

# **CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MINOR TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

## **Annual Monitoring Report - 2023**

March 28, 2024

**Prepared by:**  
Hydro One Networks Inc.

**Report prepared for:**

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

**Report prepared by:**

Hydro One Networks Inc.  
Environmental Services  
483 Bay Street, North Tower, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2P5

This Annual Monitoring Report addresses the monitoring requirements as set out in Section 5.5 of the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2022), and General Condition 5 in the Notice of Approval to Proceed with the Class Environmental Assessment as per section 9 of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The purpose of the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA for MTF) is to provide information that will enable the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to approve, following a single review, certain types of frequently occurring transmission projects. Undertakings subject to the Class EA for MTF have predictable environmental effects that can likely be mitigated, and can be planned and constructed in accordance with a common process.

## Executive Summary

Annual monitoring of Class Environmental Assessments enables continuous improvement, as well as ensures that proponents meet legislative and regulatory requirements. Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is responsible for producing an Annual Monitoring Report for projects that are subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2022) (Class EA for MTF), with the assistance of project proponents who use the Class EA. Proponents may include, but are not limited to, local distribution companies (LDCs), other licensed transmitters and industrial customers who are licensed to operate in Ontario.

This Annual Monitoring Report is submitted per the requirements of the Class EA for MTF and covers those projects subject to the Class EA that were **completed** and filed with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) during the 2023 calendar year. Class EAs initiated in 2023, but not completed by year end, are not included in this report. This aligns with the intent of the Annual Monitoring Report; to allow Hydro One and any other proponents using the Class EA for MTF to identify and assess opportunities to increase the effectiveness of the Class EA by reviewing completed Class EA processes.

Six Class EAs were completed by Hydro One during this period. No submissions were received from other transmission proponents. Hydro One does not make any claims of completeness of projects carried out by other proponents using the Class EA for MTF. All proponents using the Class EA are required to prepare an annual summary report describing Class EA processes conducted during the year and submit them to Hydro One for consolidation in this report by the end of February of the following year. However, the onus is on each transmission proponent to conform to the deadlines set out in the Class EA for MTF. Hydro One does not assume responsibility for missing reports.

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Purpose of the Annual Monitoring Report</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Requirements of the Annual Monitoring Report</b> .....	<b>1</b>
3.1 Effectiveness of the Class EA Process .....	2
3.2 Recent Changes to the Class EA.....	2
3.3 Common Issues.....	2
3.4 Compliance with Notice of Approval Conditions and the <i>EAA</i> .....	3
3.5 Section 16 Orders .....	5
3.6 Planned Action.....	6
3.7 Copy of Notice of Approval and Approval Amendments.....	6
3.8 Summary of Class EA Projects in 2023.....	6
3.9 How Interested Parties can obtain Copy of Annual Monitoring Report.....	6
<b>4 Conclusion</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## Tables

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Summary of 2023 Class EAs Completed following the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities</b>
----------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## List of Appendices

<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>MECP Notice of Approval</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities</b>

## 1 Introduction

The Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Hydro One, 2022) (Class EA for MTF) was the applicable version of the Class EA during the 2023 year. The Class EA describes the process that a proponent must follow for a defined class of projects/undertakings to meet the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA).

Previous versions have been in use for more than four decades with the original version developed by Ontario Hydro. The latest Order-in-Council approval of the Class EA for MTF (November 2016) came with 24 conditions including a requirement that Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) prepare and submit an Annual Monitoring Report by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year covering activities of the previous year.

## 2 Purpose of the Annual Monitoring Report

The Annual Monitoring Report addresses Condition 5 of the Notice of Approval for the Class EA for MTF as issued by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (previously the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change) during the 2016 approval process.

This report fulfills the requirements that an annual report be submitted by Hydro One *"on or before April 1 of each year"* and *"cover all activities of the previous calendar year"*.

The objective of annual monitoring is continuous improvement and to have proponents comply with legislative and regulatory requirements. A summary of projects with Class EAs completed in the subject year forms part of the report. In addition, the Annual Monitoring Report provides an analysis of the effectiveness and suitability of the Class EA process and document itself. Issues identified, and recommendations for improvements, are included in the report to guide future amendments and provide lessons learned.

