

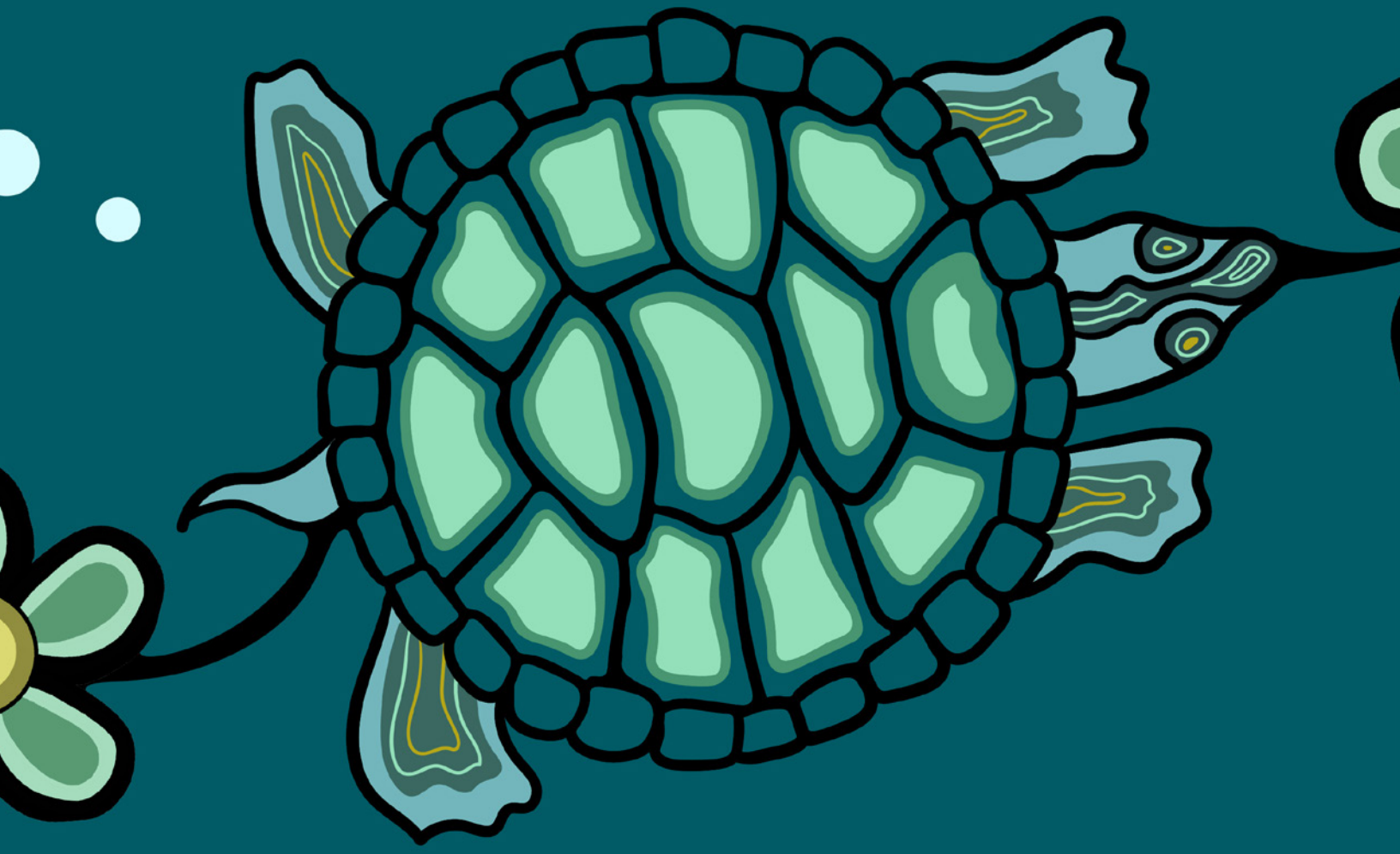
Northeast Power Line project

Final Environmental Report highlights

September 2026

hydro one

Connecting power and possibility™



Land acknowledgement

Artist credit: Storm Angeconeb.
This image has been modified from the original artwork.

