



SAGAMOK
ANISHNAWBEK

Environmental Reports Overview

Northeast Power Line & North Shore Link Projects

Update - June 2026

Meeting Agenda

For Both Environmental Reports:

✓ General project status update

🔍 Surveys completed

🐾 Key findings

🌳 Proposed mitigation measures

? Q & A

Questions raised by Sagamok during the last presentation
have been answered by Hydro One!

We will be providing these answers throughout

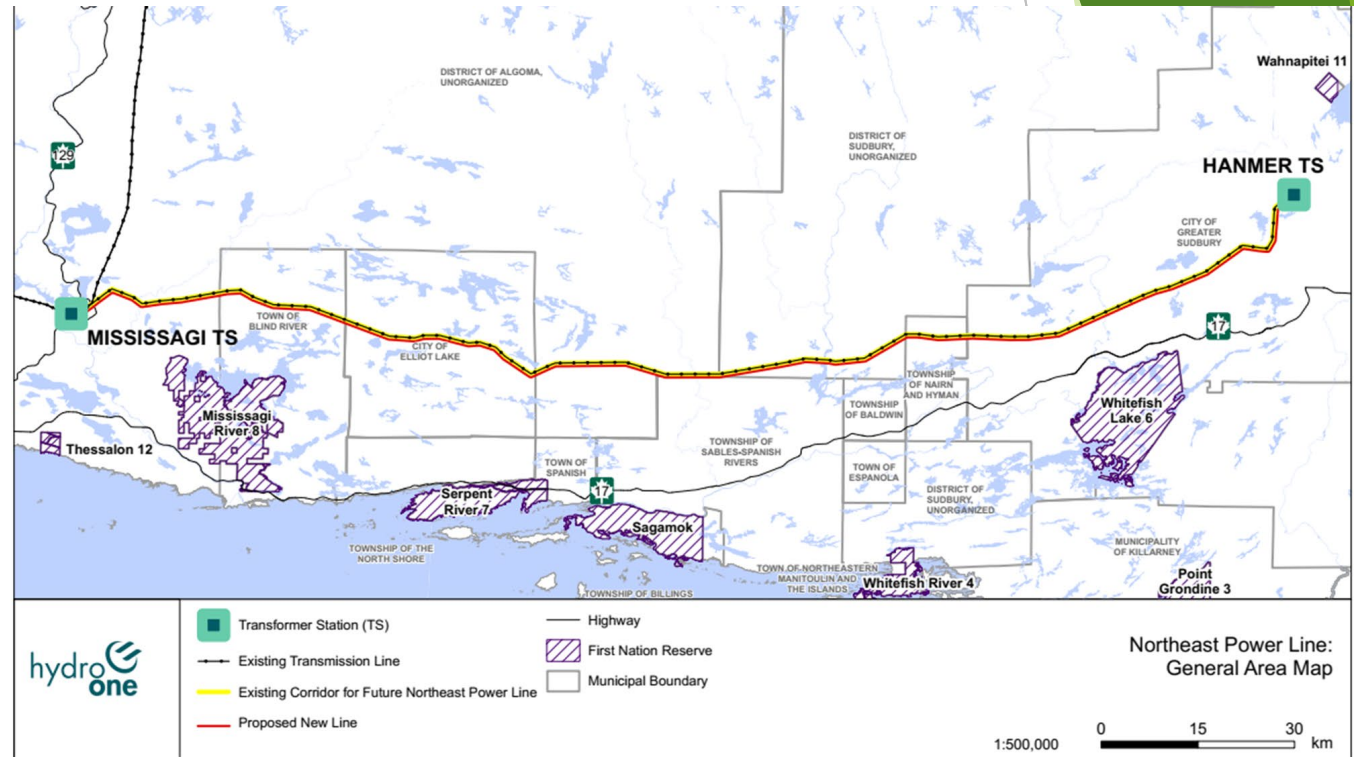
*Note: questions and answers have been summarized,
but are available to be read in their entirety
if any questions should arise 😊*

Project Status Update

June 2026

Northeast (NEPL) Project

- ▶ New transmission line
- ▶ Hanmer TS (Sudbury) to Mississagi TS (Wharncliffe)
- ▶ Installed directly next to pre-existing transmission line