## 3 Requirements of the Annual Monitoring Report

Sections outlined below respond to specific requirements of the Annual Monitoring Report as described in Section 5.5 of the Class EA for MTF.

### **3.1 Effectiveness of the Class EA Process**

In 2023, the Class EA process was completed for six projects; forming the basis of this report. Having completed the Class EA process means: i) having submitted the Notice of Completion to the MECP for a Class EA Screening; or ii) having submitted the Statement of Completion to the MECP for a Full Class EA.

It is noted that several other projects had the Class EA process commence in 2023, however; because these were not completed by the end of the 2023 calendar year, they have not been included in this report. Instead, they will be reported in subsequent Annual Monitoring Reports based on when they are filed with the MECP.

Of the six projects filed in 2023, four projects followed the Class EA Screening Process. These projects were assessed and determined to have minimal to no net environmental effects, while having no unaddressed concerns expressed by Indigenous communities, agencies, interest groups, the public or other stakeholders. The Class EA process for these projects ranged in duration from six to eighteen months.

The remaining two projects of those filed in 2023 followed the Full Class EA Process. The Class EA process for these projects ranged in duration from twelve to fourteen months.

For all six Class EAs completed in 2023, environmental concerns were addressed with consulted parties demonstrating the Class EA as an effective planning process that offers the appropriate and proportional level of assessment and consultation for the projects undertaken in 2023.

### **3.2 Recent Changes to the Class EA**

The passing of the *Get It Done Act in 2024* resulted in changes to the *EAA* and an amended Class EA, renamed the Class EA for Transmission Facilities (2024). This legislation change establishes all highway, rail and transmission projects being subject to the applicable Class EA process.

The Class EA for TF (2024) is publicly available on Hydro One's website.

### **3.3 Common Issues**

No common problems or issues were identified in 2023.

### 3.4 Compliance with Notice of Approval Conditions and the EAA

Hydro One has complied with the EAA through adherence to the Class EA process and by complying with the 24 conditions of the Notice of Approval (Appendix A). Condition 3 as well as conditions 8 through 24 pertain to properly incorporating amendments into the 2016 version of Class EA for MTF. These 18 conditions were fulfilled in 2016.

The remaining 6 conditions are outlined below along with a summary of compliance following each condition.

#### Condition 1

##### **Definitions**

1. *For the purposes of these conditions:*
  - a) *"applicant" means Hydro One Networks Inc., its agents, successors, and assigns.*
  - b) *"MOECC" means the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change*
  - c) *"EAB" means the Environmental Approvals Branch of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.*
  - d) *"Director" means the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch.*
  - e) *"the Class EA" means the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities.*
  - f) *"FOIPPA" means the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Hydro One continues to comply with this condition through the use of appropriate definitions. Reference to the MOECC is equated with the current MECP, and the Environmental Approvals Branch (EAB) is equated with the current Environmental Assessment Branch.

#### Condition 2

##### **Public Record**

2. *Where a document is required for the Public Record File, the applicant shall provide the document to the Director for filing within the specific Public Record File maintained for the Class EA. The applicant shall also provide copies of all documents for the purpose of public review to:*

- a) *the Director of the MOECC Eastern Region Office;*
- b) *the Director of the MOECC Central Region Office;*
- c) *the Director of the MOECC West Central Region Office;*
- d) *the Director of the MOECC Southwestern Region Office; and*
- e) *the Director of the MOECC Northern Region Office.*

Hydro One complies with this condition by providing this document, which is required for the Public Record File, to the Director of the EAB for filing within the specific Public Record File maintained for the Class EA. Copies will also be issued to EA Coordinators via the EAB's Environmental Assessment Services – Project Review Supervisor.

#### Condition 4

##### **4. General Conditions**

*The applicant shall complete a review of the Class EA, as required in Subsection 5.6 of the Class EA (Five-Year Review), every five years. The first review shall be completed 5 years after the date of this approval, with each subsequent review following every five years, until such time as is otherwise indicated in writing by the Director to the applicant. Each review shall be submitted to the Director and placed in the Public Record File.*

No compliance aspects to this condition are noted as it pertains to the 5-year review post-approval of the Class EA for MTF. A 5-year review of the Class EA was submitted to the MECP in September, 2022 and approved in November, 2022. The next 5-year review will be completed in 2027.

