.

**General comment:**

MNRF recommended in our January 2021 review of HONI’s draft 2020 Field Plan that ground surveys for both fisheries and terrestrial values should be used to help fill in data gaps in order to better inform selection of the preferred route. MNRF understands that HONI’s rationale for using only existing data (and not conducting ground-based field work) as part of the alternate route analysis (see HONI’s response to comment #17 in the attachment entitled Appendix 1) is based on the idea that data at the regional scale contains errors and uncertainty that are likely distributed evenly across corridors. From MNRF’s perspective, this rationale is only appropriate where there are no extensive gaps in values information within the study area. Values information to support identification of significant wildlife habitat (SWH) or sensitive fisheries habitat (e.g. lake trout, brook trout, nursery and spawning areas) in the Waasigan study area is limited. It is because of these extensive data gaps that MNRF recommends identifying candidate SWH features and sensitive fisheries habitat via desktop analysis and then conducting ground-based field studies to confirm the presence or absence of these values.



Terrestrial specific comments:

MNRF notes that the tables within the 2021 Field Plan explicitly identified the use of “candidate” Species at Risk habitat. In contrast, the Criteria and Indicators spreadsheet suggests that only existing SWH values from MNRF's existing datasets will be used in the alternate route evaluation. As a result, it is unclear from the text in the 2021 Field plan whether HONI's intent is to conduct field work to verify “known” SWH and other features (e.g. stick nests, rare plant communities, mineral licks) that are already mapped in available datasets OR whether HONI's intent is to ground-truth candidate SWH and other features that are newly identified through HONI's desktop analyses. MNRF highly recommends excluding the verification of known features at this stage and, instead, focusing the desktop analysis on identifying candidate features and, ideally, ground truthing these candidate features to confirm the presence or absence of SWH and other features. We also ask that the 2021 Field Plan and Criteria and Indicator table be updated to clarify HONI's intent.

Hydro One is already committed to completing detailed SWH mapping (to identify candidate SWH and other features) as part of the preferred route evaluation. Our recommendation is to move this SWH mapping forward to also support the alternate route evaluation. This GIS-based analysis to identify candidate SWH and other features, followed by a stratified field design to substantiate the presence or absence of values, will address the Ministry's main concern that field work is designed to fill in data gaps. In doing so, MNRF would also like to see the details of the data processing to identify SWH updated in the criteria and indicator's table.

Fisheries specific comments:

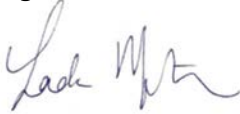
From MNRF's perspective, where values such as lake trout or brook trout are previously documented in a waterbody it is unnecessary to assess whether the habitat is suitable for the species. The presence of the species already confirms suitable habitat, and ground truthing the value at the alternate route evaluation stage is unnecessary. Similar to the comment above related to SWH, MNRF highly recommends excluding the verification of known sensitive fisheries values at this stage and instead focusing efforts on a desktop analysis to identify candidate sensitive fish habitat, followed by developing a stratified field design to substantiate the presence or absence of sensitive fish habitat.

It is unclear in the documents provided how the collection of fish habitat potential will support the alternate route evaluation as habitat potential is not identified as an indicator for the fish and fish habitat criteria. Nevertheless, where HONI is planning to use this information for another purpose, please consider the following: the ranking scheme for fish habitat potential (provided on p. 23) appears to overlook the importance of small, short-run ephemeral watercourses for young of year habitat (e.g. brook trout), as well as the importance of cold water seeps and small streams for the maintenance of thermal regimes in watercourses, regardless of whether these seeps and streams support fish populations directly. We recommend including ephemeral to semi-permanent flow regimes as part of the High habitat rating.

Finally, for HONI's awareness, fish sanctuaries are not necessarily indicative of sensitive fish habitat. A fish sanctuary is a legally designated area where all fishing is prohibited and is used by the MNRF as a resource management tool. In the context of the alternate route evaluation, it is inappropriate to assess whether fish sanctuaries are suitable or not. We recommend removing this from the list of Criteria and Indicators.

In closing, we trust that the above comments will be of assistance to Hydro One when planning for field work. We thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input and are available to discuss these comments should you have any questions. Please direct any inquiries to Nancy Berglund (nancy.berglund@ontario.ca). I would also like to let you know that the Ministry is deferring our review of the 2021-2022 field work plan to support the assessment of the preferred route until we are provided with the updated list of Criteria and Indicators, as this document is integral to providing a thorough review.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Londa Mortson".

Londa Mortson  
Regional Resources Manager, Northwest Region  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Cc: Bruce Hopper