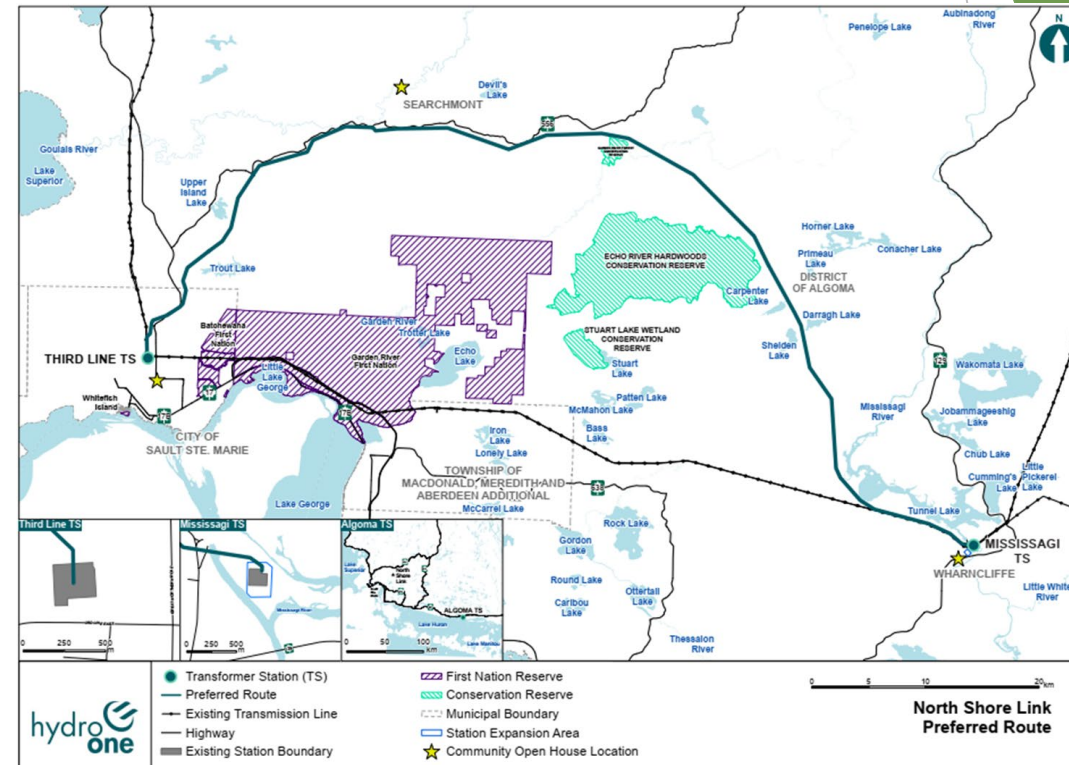


Status

- Environmental Report reviewed, edits suggested
- waiting on new version

North Shore Link (NSL) Project

- ▶ New transmission line
- ▶ Mississagi TS (Wharncliffe) to Third Line TS (Sault Ste. Marie)
- ▶ New line does not follow old line route



Status

- Environmental Report reviewed, edits suggested
- New version released incorporating edits, currently being reviewed

Project Timeline

Milestone	Date
Notice of Commencement	July 2024
Community Open House to introduce Project and Route Evaluation Process	Fall 2024
Field surveys (natural environment & archaeology), including Indigenous monitor participation	Summer/Fall 2024, Spring/Summer/Fall 2025
Route Evaluation including Technical Advisory Committee Workshops with Communities	Fall 2024/Winter 2025
Preferred Route Announcement Notice	Summer 2025
Community Open Houses to discuss evaluation results and preferred route announcement	Fall 2025
Archaeological field work	Spring/Summer/Fall 2026
Draft Environmental Study Report public review period	Spring 2026
Final Environmental Study Report & EA Completion	Fall 2026
Permits & approvals (including S.92)	2026-2027
Construction start	2027
Project in service	2029

Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Project Timeline (slide 1 of 2)

What concerns were raised by other First Nations Communities?

- Other first nations concerns are all included in the report, which is public available. Common themes included questions about pesticide use and impacts to medicinal plants.

When will the remediation plans be released?

- Restoration plans will be outlined in the Environmental Management System and finalized before construction completion. Input is welcome.

Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Project Timeline (slide 2 of 2)

When will the Environmental Management System be developed? How will Indigenous Knowledge be incorporated?

- It will be prepared ahead of construction using input gathered from First Nations consultation.

When will the Biodiversity Initiative details be released?

- It will be made publicly available at the start of construction in winter/spring 2027.

Surveys Completed

To inform the Environmental Reports

Environmental Data Collection

Surveyor: AtkinsRealis Canada Inc.

New Power Line Corridor width: 50m

Background Desktop Review

- Online database/historical records
- Conducted for the Local Study Area (LSA) 500m to either side of powerline

Field Surveys

- Boots-on-ground surveys to confirm desktop review
- Conducted in the Project Study Area (PSA) 120m to either side of powerline

Note: Species not found during surveys but which live in habitats present within the Study Area are assumed to be there.