#### Condition 5

##### **5. General Conditions**

*The applicant shall submit Annual Monitoring Reports to the Director for placement on the Public Record File as described in Subsection 5.5 of the Class EA (Monitoring). The Monitoring Report shall be submitted on or before April 1 of each year, with the first report being due one year after the date of this approval, and shall cover all activities of the previous calendar year.*



Hydro One complies with this condition as this Annual Monitoring Report is structured per Section 5.5 – Monitoring of the Class EA for MTF. This report has been submitted prior to the annual deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Condition 6

##### **6. General Conditions**

*The applicant shall comply with all the provisions of the Class EA which are hereby incorporated in this approval by reference except as provided in these conditions and as provided in any other approvals or permits that may be issued.*

Hydro One continues to comply with this condition by applying the requirements of the Class EA for MTF and ensuring adherence to the Class EA process.

#### Condition 7

##### **7. General Conditions**

*These conditions do not prevent more restrictive conditions being imposed under other statutes.*

No compliance aspects to this condition are noted.

### **3.5 Section 16 Orders**

The *EAA* provides the Minister (or delegate) with the authority to make two types of orders with respect to an undertaking proceeding in accordance with a Class EA (Section 16(1) and 16(3) Orders). The Minister (or delegate) may, on their own initiative, within a time limited period, require a proponent to undertake a Comprehensive EA, referred to as a s.16(1) order, or impose conditions on an undertaking, referred to as a s.16(3) order.

In addition, the *EAA* allows a person with concerns pertaining to potential adverse impacts to Aboriginal or treaty rights, that have not been addressed through the Class EA process to request under section 16 of the *EAA* that the Minister make an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., a Comprehensive EA) or that conditions be imposed on the project. This is known as requesting a s.16 order. A request can only be made on the grounds that the order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights. Requests that are not made on these grounds will not be considered by the Minister.

A 'completed' Class EA means having resolved any applicable Section 16 Orders. No Class EAs completed in 2023 received a Section 16 Order request.

### **3.6 Planned Action**

As described in section 3.2 above, amendments to the Class EA were approved in 2024. Hydro One continues to provide a channel for raising issues and concerns among proponents who use the Class EA through the annual summary report process to address deficiencies and prevent non-compliance. Internally, if there are issues with the Class EA process, they are discussed with proposed resolutions recorded and tracked for future amendment consideration.

### **3.7 Copy of Notice of Approval and Approval Amendments**

The Notice of Approval is included as Appendix A. The current version of the Class EA can be found by following the link provided in Appendix B.

### **3.8 Summary of Class EA Projects in 2023**

The enclosed summary table (Table 1) lists the projects with completed Class EAs that formed the basis of this report.

Six Class EAs (four Class EA Screenings and two Full Class EAs) were completed by Hydro One during this period. No submissions were received from other proponents who completed projects using the Class EA for MTF. Hydro One does not make any claims of completeness of projects carried out by other proponents using the Class EA. Proponents using the Class EA are required to prepare an annual summary report describing Class EA processes conducted during the year and submit them to Hydro One for consolidation in this report by the end of February of the following year. However, the onus is on each proponent to conform to the deadlines set out in the Class EA. Hydro One does not assume responsibility for missing reports.

### **3.9 How Interested Parties can obtain Copy of Annual Monitoring Report**

Interested parties can review and obtain an electronic copy of the Annual Monitoring Report on the Hydro One website within the Class EA page at [www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA](http://www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA).

## 4 Conclusion

This Annual Monitoring Report provides a summary of the projects completed in 2023 under the Class EA for MTF. During the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, six projects subject to the Class EA for MTF were filed with the MECP upon completion of the Class EA process. Four of the projects were Class EA Screenings and two of the projects were Full Class EAs. No submissions were received from other proponents.