Hydro One acknowledges that the projects in the northeast are situated upon the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory, which is now home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples. Hydro One understands that Indigenous Nations have been here since time immemorial and are stewards to what many refer to as Turtle Island.

We are all Treaty People and with a commitment to friendship and our pursuit of reconciliation, and we are thankful to be welcomed on these lands as partners in our shared future so we can improve on our past and energize our combined path forward.

Working with Indigenous communities



Hydro One is proud to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and is pleased to present this highlights report summarizing the Final Environmental Report (ER) for the Northeast Power Line.

Hydro One continues to work in close collaboration with nine First Nation partners on the project, including Garden River First Nation, as well as the eight communities represented by the Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council (WOCC): Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Batchewana First Nation, Mississauga First Nation, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Wahnapitae First Nation and Whitefish River First Nation.

Hydro One also recognizes Indigenous communities, including the Huron-Superior Métis Community (also known as Métis Nation of Ontario [MNO] Region 4) and the Mattawa/Ottawa River Métis Community (also known as MNO Region 4) and Killarney Métis Community (also known as MNO Region 5), have interests in the project area. We engage Indigenous communities to share information, understand community interests and concerns, and consider community perspectives throughout project planning, environmental assessment and project development. Our continued work with communities will allow us to better understand traditional knowledge, significant cultural areas and cultural values, and incorporate Indigenous perspectives as we develop the project.

The report has been developed in collaboration with technical experts and through engagement with Indigenous community members, elected officials, government agencies and other interested parties. This collaborative approach will continue throughout the project as Hydro One works alongside First Nation partners, regulatory agencies and local community members to advance a project that reflects community values and supports long-term regional benefits.

By working together, Hydro One and Indigenous communities are helping to develop better project outcomes that balance environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations. This collaborative approach strengthens project planning, creates shared value for participating communities and helps deliver reliable electricity infrastructure that supports the long-term needs of Ontario's electricity system and its customers.



What's inside

Introduction 5

Investing in life in northern Ontario 6

About the Northeast Power Line project 7

About the environmental process 8

Ongoing engagement 9

What we heard throughout the draft ER process 10

Our actions 11

Highlights: Indigenous culture, values and land use 12

Highlights: Archaeological resources 14

Highlights: Natural environment 16

Trees, wetlands, wildlife and habitat 17

Aquatic life and habitats 18

Birds and bats 19

Additional findings 20

Final Environmental Report 21



Introduction

Hydro One is pleased to share the highlights of the final ER for the Northeast Power Line project. This important milestone in the environmental process was completed through engagement with Indigenous communities, government agencies, interest groups and community members. This document is a summary of the final ER. It includes an overview of the project and information about the studies undertaken to consider its potential effects on Indigenous community values, forestry and mineral resources, the natural environment, socio-economic resources and more.

View the full final report online.
HydroOne.Com/NortheastPowerLine



Investing in life in northern Ontario

Electricity demand in northern Ontario is increasing, driven by innovation and economic development. Once built, the Northeast Power Line will help bring more power to the region and improve the overall resilience of the northern Ontario transmission network.

Economic and job growth

The Northeast Power Line will deliver reliable electricity to homes, businesses and industries. Improved reliability in the region will support the increasing demand for housing and bring new opportunities for businesses and industries to expand and grow right here in Ontario.