Field Surveys



Habitats

- Ecosystem mapping
- Assessment for animal habitat suitability



Vegetation

- List of all vegetation species seen
- spring, summer, fall



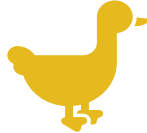
Frogs/Toads

- Dusk breeding call surveys
- spring/summer



Turtles

- Basking surveys
- spring/summer



Birds

- Daytime and nighttime call ID
- spring/summer



Fish

- Electrofishing + eDNA water analysis
- summer



Bats

- Nighttime audio call surveys
- summer



General Wildlife

- List of all other wildlife seen/heard

Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Field Survey Design

Why were snakes excluded from the study?

- There are no species at risk snakes in the project area, so field surveys were not conducted. Both projects were assessed during the Desktop Assessment for snake overwintering structures (hibernacula).

Key Findings

Significant Features

Species at Risk

- Species classified as endangered/threatened/special concern
- Protected by federal/provincial acts

Significant Wildlife Habitat

- Habitats protected by provincial government policy: seasonal concentration area, location for regionally rare vegetation communities, specialized habitats for wildlife, habitats of species of conservation concern, animal movement corridors

Cultural Keystone Species

- Species that are important to First Nations due to their importance to:
 - Subsistence hunting/harvesting
 - Cultural role in art, language, ceremony, spirituality, and identity

Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Significant Features

How will the project be affected by the new provincial species at risk act?

- The project will be carried out under the new *Species Conservation Act (2025)*. All activities impacting a species at risk will be registered online for public comment and a Conservation Plan will be implemented to prevent/offset any impacts.

Species at Risk		
► Present - observed during field surveys ► Likely - not observed but assumed present ► X - not observed, assumed absent		
Species	NEPL	NSL
Black Ash	Present	Present
Butternut	X	Likely
Blanding’s Turtle	Present	Likely
Midland Painted Turtle	Present	Present
Snapping Turtle	Likely	Likely
Wood Turtle	Likely	Likely
Bank Swallow	Present	X
Barn Swallow	Present	X
Canada Warbler	Present	Present
Chimney Swift	Present	Present
Common Nighthawk	Present	Present
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Present	Present

Species	NEPL	NSL
Eastern Wood-pewee	Present	Present
Evening Grosbeak	Present	Present
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Present	X
Peregrine Falcon	Present	X
Rusty Blackbird	Present	Present
Wood Thrush	Present	Present
Eastern Red Bat	Present	Present
Eastern Small-footed Myotis	Present	Present
Hoary Bat	Present	Present
Little Brown Bat	Present	Present
Northern Long-eared Bat	Present	Present
Silver-haired Bat	Present	Present
Lake Sturgeon	Likely	Likely
Northern Brook Lamprey	Likely	Likely
Silver Lamprey	Likely	Likely
Hickorynut	X	Likely

Significant Wildlife Habitat

- Present - observed during field surveys
- Likely - not observed but assumed present
- X - not observed, assumed absent

Habitat	NEPL	NSL
Woodland Amphibian Breeding Habitat	Present	Present
Wetland Amphibian Breeding Habitat	Present	Likely
Amphibian Movement Corridors	Likely	Likely
Turtle Wintering Areas	Present	Present
Turtle Nesting Habitat	Likely	Likely
Marsh Bird Breeding Habitat	Present	Present
Woodland Raptor Nesting Habitat	Likely	Likely
Bald Eagle and Osprey Nesting/Foraging/Perching Habitat	X	Present
Snake Hibernaculum	Likely	Likely

Habitat	NEPL	NSL
Colonially-Nesting Bird Breeding Habitat	X	Likely
Shrub/Early Successional Bird Breeding Habitat	X	Likely
Waterfowl Nesting Area	X	Likely
Bat Maternity Colony	Likely	Likely
Bat Hibernacula	Likely	Likely
Deer Yarding Areas	Present	Present
Moose Aquatic Feeding Habitat	Present	Present
Late winter Moose Habitat	Present	X
Seeps and Springs	Likely	Present
Cervid Movement Corridor	Likely	Likely
Mineral Licks	Likely	Likely
Denning Sites	Likely	Likely
Furbearer Movement Corridors	Likely	Likely