Interested persons may view a copy of this Annual Monitoring Report at [www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA](http://www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA) and may request a copy by emailing [ClassEA.AnnualMonitoringReport@HydroOne.com](mailto:ClassEA.AnnualMonitoringReport@HydroOne.com).

**Table 1 - Summary of Class EAs Completed in 2023 that followed the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities**

No.	Project Name	Project Description	Project Location	Proponent Name	Assessment Type	Contact Person	Start Date	Date EA Filed with MECP	EA Status
1	Islington TS and Line (Customer Connection)	New customer connection in the GTA near Richview TS requiring a new 230 kV TS at the 'Lowe's Site' southeast of Highway 401/Islington Ave (property acquired by Customer); new 2-cct underground line along road allowances; and two new junctions on multi-tower line corridor.	City of Toronto	Hydro One	Class EA Screening Process	Jennifer Trotman	2/1/2022	7/31/2023	Completed
2	Q3M6 Frontenac TS x Novelis CTS Line Refurbishment	Refurbishment of approximately 2 kilometres of existing 115 kV transmission line (Circuit Q3M6), between Frontenac TS and Novelis CTS. Refurbishment includes replacement of aging electrical conductors, wood pole structures, shieldwire, and line hardware.	City of Kingston	Hydro One	Class EA Screening Process	Jennifer Vuong	6/8/2022	8/31/2023	Completed
3	K4, Kirkland Lake TS X Matachewan JCT Line Refurb	Refurbishment of approximately 10 kilometres of existing 115 kV transmission line (Circuit K4) reaching end of life, between Kirkland Lake Transformer Station and Structure 82. Refurbishment includes replacement and relocation of structures, replacement of electrical conductors, shieldwire and line hardware.	Town of Kirkland Lake	Hydro One	Class EA Screening Process	Jennifer Vuong	6/16/2022	5/9/2023	Completed
4	Richview Manby Transmission Reinforcement - Line	Upgrading an existing idle double-circuit transmission line (circuits K9S and K10SB) to a 230 kV double-circuit transmission line between Hydro One's Richview Transformer Station (TS) and Manby TS in the City of Toronto. Includes linear park being proposed as 'Reimagining the Corridor'. No Section 16 Order Requests were received for the project.	City of Toronto	Hydro One	Full Class EA Process	Adam Haulena	6/28/2022	6/2/2023	Completed
5	HOSSM Tx Lines Sault #3 115kV Line Upgrade	Refurbishment of the existing 115 kV transmission line between Mackay TS and Third Line TS. This project was voluntarily bumped up to a Full Class EA due to risk of community opposition. No Section 16 Order Requests were received for the project.	City of Sault Ste. Marie & Unorganized District of Algoma	Hydro One	Full Class EA Process	Sarah Cole	6/30/2022	8/18/2023	Completed
6	Merivale TS Modernization Project	Replacement and modernization of aging infrastructure at Merivale TS, increase the capacity of the station, and improve the flow of power throughout the region. Upgrades made at Merivale TS support additional power to flow to over 20 Hydro One and Hydro Ottawa connected stations.	City of Ottawa	Hydro One	Class EA Screening Process	Ian MacDonald	8/31/2022	2/9/2023	Completed

Abstract geometric lines forming a network of triangles in the top left corner.

**APPENDICES**

**CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR MINOR  
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

**Annual Monitoring Report - 2023**

Abstract geometric lines forming a network of triangles in the bottom right corner.

## **Appendix A      MECP Notice of Approval**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT**

**SECTION 9**

**NOTICE OF APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH THE CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

RE: Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA)

Applicant: Hydro One Networks Inc.

EAIMS No.: 05070

TAKE NOTICE that the period for requesting a hearing, provided for in the Notice of Completion of the Review for the above-noted Class EA, expired on October 24, 2014.

I received five submissions before the expiration date, and one submission after the expiration date, none of which requested a hearing by the Environmental Review Tribunal.

Having considered the purpose of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the approved Terms of Reference, the Class EA, the Review of the Class EA and the submissions received, I hereby give approval to proceed with the Class EA, subject to the conditions set out below.