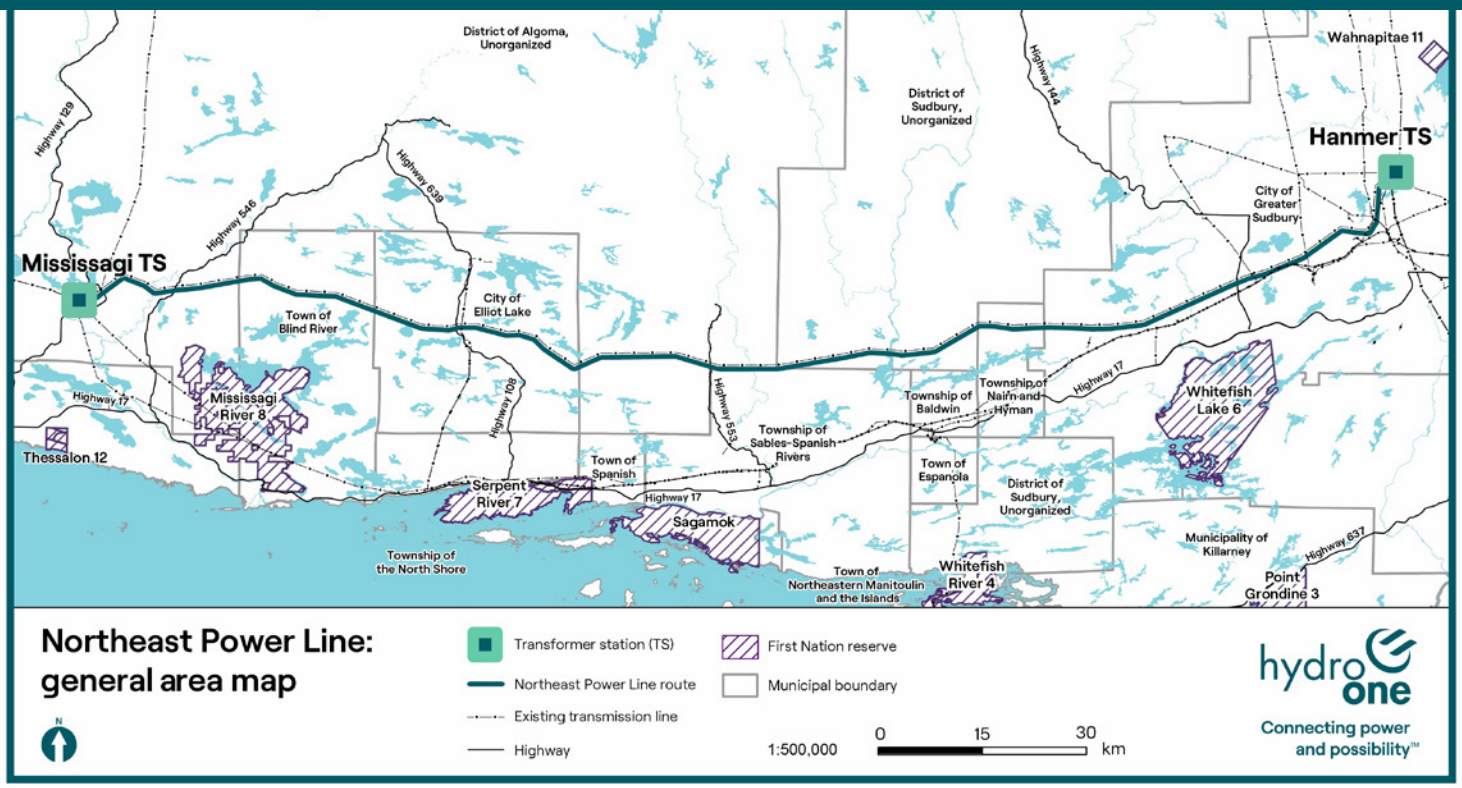
Resilience across northern Ontario

The project will increase the amount of power that can be transferred from Sudbury to northeast Ontario to support the reliability and security of the electricity grid. It's part of our investment in a network of transmission lines in the north that will support the growing electricity demands of industries, businesses and residents.

Community partnerships

The project is expected to increase opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with local Indigenous communities, as well as build stronger partnerships through local community investments.

About the Northeast Power Line project



The Northeast Power Line project involves the development of a 500-kilovolt (kV), single-circuit transmission line that will run approximately 205 km in length between Hanmer Transformer Station (TS) in Greater Sudbury and the Mississagi TS near Wharncliffe. The project also includes the expansion of both transformer stations to accommodate the new line. The power line will be built parallel to the existing transmission line between Hanmer TS and Mississagi TS.

Working in partnership with First Nations

Through Hydro One's industry-leading First Nations Equity Partnership Model, First Nations have been offered the opportunity to invest in a 50 per cent equity stake in the transmission line.