Category	NEPL	NSL
Plants	Black Ash, Velvet-leaved Blueberry, Labrador Tea, Paper Birch, Eastern White Cedar, Early Lowbush Blueberry, Cranberry	Black Ash, Velvet-leaved Blueberry, Labrador Tea, Paper Birch, Eastern White Cedar, Early Lowbush Blueberry, Cranberry
Turtles	Midland Painted Turtle, Wood Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Blanding's Turtle	Midland Painted Turtle, Wood Turtle, Snapping Turtle
Birds	Duck sp., Goose sp., Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Snipe, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Mourning Dove, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle	Duck sp., Goose sp., Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Snipe, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Mourning Dove, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle
Fish	Pike, Trout, Walleye, Sucker	Pike, Trout, Walleye, Sucker
Mammals	Wolf, Bear, Beaver, Moose, Muskrat	Beaver, Moose, Deer, Muskrat

Cultural Keystone Species

► Note: additional species may be present, these are only confirmed species

Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Survey Results

Is Labrador Tea in the project area?

- Yes. Labrador Tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*) was found in both project areas.

Were Elk studied as part of the Environmental Assessment?

- Elk are not a species at risk, so they were not studied. No Elk were found during field surveys. If Elk are encountered during construction, they will be handled as per the Wildlife Encounter Protocol which will be included in the Environmental Management System.

Least Bittern was not found during the Environmental studies. Community members report that it is present.

- Hydro One did not find that Least Bitterns are present during critical life stages (e.g. breeding) based on the results of their Desktop Review and Field Surveys. They acknowledge that Least Bitterns may pass through the project area but based on results do not believe they will be present or affected by the project.

Mitigation Measures

Habitats + Vegetation

- Vegetation removal will be minimized where possible
- Mats or gravel will be used to minimize effects to soil
- Erosion prevention/control measures will be implemented to avoid sediment runoff
- Work activities within wetlands will be minimized to the extent practical
- Culverts or drains will be used to maintain water flow
- No maintenance or fueling of machinery will be planned to occur within 30 m of the wetland
- Construction areas will be restored with native plants after project completion

NEPL
+ NSL

Note: Black Ash does not receive protection in this region. No mitigation measures are planned.



Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - Habitats + Vegetation (slide 1 of 2)

Wetland protection is a priority for the community. How will they be protected?

- The Project Environmental Management Plan will include a Wetlands Plan. Work in wetland and riparian areas will be minimized where possible and work completed using lower disturbance methods. Work near wetlands will be completed in winter when possible.

Can the community be notified of Black Ash and given the ash for usage?

- Hydro One can notify Sagamok of any Black Ash removal in Sagamok Territory and offer it for use where it is not on private property or covered by a Forestry License.

Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - Habitats + Vegetation (slide 2 of 2)

Is there an opportunity for Labrador Tea planting as part of the post-project reseeding?

- Hydro One has not yet identified seed mixes planned for reseeding. There may be opportunities to re-plant or seed Labrador Tea as part of the Biodiversity Initiative.

What is the plan to protect medicinal plants found in the project area?

- No specific locations within the project areas have been identified during consultation by any First Nations group as being an area of medicinal plant harvest. Should specific areas be identified, Hydro One is open to discussions regarding preservation, restoration, and/or compensation of the habitat.

Frogs/Toads

- Boundaries of important wildlife habitats will be flagged prior to clearing
- Temporary amphibian exclusion fencing will be installed where necessary to minimize the potential for amphibians to access construction areas



Frogs/Toads

NSL

- Boundaries of important wildlife habitats will be flagged prior to clearing



Turtles

NEPL

- Potential turtle nesting areas, and Blanding's turtle habitat will be flagged prior to clearing
- Daily sweeps of work areas within/directly adjacent to SAR reptile habitat will be performed during the active season
- Temporary reptile exclusion fencing will be installed where necessary to minimize the potential for reptiles to access construction areas
- If a turtle nest is identified, a 30 m buffer will be employed to protect the nest
- In-water works will not be conducted in turtle wintering areas during the winter



Turtles

NSL

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- Daily sweeps of work areas within/directly adjacent to SAR reptile habitat will be performed during the active season
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Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - Turtles

Were Turtle Overwintering areas considered?

- Yes. Turtle Overwintering areas were assessed as part of study design for both projects.

Birds

NEPL

- Vegetation clearing will be conducted outside of the nesting window when possible. If habitat removal is required during this period, sweeps will be conducted to identify active nests.
- Stick nests will be left undisturbed until unoccupied
- **Barn Swallow:** exclusion methods (e.g. netting) may be used to exclude Barn Swallows from nesting in structures
- **Bank Swallow:** Soil stockpiles will be managed to prevent Bank Swallow nesting
- **Bald Eagle:** Bird diverters and/or similar measures will be utilized within 400m of any identified Bald Eagle nest



Birds

NSL

- Vegetation clearing will be conducted outside of the nesting window when possible. If habitat removal is required during this period, sweeps will be conducted to identify active nests.
- All nests will be left undisturbed until unoccupied
- Bird deterrents or visibility enhancements (e.g., spinning reflectors) may be installed in certain areas to improve bird visibility of the transmission line
- **Barn Swallow:** exclusion methods (e.g. netting) may be used to exclude Barn Swallows from nesting in structures
- **Bank Swallow:** Soil stockpiles will be managed to prevent Bank Swallow nesting



Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - Birds

Will Eagle nests be removed as part of either project?

