

Hydro One Networks

Supply to Essex County
Class Environmental Assessment

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March 4, 2008



Purpose of this Meeting

- Introduce an upcoming Class Environmental Assessment (EA) project for new electricity transmission infrastructure in Essex County
- Seek your input on the proposed facilities and study areas
- Become acquainted with you and local issues
- Invite you to participate in the Class EA process and find out how you wish to be kept informed or involved

Who is Hydro One?

- Owner / operator of Ontario's high voltage transmission network, serving large industrial users & local distribution companies (LDCs)
- Distribution network serves 1.3 million customers mainly in rural and small urban communities, incl. smaller LDCs
- Province of Ontario is sole shareholder



Hydro One's Role in System Development

- Implement transmission solutions
- Obtain Ministry of Environment and Ontario Energy Board approvals as required for new facilities or facility upgrades
- Conduct public and stakeholder consultation in accordance with *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements
- Design and construct new facilities once approved



The Need for New Transmission Infrastructure

- Need for new transmission capacity in the Windsor – Essex region confirmed by Ontario Power Authority in consultation with local distribution companies and Hydro One

Supply to Essex County Class Environmental Assessment Project

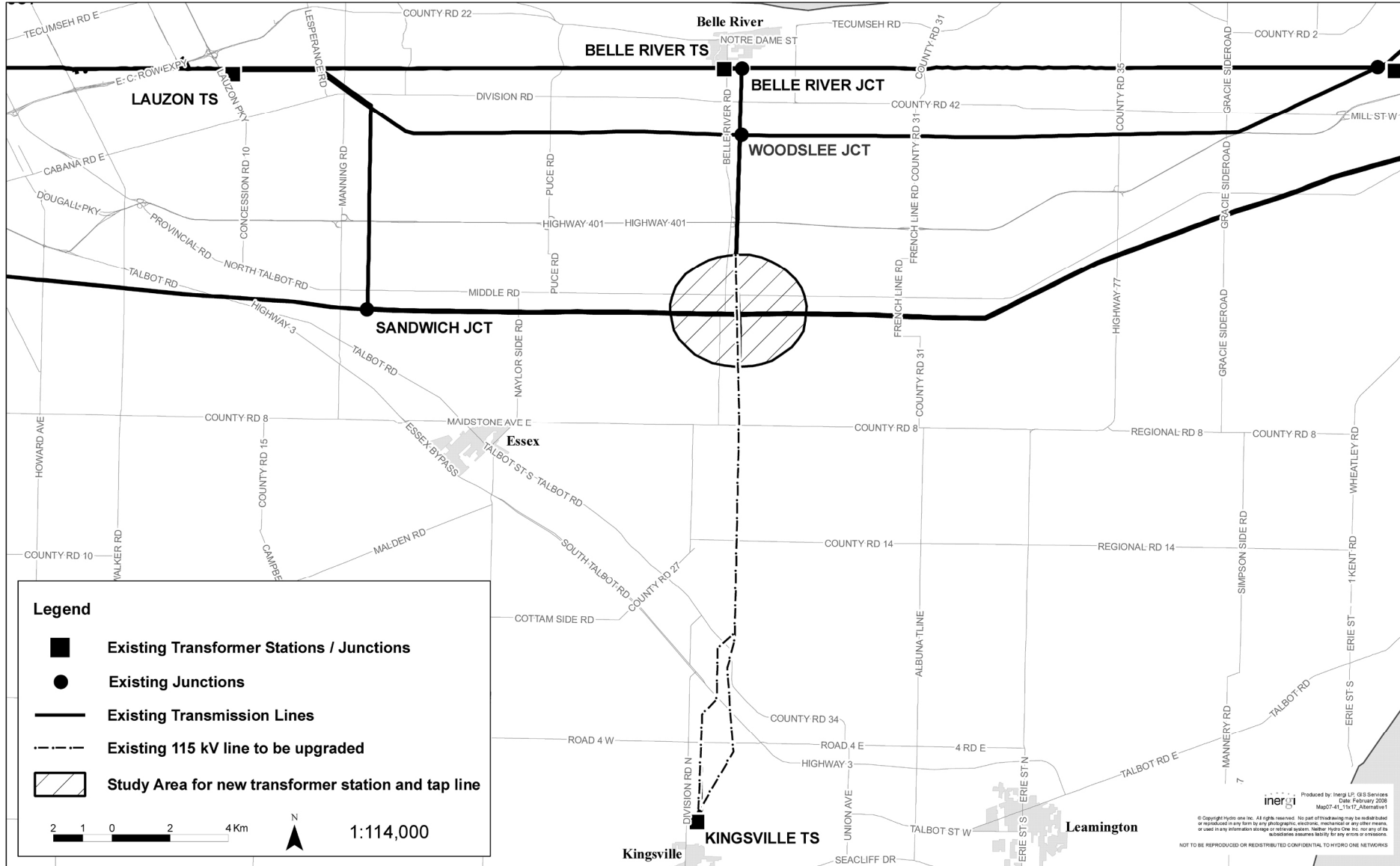
- First of two projects Hydro One will undertake to address identified needs in Essex County
- A new transformer station (TS) and associated transmission line facilities or upgrades are required to relieve overloading of the 115 kV circuits supplying Hydro One's Kingsville TS
- Hydro One will evaluate and collect public input on two alternative options. Both options are technically feasible, meet the identified need and target in-service date.