On this project, Hydro One is partnering with Garden River First Nation and WOCC, which is a consortium of eight First Nations:

- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
- Batchewana First Nation
- Mississauga First Nation
- Sagamok Anishnawbek
- Serpent River First Nation
- Thessalon First Nation
- Wahnapitae First Nation
- Whitefish River First Nation

About the environmental process

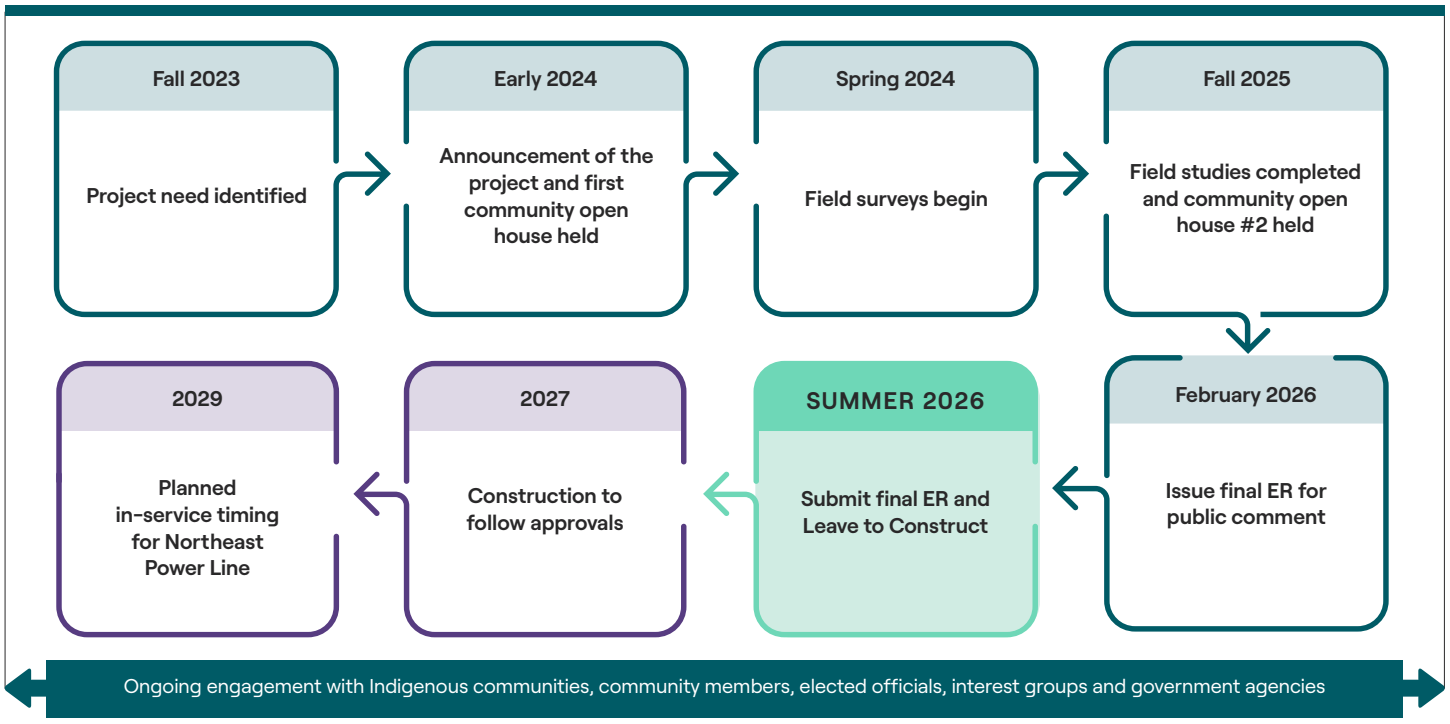
The Northeast Power Line was approved in the 1980s as one of two transmission lines to meet the region's electricity demands at the time. The first Hanmer–Mississagi transmission line was built, and the second line was paused when electricity demand did not grow as expected. Now that economic development has driven growing demand for electricity in northern Ontario, this line is needed.

On October 22, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) published a new, project-specific regulation (O. Reg. 234/25) that allows the Northeast Power Line project to proceed upon fulfillment of the regulatory conditions. All subsequent project permitting and approval requirements remain.