REASONS

My reasons for giving approval are as follows:

- (1) The applicant prepared the Class EA in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference and the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.
- (2) The applicant consulted on the Class EA and demonstrated that its Class EA is consistent with the current legislative requirements and planning practices, and will provide an effective planning process to enable the delivery of transmission-related infrastructure in an efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.
- (3) All comments provided, or concerns raised, from the public review of the applicant's Class EA, or from government agencies and Aboriginal communities, have been adequately considered and addressed by the applicant through its responses and/or commitments made, through amendments to the Class EA, or through conditions of approval.

- (4) All relevant issues raised in the submissions regarding the applicant's Class EA have been addressed, or will be addressed during the preparation of individual Class EA projects.
- (5) On the basis of the applicant's Class EA, the Review and the conditions of approval, I am satisfied that the assessment of minor transmission facilities within the class of undertakings covered by the Class EA, in accordance with the process set out in the Class EA, will be consistent with the purpose of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and in the public interest.

## CONDITIONS

### **Definitions**

1. For the purposes of these conditions:
  - (a) **"applicant"** means Hydro One Networks Inc., its agents, successors, and assigns.
  - (b) **"MOECC"** means the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.
  - (c) **"EAB"** means the Environmental Approvals Branch of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.
  - (d) **"Director"** means the Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch.
  - (e) **"the Class EA"** means the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities.
  - (f) **"FOIPPA"** means the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

### **Public Record**

2. Where a document is required for the Public Record File, the applicant shall provide the document to the Director for filing within the specific Public Record File maintained for the Class EA. The applicant shall also provide copies of all documents for the purpose of public review to:
  - a) the Director of the MOECC Eastern Region Office;
  - b) the Director of the MOECC Central Region Office;
  - c) the Director of the MOECC West Central Region Office;
  - d) the Director of the MOECC Southwestern Region Office; and
  - e) the Director of the MOECC Northern Region Office.
3. Within 21 days of the approval of this Class EA, the applicant shall incorporate the amendments required by Conditions 8 through 14 in the Class EA, and provide:



- 3.1 forty (40) copies of the amended Class EA document to the EAB;
- 3.2 one (1) copy of the amended Class EA document, or more than one (1) copy if requested, to each government agency to which the Class EA was circulated for comment;
- 3.3 one (1) copy of the amended Class EA document to any group, individual, or Aboriginal community which submitted comments during either of the two comment periods for the Class EA; and,
- 3.4 the amended Class EA on the applicant's web site.

### **General Conditions**

4. The applicant shall complete a review of the Class EA, as required in Subsection 5.6 of the Class EA (Five-Year Review), every five years. The first review shall be completed 5 years after the date of this approval, with each subsequent review following every five years, until such time as is otherwise indicated in writing by the Director to the applicant. Each review shall be submitted to the Director and placed in the Public Record File.
5. The applicant shall submit Annual Monitoring Reports to the Director for placement on the Public Record File as described in Subsection 5.5 of the Class EA (Monitoring). The Monitoring Report shall be submitted on or before April 1 of each year, with the first report being due one year after the date of this approval, and shall cover all activities of the previous calendar year.
6. The applicant shall comply with all the provisions of the Class EA which are hereby incorporated in this approval by reference except as provided in these conditions and as provided in any other approvals or permits that may be issued.
7. These conditions do not prevent more restrictive conditions being imposed under other statutes.

### **Amendments**

8. To accurately reflect the change in this ministry's name, the applicant shall replace all references to "Ministry of the Environment" with "Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change", and the applicant shall replace all uses of the acronym "MOE" with "MOECC." This includes, but is not limited to, all references to the Code of Practice.
9. The applicant shall remove all of the text presented on page 2 and shall replace it with the following text:

***"Ontario Regulation 116/01 – Electricity Projects and Ontario Regulation 231/08 – Transit Projects and Metrolinx Undertakings***

**O. Reg. 116/01** is one of the regulations under the EA Act that outlines EA requirements for electricity projects. **O. Reg. 116/01** came into effect on April 23, 2001 and applies to public and private sector electricity projects.