Option 1

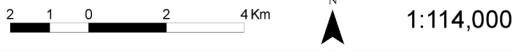


Supply to Essex County: Study Area for Alternative 1



Legend

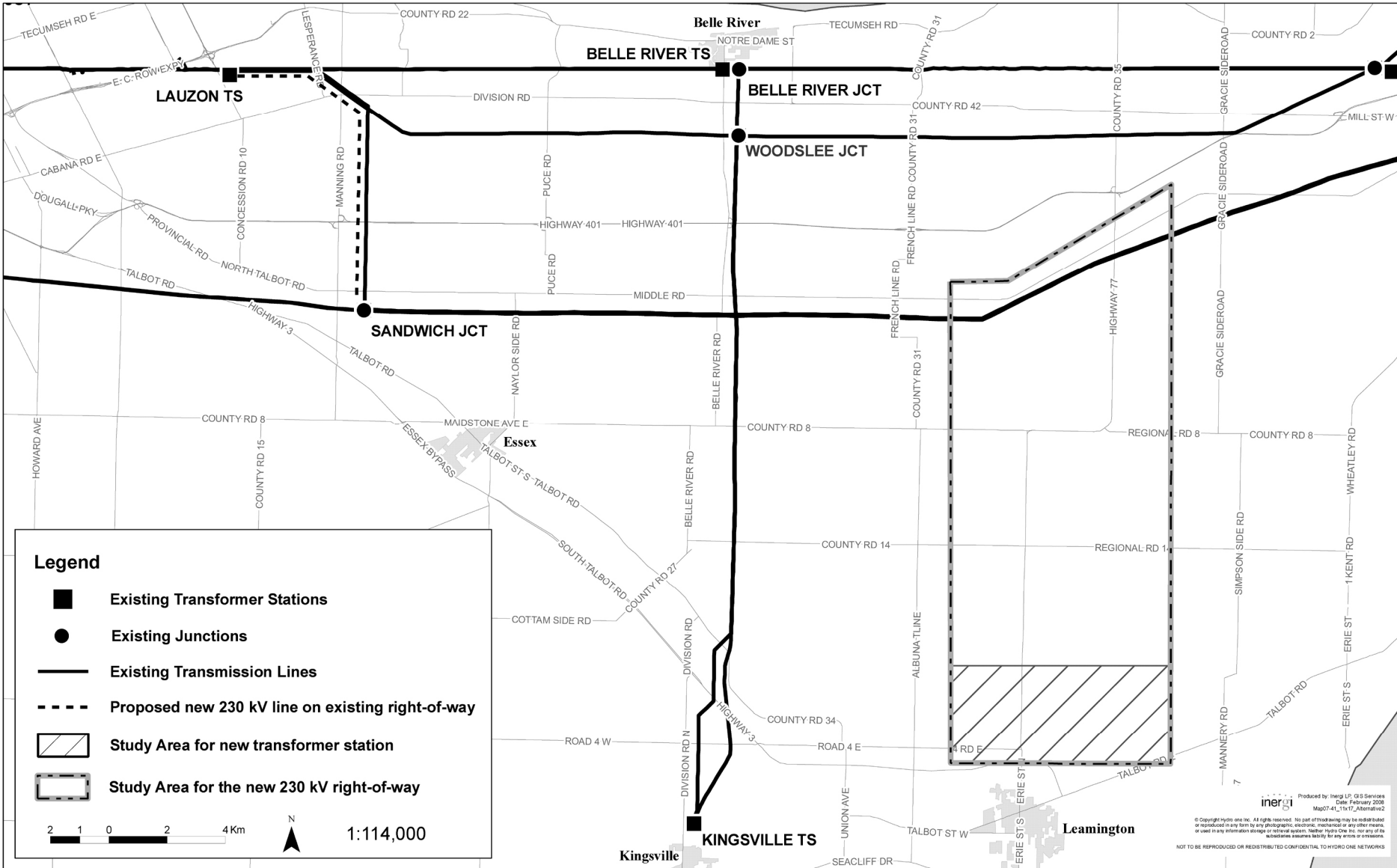
- Existing Transformer Stations / Junctions
- Existing Junctions
- Existing Transmission Lines
- Existing 115 kV line to be upgraded
- Study Area for new transformer station and tap line