As a result, environmental studies and technical surveys were completed with Indigenous community participation to support project planning and to deliver on our commitment to environmental stewardship.

The environmental process for this project involved the completion of several technical studies, including natural environment, archaeological and cultural heritage surveys, as well as engagement with Indigenous communities, government agencies, interest groups and community members. Initial findings were published in the draft ER and shared for public review and comment in February to March 2026. Findings and actions are now published in the final ER and summarized in this document.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE AND MILESTONES



The final ER:

- Details the engagement we have undertaken with Indigenous communities, interest groups, government agencies, municipal staff, elected officials and the public.
- Describes the existing conditions of the area surrounding the proposed project.
- Predicts and assesses potential environmental effects of the project.
- Identifies the mitigation measures that we will take to minimize and avoid potential project effects.
- Provides a summary of the comments received on the draft ER and Hydro One's responses to those comments.

Ongoing engagement



Hydro One has undertaken extensive engagement throughout project planning with Indigenous communities, government agencies, elected officials, community members, landowners, businesses, organizations and interested parties. The feedback received has informed the final ER and design decisions for the project.

Consultation and engagement are an important part of the environmental process and Hydro One projects. Hydro One has shared updates on the project and encouraged feedback and questions. Engagement initiatives included:

- Early engagement, including several in-person community open houses in Indigenous communities.
- Inviting members of Indigenous communities to participate as monitors during field studies.
- Door knocking and registered mail was sent directly to property owners within the project study area.
- Advertising (i.e. newspaper ads, online, social media and radio) to promote in-person engagement opportunities, including community open houses.
- In-person community open houses hosted in March 2024 and November 2025.
- In-person meetings with directly affected property owners.
- An interactive online mapping platform hosted on the project website to gather feedback.
- A website with regular updates about the project and the environmental process.
- The draft ER was posted on HydroOne.com for public review and comment.

Engagement snapshot

Indigenous community meetings and engagement

Six community open houses over two rounds of engagement

Property visits

Notices, mailouts, calls and emails

Website updates and interactive map



What we heard throughout the draft ER process

Throughout the draft ER period, Hydro One received important feedback from Indigenous communities, government agencies, property owners, interest groups and the public.

These groups shared the importance of:

- Providing opportunities for employment, training, procurement and subcontracting for local communities and businesses
- The protection of traditional land uses
- The protection of wildlife habitat and consideration of the migration pattern of moose, deer and migratory birds
- The maintenance of wetlands and waterways and preserving vegetation crucial for wildlife and traditional medicine
- Indigenous communities' role in caring for the land

We answered questions on:

- General project information (i.e. length of corridor, location, duration of construction, project timeline)
- First Nation Equity Partnership Model
- Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the project area
- Potential impact on roads
- Location of construction activities in the winter, which may impact ATV routes and snowmobile season
- Right of way (ROW) access during construction
- Impact on electricity rates
- Future upgrades to the existing line
- Power generation for the project
- Forest fire management
- Hydro One's biodiversity initiative
- Archaeological findings
- Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)

Demand for electricity in northern Ontario is growing, and the Northeast Power Line is needed to help meet current and future electricity needs. The line is expected to strengthen the connection between the northeast and northwest to improve reliability for the northern transmission system.

They also shared:

- Interest in acquiring timber from the project
- Interest in sourcing materials for construction from local businesses

Findings from the assessment:

- Limited significant adverse effects on surrounding communities and businesses are expected, and no significant long-term effects are anticipated.
- Potential effects to species at risk, including turtles, birds and bats, could be managed by avoiding active periods, training staff and applying protective buffers where necessary. As an example, effects to Blanding's turtles can be managed through mitigation measures such as daily sweeps during the nesting period (March to October), and avoiding in-water works in turtle winter nesting habitat.



Our actions

Key actions Hydro One will continue to take

Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities

Hydro One will provide ongoing consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities, and update community groups and local organizations as necessary. Feedback will be documented and used to inform project decisions, ensuring that commitments made in the ER are upheld.

Enhance community benefits through collaboration

Hydro One will continue to work with Indigenous communities, municipalities from Wharncliffe to Greater Sudbury and interest groups to identify opportunities for local economic development, employment and cultural recognition. This includes exploring community-led initiatives that align with project goals.