The **Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects** (2011) classifies the transmission projects described in **O. Reg. 116/01**, based on voltage and length of transmission lines, into three distinct categories, each with different requirements as follows:

- a. Category A projects are those which are expected to have minimal environmental effects. These projects do not require approval under the EA Act, and are not designated as being subject to the EA Act in **O. Reg. 116/01**. Although projects in this category are not subject to EA requirements under **O. Reg. 116/01**, they are required to comply with any other applicable existing legislative requirements such as the Species at Risk Act, Ontario Heritage Act (for example, a project in this category may cause a significant ground disturbance in areas of archaeological potential), etc.. In addition, if Crown resources are necessary to carry out a project, there are requirements under the EA Act related to the disposition of Crown resources that must also be fulfilled (e.g., an environmental review by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry prior to the occupation or sale of Crown land). If there are significant environmental effects associated with a project in Category A, the MOECC (with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor) could designate it as being subject to an Individual EA under the EA Act.
- b. Category B projects are those which have potential environmental effects that can likely be mitigated. These projects (listed in Section 4 of **O. Reg. 116/01**) are subject to the EA Act, but proponents of these projects are not required to prepare an Individual EA on the condition that they complete the Environmental Screening Process (set out in Part B of the **Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects**, 2011). There are provisions in the Environmental Screening Process to elevate projects from Category B to Category C. This Class EA Process is equivalent to what **O. Reg. 116/01** refers to as the Environmental Screening Process.
- c. Category C projects are major projects with known significant environmental effects that require an Individual EA.

This Class EA Document is relevant to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with a Category B generation project.

This Class EA Document is also relevant to certain projects under the **Transit Projects and Metrolinx Undertakings Regulation (O. Reg. 231/08)** which sets out the EA requirements for public transit projects, and designates as subject to the EA Act certain power supply infrastructure projects for the electrification of commuter rail corridors. Proponents of these power supply infrastructure projects are subject to the Transit Project Assessment Process under **O. Reg. 231/08** but have the option to instead proceed with their projects in accordance with this Class EA Document if written notice of their intention to do so is provided to the appropriate MOECC officials under subsection 2(6) of **O. Reg. 231/08**. (**O. Reg. 231/08** also contains transition rules).

For more information, proponents should refer to **O. Reg 116/01**, **O. Reg. 231/08**, and Chart 1 - Electricity Project Classification and Section A.5.2 of the **Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects**

(2011).”

10. The applicant shall remove the first four paragraphs presented in section 1.0 (Introduction) on page 3 and shall replace them with the following text:

“The purpose of the **Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities** (also referred to as "Class EA Document") is to provide information that will enable the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (Minister) to approve, following a single review, certain types of frequently occurring transmission projects specified in the **Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects** (2011) and in **O. Reg. 231/08**. The project will be relatively small in scale, have predictable environmental effects that can be likely mitigated, and can be planned and constructed in accordance with a common process.

The current version of this document has been developed following the requirements of the approved Terms of Reference (ToR), 2004 and is in alignment with **O. Reg. 116/01**, **O. Reg. 231/08**, other applicable legislation that came into force after 2004 (e.g., *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*), the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change’s (MOECC) **Code of Practice: Preparing, Reviewing and Using Class Environmental Assessment in Ontario**, 2014 (Code of Practice), and other Class EA documents.

The previous versions of this Class EA Document applied specifically to Ontario Hydro and its much broader mandate. The current version has been revised to be consistent with the mandate and accountabilities of Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One), local distribution companies (LDCs), licenced transmitters, industrial customers, etc., who may design, construct and operate transmission facilities.

This Class EA Document makes use of Ontario Hydro’s and Hydro One’s experience completing numerous Class EAs. It is also prepared in accordance with **O. Reg. 116/01**, **O. Reg. 231/08**, and the MOECC Code of Practice, and takes into consideration other Class EA documents from other sectors, as well as valuable input from a variety of government agencies and other organizations.”

