



**SNC•LAVALIN  
T & D**



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Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
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Dear Sir / Madam;

**RE: GOLDCORP GOLD MINE POWER SUPPLY TRANSMISSION LINE  
HARRY'S CORNER TO BALMER COMPLEX – RED LAKE ONTARIO**

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SNC-Lavalin Inc. has been retained by Goldcorp Inc. to design a 115 kV transmission line (11.7 km) from near Harry's Corner to Goldcorp's Balmer complex in Balmertown as well as to conduct the environmental assessment (EA) for the project. The purpose of the transmission line would be to provide additional power for Goldcorp's Red Lake Gold Mines (RLGM). The power would be solely for the use of Goldcorp's RLGM as a private sector proponent. We would like some guidance on the "Leave to Construct" process for Goldcorp's proposed transmission line in Red Lake. Herein we provide the project background for context followed by our queries.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

As a result of expansion/improvements, RLGM's demand will exceed supply by the 4th quarter of 2011. RLGM currently obtains electrical power from Hydro One's 44 kilovolt (kV) supply system which also supplies the community of Red Lake.

RLGM comprises the integration of the adjacent but formerly separate, Red Lake and Campbell underground mine complexes as well as Balmer complex in Balmertown, which is approximately 8 km northeast of Red Lake, in northwest Ontario. Goldcorp also owns Cochenour mine complex, which is located approximately 8 km north of the Town of Red Lake. Closed and in care and maintenance since 1971, this complex is currently in a state of advanced exploration. Over the next several years, new surface infrastructure will be installed to support underground exploration and mining.

RLGM is the operating entity for all the four complexes in the Red Lake area.

A Class Environmental Assessment (EA) is being conducted for the proposed project in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities*. The Environmental Study Report (ESR) is in preparation and expected to be made available for public review by between early December and mid-January 2011. Accordingly, it is expected that the EA process will be completed by end of January.



The proposed project entails a new 115 kV power transmission line (11.7 km) to tap into Hydro One Networks Inc.'s (HONI's) existing 115 kV power transmission line (E2R) near Red Lake, extending northerly towards RLGM's Balmer complex in the vicinity of Shaft No. 3 in Balmertown where a new transformer station is proposed (please refer to Figure 1 – Key Plan).

The project consists of three major components:

- 1) **New Switchyard** (40 m by 40 m) for the tap into Hydro One Networks Inc's (HONI's) existing 115 kV Transmission Line E2R. It includes a 795 kcmil (400 mm<sup>2</sup>) conductor, a motorized disconnect bus switch structure and a remote restart.
- 2) **New 115 kV single circuit power transmission line** comprising a double wooden pole, H-frame design, with 795 kcmil (400 mm<sup>2</sup>) conductor. A 30 m easement will be developed for construction and operational purposes, as per HONI's functional design requirements. The major crossings are the aerial crossings of Highway 105 and Chukuni River. Preliminary design information for the Chukuni River indicates that:
  - The river is approximately 150 m at the crossing and the span between structures at the river would be approximately 200 m. This means that each of the structures would be approximately 25 m inland from the respective river banks;
  - The height of support poles at the crossing would be roughly 22-25 m;
  - Wire sag at the lowest point of the river crossing would be approximately 12.7 m (vertical clearance between lowest conductor and the river).
  - The proposed crossing is roughly 9 km from the Red Lake airport, however the general area, including the Chukuni River, has floatplane traffic. Mitigation will include obstruction painting of crossing structures, suspended cable span markings and flashing obstruction lights on crossing structures for night and poor visibility weather conditions.
- 3) **New Transformer Station** (83 m by 53 m) at Goldcorp's Balmer complex to step-down electricity from 115 kV high voltage to 44 kV for distribution to Shaft No. 3 at the Balmer complex and to provide for the future potential of feeding the Reid Shaft at the Campbell complex and Shaft No. 1 at the Red Lake Complex. The transformer station is to be located well within RLGM's property line and will require entry through RLGM's gate for access. The proposed site location has existing road access and has previously been cleared, some black spruce regeneration has since occurred. The station will be enclosed by a 2.5 m (8 ft) high fence with barb wire on top. The transformer station will comprise outdoor equipment including two power transformers, circuit breakers and switches. In addition, there will be a control building inside the fence and outdoor lighting.

SNC-Lavalin submitted a *Systems Impact Assessment* (SIA) application package to the IESO on behalf of Goldcorp in September 2010, including supporting documentation (e.g., single-line diagrams). We anticipate comment back by the end of this month and will be incorporating the IESO's requirements into the Project.





### **Schedule**

Ideally, we would like to clear the right of way during the winter of 2011, to reduce environmental impacts, including impacts on nesting birds and bald eagles and to construct the line in late summer/fall of 2011. Construction of the transformer station would carry on from the spring to the fall of 2011.

### **Consultation**

We have had a Public Information Centre (PIC) and are progressing with our consultations with First Nations. We have also had a meeting with government agencies and have since provided a project description to assist in their review. The intent is to use First Nations companies or affiliated companies for construction purposes.

### **LEAVE TO CONSTRUCT PROCESS**

We would like some guidance regarding the Leave to Construct process and have the following initial questions:

- 1) Are there any circumstances in which a private proponent who is building a transmission line solely for their own purpose can be exempted from the Leave to Construct approval process?
- 2) Is there any way to expedite the Leave to Construct process?
- 3) Can the Leave to Construct process be initiated prior to submitting the draft EA document for the required 30 day public review period or otherwise can it be initiated upon submitting the draft Class EA or is the final Class EA document required?
- 4) Can the right of way be cleared prior to obtaining the Leave to construct approval?

Thank you in advance for your assistance. We hope to hear from you shortly.

Yours truly,

**SNC-Lavalin Environment**

Pappur Shankar, P. Eng.  
Sr. Project Manager

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Fred Greene, Goldcorp  
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Steve Lindley, SNC-Lavalin Environment  
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Att: Figure 1