Conduct ongoing environmental surveys and monitoring

Environmental monitoring will continue throughout construction to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures, ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and adapt to unforeseen impacts.

Implement a biodiversity initiative to offset habitat loss

To address impacts to natural habitats, Hydro One will launch a biodiversity initiative specific to this project which may include collaboration with Indigenous communities or environmental organizations. Options for this initiative can include habitat restoration for wildlife in the study area and protection of species at risk, including bat colonies.

Maintain transparency and accountability

Hydro One will update community groups and local organizations as necessary. Feedback will be documented and used to inform project decisions, ensuring that commitments made in the ER are upheld.



Highlights: Indigenous culture, values and land use

This section summarizes how we will limit or avoid effects to Indigenous culture, values and resources during construction and operations.



Indigenous culture, values and land use

What we found

The lands through which the transmission line will traverse are the traditional territories of many Indigenous communities and continue to support traditional land use, cultural practices and stewardship of the natural environment. Indigenous communities have also expressed a desire to protect the natural environment.

What we'll do

- Work with communities to mitigate and minimize effects on traditional use, including harvesting and sacred sites
- Respect community preferences and protocols regarding confidentiality and mapping of traditional land use areas
- Implement mitigation measures to protect the natural environment, such as water, wildlife, fish and their habitats, as described in other sections of this highlights document
- Include opportunities for Indigenous field participation and monitoring

Key takeaway

Hydro One will respect Indigenous rights, culture and land use. Ongoing consultation and engagement will ensure that traditional knowledge and values are meaningfully integrated into project planning, impact assessment and mitigation measures.

Throughout the project planning process, Hydro One engaged with Garden River First Nation, as well as the eight communities represented by the Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council (WOCC): Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Batchewana First Nation, Mississauga First Nation, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Wahnapitae First Nation and Whitefish River First Nation.

Hydro One also engaged with the Huron-Superior Métis Community (also known as Métis Nation of Ontario [MNO] Region 4) and the Mattawa/Ottawa River Métis Community (also known as MNO Region 4) and Killarney Métis Community (also known as MNO Region 5).

Explore more in Section 4.1 of the final ER.



Highlights: Archaeological resources

This section summarizes findings related to known and potential archaeological resources in the project area.



Archaeological resources

What we found

Northern Ontario contains many areas with known or potential archaeological and cultural resources. A stage one archaeological assessment found that construction activities could disturb or remove archaeological resources in the project area, particularly where registered or unregistered Indigenous sites are present, but this can be mitigated through our continued collaboration with Indigenous communities who are keepers of this knowledge.

What we'll do

- Complete a Stage 2 archaeological assessment where required before construction
- Invite Indigenous communities to participate in additional archaeological field surveys
- Implement the identified mitigation measures within the ER to avoid or minimize effects to sites with archaeological finds.

Key takeaway

By implementing mitigation measures identified within the ER, we will minimize effects to archaeological resources where possible. The project will respect and protect archaeological resources, including culturally significant Indigenous sites. Hydro One will continue to work with Indigenous communities to ensure responsible stewardship and compliance with heritage protection standards.

If archaeological material is encountered during construction, all activities with the potential to affect these materials will cease immediately and a licensed archaeologist will be engaged. Notification of such findings will be communicated to local Indigenous communities and the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

Explore more in Section 4.2 of the final ER.



Highlights: Natural environment

This section highlights how we will limit or avoid significant effects on the natural environment in the project area, including trees and wetlands, turtles, amphibians, birds and bats.



Trees, wetlands, wildlife and habitat

What we found

The project area includes diverse forests, wetlands, aquatic habitats and significant wildlife features. Some removal of incompatible vegetation will be needed, which may result in changes to habitat composition and quality. By taking mitigation measures, we can minimize effects on trees and wetlands, including wildlife habitat.