11. The applicant shall remove the following text presented in section 1.1 on page 3:

“As previously noted, this Class EA Document applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation facilities (see **Class EA History** of this Document and/or **Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects, 2011**). These projects are defined to include the following:”

and shall replace it with the following text:

“As previously noted, this Class EA Document applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation facilities (see **Class EA History** of this Document and/or **Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects** (2011). This Class EA

Document also applies to certain power supply infrastructure projects for the electrification of commuter rail corridors that are designated as subject to the EA Act in **O. Reg. 231/08**, if the proponent provides written notice to the appropriate MOECC officials under subsection 2(6) of **O. Reg. 231/08** that it will instead proceed with the project in accordance with this Class EA Document.

The projects that are subject to this Class EA Document are defined as follows:"

12. The applicant shall replace the three occurrences of the term "multiple Class EAs" with "multiple environmental assessment processes" in Subsection 5.7 of the Class EA (Coordination with Other Approval Processes) on page 36.
13. The applicant shall remove the following text presented in Subsection 6.4 of the Class EA (Consideration of Climate Effects) on page 51:

"Hydro One considers the potential environmental effects of climate change in the design of its transmission facilities. Facilities are designed in accordance with North American engineering standards and are able to operate effectively over a wide range of temperatures, precipitation and other weather conditions. Other proponents should consider climate change effects on their projects."

and shall replace it with the following text:

"All proponents must consider the potential environmental effects of climate change (storms, flooding, drought or other severe weather events) in the design, siting, construction and operation of minor transmission facilities. Proponents are encouraged to consider provincial, national and international industry best practices in the design of minor transmission facilities as they relate to climate change and the increasing frequency of severe weather abnormalities."

14. The applicant shall remove the following text presented in Subsection 3.3.2 of the Class EA (Initial Notification) on page 17:

"h. Freedom of information (FOI) statement advising how written submissions will be handled for the purposes of freedom of information. (see below paragraph for statement that must be included in notices)"

and shall replace it with the following text:

"h. Freedom of information (FOI) statement advising how written submissions will be handled for the purposes of freedom of information requests and for compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. (see Subsection 4.3)

15. The applicant shall remove the following text presented in Subsection 3.3.2 of the Class EA (Initial Notification) on page 17:

"As stated in the MOE Code of Practice (section 6, pp. 47), to comply with *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requirements, notices must contain the following statement:

'All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change 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 Project Officer or the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.'

16. The applicant shall relabel Subsection 4.3 on page 30 as Subsection 4.4, and will insert a new Subsection 4.3 on page 30 titled "*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* Notice Requirements" that includes the following:

"As stated in the MOECC Code of Practice (subsection 6.1.6, page 56), to comply with *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requirements, all project notices must contain the following statement:

'All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change 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 and Climate Change's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.'

Additionally, the applicant shall add the following at the end of the list of Final Notification requirements in Subsection 3.4.2 of the Class EA (Final Notification) on page 22:

"o. FOI statement advising how written submissions will be handled for the purpose of freedom of information requests and for compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. (see Subsection 4.3)"

17. The applicant shall include another item in the list of required content for a Part II Order request in Subsection 3.4.4 of the Class EA (Review and Decision by the Minister / Part II Order Request) on page 23, listed first and labelled as follows:

"a. A clear indication that a request for a Part II Order is being made."

18. The applicant shall replace the phrase "The Part II Order must be made in writing to the Minister or delegate with a copy to the Project Evaluator at the EAB, and the proponent, and must include the following" with "The Part II Order must be



made in writing to the Minister or delegate with a copy to the proponent, and must include the following” in Subsection 3.4.4 of the Class EA (Review and Decision by the Minister / Part II Order Request) on page 23.