- Hydro One will implement buffers around eagle nests and will plan to avoid conducting work within the area during breeding season. If work must be completed in these areas, additional measures and/or permits will be put in place to minimize disturbance.

Bats

NEPL +
NSL

- A maternity roost assessment will be conducted on part of the project area to inform vegetation removal area decisions
- Contractors will be educated on bat protections and what to do if they see a bat during the construction phase
- Removal of buildings and trees >10 cm in diameter will be conducted outside of the bat breeding window or during the window under permits and/or approvals from the MECP



Fish: Mitigation Measures

NEPL
+ NSL

- Creation of new watercourse crossings will be minimized when possible
- Transmission line structures, construction access, laydown and work areas will be planned to avoid waterbodies when possible
- Disturbed shorelines will be stabilized to prevent erosion
- In-water works will only take place within MNRF/DFO windows to avoid disruption to fish migration/spawning
- Project waste storage, fuel storage, and refueling activities will be conducted away from waterbodies
- Disturbed areas will be restored upon completion of construction
- If permanent or temporary works are required in potential fish or SAR habitat, relevant approvals will be applied for under the DFO and/or the MECP
- Work will be conducted in accordance with a permit from the applicable Conservation Authority when working within their regulated area



Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - Fish

Are there any alternatives to culverts which could be implemented to further support fish movement?

- Hydro One plans to use culverts to maintain fish movement under construction access roads. Work near/in water (such as culvert installation) will take place only during allowed time windows to prevent fish movement disturbance during sensitive periods.

Mammals: Mitigation Measures

- None outlined

NEPL



Mammals: Mitigation Measures

- Areas where active animal dens or burrows are encountered will be left undisturbed until unoccupied
- Where vegetation clearing is required, some of the cleared vegetative material may be used to create brush piles to promote wildlife habitat



Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - Mammals

What is Hydro One's mitigation plan for beavers?

- In cases where construction is impeded or flooding may occur due to beaver activity, a permit may be sought to have a licensed trapper remove it.

Why are there no/so few mitigation measures for mammals?

- A Wildlife Encounter Protocol will be developed as part of the Environmental Management System for each project to guide construction staff on what to do in the case of wildlife in the construction area.

Species at Risk: Mitigation Measures

NEPL
+ NSL

- Adverse effects to potential SAR habitat will be avoided where possible
- Boundaries of SAR habitats will be flagged prior to construction
- Construction personnel will be educated on SAR which may be found within the project area
- Should SAR be encountered during construction activities, activities will be stopped until it has been determined that harm will not occur and the required activities will be assessed to determine whether the work/schedule can be modified, to avoid potential effects on SAR and their habitat
- If avoidance of SAR and/or SAR habitat is not possible, MECP and/or DFO will be consulted in advance of construction to discuss detailed mitigation measures and/or assess the need for permitting/approvals under the ESA, SARA or the Fisheries Act
- If a SAR observed, harmed, killed as a result of work activities, the MECP will be notified



Invasive Species: Mitigation Measures

NEPL
+ NSL

- Native plant species will be used during restoration
- All work will be conducted in alignment with the Invasive Species Act regulations
- Cut/cleared invasive species will be properly handled/contained/disposed of
- Vehicles will be inspected/cleaned as necessary to reduce potential for spreading invasive species
- Large established populations of invasive species will be recorded for consideration when planning future maintenance works



Questions raised by Sagamok

Topic: Mitigation Measures - General

What mitigation measures will be put in place to protect species not mentioned in the environmental report?

- Hydro One believes the mitigation measures identified will address the needs of all species found in the project areas.

Where can I find survey results and plans for protecting the following species:

- Moose, deer, fish, raptors, Eastern Whip-poor-will, smelts, partridge, eagles, beavers, Labrador Tea, Pikes, Muskrat
 - Information regarding the survey results for each of these species is found within the environmental reports. If specific protections have not been outlined for the species, only general protections apply.
- Bees
 - Insects were not specifically considered. Hydro one will be planting pollinator-friendly native seed mix in restored areas.

► Questions