What we'll do

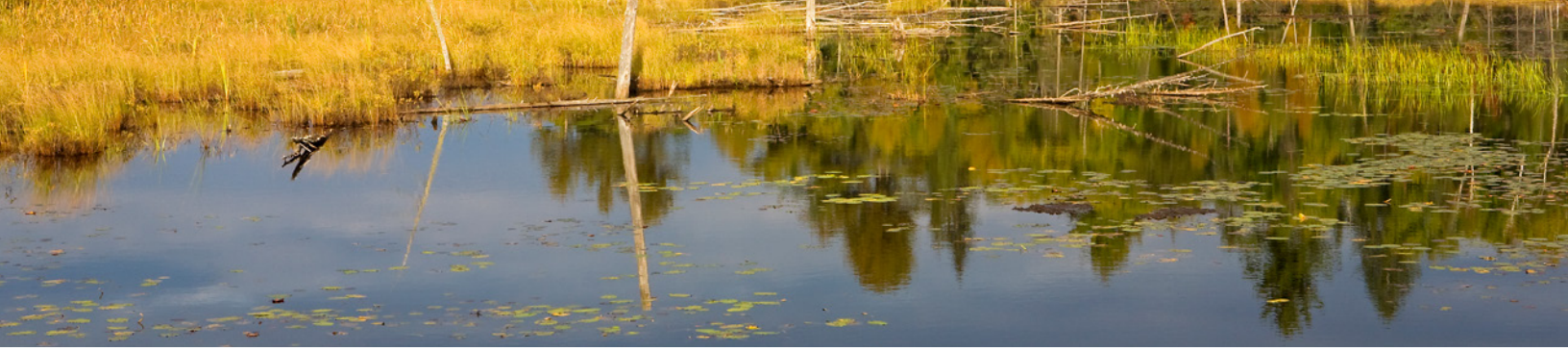
- Obtain and comply with permits, where required, based on consultation with MECP
- Identify boundaries of important wildlife habitat, such as turtle nesting, species at risk and breeding bird areas
- Limit vegetation removal and retain compatible species where possible
- Compatible vegetation will be retained, to the extent possible, to promote regeneration
- Use protective barriers and erosion control measures to safeguard sensitive habitats
- Restore disturbed areas with native vegetation and habitat features
- Avoid habitats of species at risk where possible, including by applying seasonal restrictions and conducting a pre-construction survey
- Identify and protect wildlife habitats, including by flagging right of way boundaries ahead of vegetation management
- Manage invasive species through equipment cleaning, proper disposal and use of native plants

Key takeaway

With the measures described here, we can mitigate the effects on trees and wetlands. We will maintain the natural environment where possible, avoiding sensitive areas, minimizing disturbance to wildlife and maintaining and restoring habitats.

Collaboration with Indigenous communities and organizations, as well as other organizations will guide mitigation and restoration efforts.

Explore more in Section 4.3.1 of the final ER.



Aquatic life and habitats

What we found

The project area is home to diverse species of plants, fish, turtles, amphibians and wetland birds. Field surveys identified more than 165 plant species, high-quality fish habitat, bat colonies, turtle breeding areas, deer wintering yards, moose feeding zones and nesting sites for birds such as bald eagles and great blue herons. Species at risk observed or recorded during the field program include Blanding's turtle, six bat species and 12 bird species. The corridor also supports animal movement for deer, moose, amphibians and furbearers. Invasive species were identified and will be monitored. Proposed mitigation measures can also reduce effects on species at risk.

What we'll do

- Identify boundaries of important fish and turtle habitats within the project corridor prior to clearing
- Identify and protect wildlife habitats, including nesting and denning sites
- Identify and protect moose feeding zones
- Assess potential turtle nesting areas, including Blanding's turtle habitat, within the project corridor and directly adjacent lands before construction
- Perform daily sweeps of work areas adjacent to species at risk reptile habitat during their active season, subject to weather conditions
- Install temporary reptile and amphibian exclusion fencing where necessary
- Protect turtle nests if they are identified
- Avoid in-water works within turtle wintering areas during their wintering season
- Use existing watercourse crossings during construction, to the extent practical (e.g., bridges)
- Engage Indigenous communities on mitigation measures to address potential effects to fish and fish habitat
- Should species at risk 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 or mitigation measures employed to avoid potential effects on species at risk and their habitat

Key takeaway

With the mitigation measures identified within the ER, we will minimize effects to fish, turtles, amphibians and other aquatic life and their habitats. Should encounters with species at risk occur during construction, we'll consider new mitigation measures where required to avoid potential effects.