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 Map0741_1141_Alternative1
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Option 2

Supply to Essex County: Study Area for Alternative 2



Legend

- Existing Transformer Stations
- Existing Junctions
- Existing Transmission Lines
- - - Proposed new 230 kV line on existing right-of-way
- ▨ Study Area for new transformer station
- ▭ Study Area for the new 230 kV right-of-way

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Project Approval Requirements

- Ontario Environmental Assessment Act
 - The facilities are subject to provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* approval in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities
- Ontario Energy Board Act
 - “Leave to Construct” approval is required under Section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*
- Other project-specific permitting and legislative requirements may also be required

Target Project Timelines

- Initiate Class EA and Public Consultation *March/April 2008*
- Identify Preferred Transmission Option *Spring 2008*
- Identify preferred TS site and transmission line route *Spring/Summer 2008*
- Anticipated Class EA and OEB approvals *Fall 2008*
- Start of construction *Spring 2009*
- Project in-service date *Spring 2011*

Class EA Process

- In 1978, a Class EA for minor transmission facilities was developed and approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and implemented by the former Ontario Hydro. The Class EA was updated in 1992.
- The Class EA process is an effective way of ensuring that minor transmission projects with a predictable range of effects are planned and carried out in an environmentally-acceptable manner
- Public consultation is a key part of the process, and stakeholders have the opportunity to review and comment on Hydro One's Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the project

Class EA Process (continued)

- If no concerns are expressed during the public review period, the project is considered acceptable. Hydro One then files a final ESR with the MOE and approval is granted.
- If concerns are expressed during the review period, Hydro One will attempt to resolve them in order to complete the Class EA process
- If stakeholders are dissatisfied with the process or Hydro One's project recommendations, they may request that the Minister of the Environment "bump up" the project to an individual EA.

Environmental Planning Process

- The potential effects of the project will be identified during project planning and design as part of the Class EA process, including potential effects on the:
 - Natural Environment
 - Cultural Environment
 - Agricultural Environment
 - Socio-economic Environment
- Key sources of information include: MNR databases; aerial photography; official plans; public and agency consultation

Development of Criteria

- Consider potential effects of the project on the components of the environment
- Develop evaluation criteria and indicators where applicable

Examples of Evaluation Criteria

- Natural environment
 - Environmentally significant areas (significant habitat, species at risk); forest resources (wooded areas)
- Cultural environment
 - Built heritage (built and landscape features)
- Agricultural environment
 - Soil capability and land use; specialty crop production
- Socio-economic environment
 - Effects on residential and commercial properties; landscape and visual assessment; mineral and aggregate resources (pits and quarries); recreational facilities; Provincial Policy Statement
- Technical Considerations & Cost

Public Consultation Process

- Notification of study commencement on-going communication with municipal officials, potentially-affected property owners and other key stakeholders (e.g. government agencies, MPPs, First Nations and interested groups) throughout the EA and OEB approvals processes
- Interaction with potentially-affected property owners and interested parties via Public Information Centres (PICs), and ongoing communication via:
 - Website: www.HydroOneNetworks.com/newprojects
 - Information Line: 1-877-345-6799
 - Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

Scheduled Public Consultation Activities

- Project announcement in local newspapers
 - *After Easter weekend*
- Public Information Centres (PICs) at key stages
 - *First round of PICs in mid-April*
 - *Second round when preferred option is determined*
- Opportunity for public participation in Ontario Energy Board review of Hydro One's "Leave to Construct" application
- Public review and comment on Hydro One' draft Environmental Study Report

How can you help?

- Contribute planning/land use data and other information to assist project team in evaluating the project options
- Provide property owners mailing information to assist with public notification
- Participate at public information centres in your communities
- Contact members of the project team at any time with questions or comments
- Provide a letter supporting Hydro One's OEB and Class EA submissions