

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

Environmental Assessment and
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August 29, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Government Review Team Distribution List

FROM: Antonia Testa
Special Project Officer
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch

RE: Review of Proposed Terms of Reference
Lake Superior Link Transmission Project Environmental Assessment
EA Reference No. 18062

On September 7, 2018, Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) will be submitting a Terms of Reference (ToR) to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval. The proposed undertaking is an expansion of the existing East-West Tie transmission corridor. Hydro One is proposing to construct a new approximately 400 km, double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line between Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) near Thunder Bay and Wawa TS near Wawa.

The ToR sets out how Hydro One is proposing to assess the potential environmental effects of this proposal.

The goal of the ToR is to promote early identification of potential issues relevant to the completion of an EA for the proposed undertaking. This is to ensure that proponents have clear, concise direction with respect to what is required by key regulatory agencies when preparing their EA. This step has considerable benefits for review agencies, as it allows for early participation and provides an opportunity to sign off on a proposal at the ToR stage, if appropriate. This emphasis on early participation will result in a more streamlined and focused EA for all parties involved.

Purpose of this Review

We believe your agency has an interest in the review of this ToR. If this is not the case, please complete the attached "Acknowledgement of Receipt" form indicating that your agency's involvement is no longer required for this ToR and/or the future EA preparation process. You have been identified as the contact person for your agency. If you are not the appropriate

contact person in your agency, please immediately forward this material to the appropriate person and notify me of the change.

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

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

The following documents are enclosed:

- Terms of Reference for the Lake Superior Link Transmission Project Environmental Assessment; and
- Acknowledgement of Receipt Form - please complete and return to the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch immediately upon receipt.

Timing

In order to ensure consideration within the final decision-making process, the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch should receive your comments **no later than October 7, 2018**. Should you have any questions or require additional information about your agency's review of this Terms of Reference, please feel free to contact me at 416-325-5500 or by e-mail at antonia.testa@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your participation.



Antonia Testa

Enclosures