Similar to that of trees, wetlands, wildlife and habitats, collaboration with Indigenous organizations and local partners will guide mitigation and restoration efforts. With mitigation measures, effects on fish habitat, turtle overwintering and nesting, wetland birds and breeding birds, and amphibian breeding areas during the construction phase activities are expected to be short-term, temporary and minimal.

Explore more in Sections 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 of the final ER.



Birds and bats

What we found

Removal of vegetation during clearing has the potential to disturb nesting migratory birds of all types, bats and bat habitat. With the proposed mitigation measures, we can reduce effects on birds and bats, and their habitats.

What we'll do

- Where feasible, avoid habitat removal during the migratory bird breeding season (April 1 to August 31) to the extent feasible
- Avoid habitats of species at risk, such as bat colonies, where possible, including by applying seasonal restrictions and conducting a pre-construction survey
- Install netting or taking similar additional measures where practical to exclude the barn swallow from nesting in structures if there is work required during the nesting period
- Manage soil stockpiles to discourage bank swallow nesting
- Use bird diverters or similar measures within 400 metres of any identified stick nests, such as bald eagle nests
- Leave trees containing stick nests undisturbed until unoccupied, working with a qualified person to identify them
- Leave stick nests on transmission towers undisturbed if they contain eggs or young birds
- Assess for bat maternity roosts before construction and retain habitat to the extent practical
- Educate contractors by informing them of the bat species in Ontario, which receive protection and necessary mitigation measures
- As with aquatic life and habitats, should species at risk be encountered, activities will be stopped until the work/schedule can be modified, or mitigation measures employed, to avoid potential effects on species at risk and their habitat

Key takeaway

With the mitigation measures identified within the ER, we will monitor birds, bats and their habitats and maintain the natural environment where possible.

There are seven species at risk bats known to occur in the overall project area. Six of these were confirmed during acoustic monitoring in 2024.

Explore more in Sections 4.3.4 and 4.3.5 of the final ER.



Additional findings

This section summarizes potential effects to the people and communities surrounding the project.

What we found

Overall, potential effects on the communities around the project, including residents, businesses and recreational activities, will be limited and largely temporary.

Where the route crosses or is adjacent to provincial highways, municipal roads and private mining access roads, temporary closures, detours, or traffic management measures during construction may be required. The project is compatible with municipal development plans and Hydro One's existing infrastructure. It also will not interfere with future mining development or affect existing mineral resource areas.

During active construction, some trails and provincial parks may be closed for public safety and nearby open areas may experience disruptions from noise, but these effects will be temporary.

What we'll do

- Coordinate with municipalities to confirm land use compatibility and obtain necessary permits
- Review and adhere to Crown land permits to ensure compliance with provincial policies
- Conduct infrastructure verification surveys
- Ensure safe access, coordination with quarry and utility operations and protection of traditional land use areas
- Coordinate with municipalities and the Ministry of Transportation to manage traffic impacts
- Follow safety standards and secure permits for work where needed
- Engage with trail authorities and recreational groups to identify site-specific mitigation measures
- Provide advance notice of trail closures and coordinate timing to reduce disruption, especially during peak seasons
- Implement public safety measures, including signage, barriers, lighting and trail surface reinforcement

Key takeaway

We do not expect significant effects on the communities surrounding the project and to mitigate potential short-term effects, we'll follow the mitigation measures outlined in the ER.

The project is expected to meet the growing demand for electricity in northern Ontario driven by increasing economic development in the region, while providing improved reliability and further aiding the connection between the northeast and northwest grids.

Explore more in Section 4.13 of the final ER.

hydro one

Connecting power and possibility™

Hydro One has completed the final ER for the Northeast Power Line project and submitted it to the MECP. This highlights document is not a substitute for the Environmental Report, for applicable details please refer to the final ER.

View the final ER online.
HydroOne.Com/NortheastPowerLine

If you have any questions or need further information about this project, contact **Community.Relations@HydroOne.com** or **1-877-345-6799**