19. The applicant shall remove the following text presented in Subsection 3.4.4 of the Class EA (Review and Decision by the Minister / Part II Order Request) on page 24:

“Upon receipt of a valid Part II Order request, the Project Evaluator at the EAB at the MOECC shall request that the proponent provide a copy of any relevant project documentation. The Minister or delegate will consider the information submitted by the proponent, the requester(s) and any person the Minister or delegate chooses to consult before making a decision. The review of any Part II Order requests will be commenced upon receipt of all information (from proponent/requestor(s)/other agencies) after the review period following the issuance of the Final Notification. A decision will be made normally within 45 days of receipt of all project documentation provided by the proponent, and will be one of the following:”

and shall replace it with the following text:

“Upon receipt of a Part II Order request, the Project Evaluator may request that the proponent provide a copy of any relevant project documentation to the Ministry within a specified time frame. The Minister or delegate will consider the information submitted by the proponent, the requester(s) and any person the Minister or delegate chooses to consult before making a decision. The review of any Part II Order requests will be commenced upon receipt of all information (from proponent/requestor(s)/other agencies) after the review period following the issuance of the Final Notification. The Minister or delegate will consider the evaluation criteria for Part II Order requests as set forth in section 16(4) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The ministry review of a Part II Order request will normally be completed within 45 days of receipt of all project documentation provided by the proponent and after any required consultation by the ministry. After the ministry review, the Minister will make a decision, which will be one of the following:”

20. The applicant shall insert the following after the last paragraph in Subsection 3.4.4 of the Class EA (Review and Decision by the Minister / Part II Order Request) on page 24:

“If none of the above has occurred by the required decision deadline, the proponent is entitled to proceed with the project; however, before proceeding, proponents must confirm with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change that no decision has been made on the Part II Order request. Should the proponent proceed with the project without a Part II Order decision having been made, it should recognize that it is doing so at its own risk, as a Part II Order could still be made or denied with conditions.”

21. The applicant shall remove the following text presented in Subsection 6.5 of the Class EA (Consideration of Cumulative Effects) on page 51:

“Class EA proponents will consider cumulative effects when planning projects. The assessment will include the proposed undertaking and any other proposed undertakings in the immediate project area where documentation is available (e.g., other environmental assessments).”

and shall replace it with the following text:

“All proponents will consider cumulative effects when planning projects. The assessment will include the proposed undertaking and any other proposed undertakings in the immediate project area where documentation is available (e.g., other environmental assessments).”

22. The applicant shall add ‘Biodiversity’ as an item to the list of Typical Data Types under the “Natural Environment Resources” in Appendix C on page 68.
23. The applicant shall replace Section 5.3, Phase-in Period with the following text:

### **5.3 Phase-in Periods**

#### **Phase-in from 1992 Class EA**

If Initial Notification for a project was issued under the 1992 Class EA, the project would continue to be subject to the 1992 Class EA for the life of that project. An Addendum to an Environmental Study Report for such a project would also be subject to the 1992 Class EA.

#### **Phase-in to Future Amendments to this Class EA**

In some situations, during a review or amendment of this Class EA Document, some projects may be in the process of being planned using the existing Class EA Process or already had the Initial Notification issued. For the purpose of consistency and process flow, such projects will be broken into two categories: those for which Initial Notification has not yet been issued and those for which Initial Notification has been issued.

If the Initial Notification for the project has not been issued before the amendments to this Class EA Document are approved by the Minister, or Director of the EAB at the MOECC, the project is not considered to be in progress and must follow the Class EA Process outlined in the amended document.

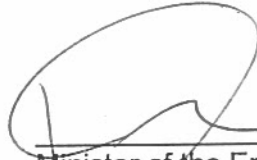
If the Initial Notification for a project has been issued before the amendments to this Class EA Document are approved by the Minister, or Director of the EAB at the MOECC, the project is considered to be in progress. The project should continue using the previous Class EA Process that was in place at the time of the issuance of the Initial Notification. An Addendum to an Environmental Study Report for such a project would also be subject to the version of the Class EA that was in place at the time of the issuance of the Initial Notification for that project.

The project has the option to proceed under the newly revised provisions of this Class EA Document through discussions with the Director of the

EAB and the appropriate Regional Offices at the MOECC and by providing rationale.

24. The applicant shall replace all references to the Ontario Power Authority, with references to the Independent Electricity System Operator, wherever such references occur throughout the Class EA.

Dated the 31 day of October 2016 at TORONTO.



Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
77 Wellesley St. W., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2T5

Approved by O.C. No. 1726/2016

Date O.C. Approved NOV 16, 2016



## **Appendix B      Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities**

[www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA](http://www.HydroOne.com/ClassEA)