



Métis Nation of Ontario  
Lands, Resources and Consultations

December 05, 2023

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Filed via RESS

**Re: EB-2023-0198 Hydro One Networks Inc. application for leave to construct a new electricity transmission line between Lakehead Transmission Station to Mackenzie Transmission Station and Mackenzie Transmission Station to Dryden Transmission Station**

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In accordance with Procedural Order No. 2, please find attached written interrogatories from the Métis Nation of Ontario in the above-noted proceeding. The applicant and the intervenors have been served with this filing.

Sincerely,

Encl.

## **EB-2023-0198**

### **Métis Nation of Ontario (“MNO”) Written Interrogatories to Hydro One Networks Inc. (“Hydro One”)**

#### **1-MNO-1**

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit B, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Page 4, Lines 21-31.

- a) Provide all correspondence between Hydro One and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (“MECP”), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (“MNRF”), the IESO, and any other regulators related to the Waasigan Project.

#### **3-MNO-2**

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit B, Tab 7, Schedule 1, Pages 7-8, Lines and 18-27. 1-11; Exhibit B, Tab 11, Schedule 1, (Project Schedule).

- a) Provide a list of outstanding environmental approvals and permits required to construct the Waasigan Project and Hydro One’s understanding of the process to obtain these permits, including the need for consultation with Indigenous communities.
- b) Explain the probability and implications of missing anticipated approval dates for outstanding environmental approvals and permits.
- c) Explain in detail Hydro One’s completed archaeological work, and plans for future archaeological work, including plans for engagement and participation of Indigenous communities.
- d) Confirm that risks associated with engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities have not been included in Hydro One’s allowance for contingency.

- a. If not, explain in detail why not.
- b. Provide an estimate of costs associated with these risks.

### 3-MNO-3

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit B, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Pages 2-3, Lines 17-31, 6-9.

- a) Describe in detail Hydro One’s “extensive economic discussions with impacted Indigenous communities.”
- b) Provide copies of all correspondence and documents relating to seeking or agreement with Indigenous communities on economic participation.
- c) Provide an update on the formation and structuring of the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (“GLP”).
- d) Identify the amount of costs associated with ownership of transmission facilities by the GLP and confirm whether these costs are included in Hydro One’s cost estimate for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project.

### 3-MNO-4

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 1, Page 2, Lines 15-26.

- a) Explain in detail the employment, training, and business opportunities that the Project will bring to Indigenous communities and businesses during construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project. Provide all documents, correspondence, and analyses related to the same.
- b) Explain in detail the work Hydro One has done with Indigenous communities in the region to understand their interests and aspirations in the future of Ontario’s energy grid. Provide all documents, correspondence, and analyses related to the same.
- c) Beyond the opportunity to invest in a 50 per cent equity stake in the transmission line components of the Project, explain in detail how the Project will provide innovative and lasting benefits to Indigenous communities in procurement,

employment, economic benefits, and investment opportunities. Provide all documents, correspondence, and analyses related to the same.

### 3-MNO-5

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit B, Tab 7, Schedule 1, Pages 4-5, Lines 22-28, 1-2.

- a) Describe in detail Hydro One's initiatives involving Indigenous communities to deliver transmission line projects in a cost-effective, efficient, and timely manner. Provide all documents and analyses including working documents regarding the same.
- b) Describe in detail Hydro One's policy to provide equity opportunities to First Nations for greenfield transmission line projects and any other similar policies. Provide all documents and analyses including working documents regarding the same.

### 3-MNO-6

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit B, Tab 7, Schedule 1, Pages 1-4.

- a) Explain in detail how continued engagement with Indigenous communities is reflected in Hydro One's cost estimate for the Waasigan Project, including through the construction and operation phases.
  - a. If not reflected, confirm Hydro One's intentions for continued engagement and participation of Indigenous communities, and how these costs will be accounted for in the future.
- b) Provide a plan for Indigenous engagement with reference to the Project Schedule at Exhibit B, Tab 11, Schedule 1.

### 3-MNO-7

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Pages 1-3.

- a) Provide an up-to-date and detailed Project schedule for Hydro One's plans to construct the Waasigan Project through the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park including required

approvals and permits, consultation requirements including with Indigenous communities, all risks and possible delays associated with each permit or requirement, and an explanation of the potential impact to the in-service date and Project costs if each approval or other requirement is missed by six months or more.

#### 6-MNO-8

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit E, Tab 1, Schedule 1, Page 2-5.

- a) Describe in detail Hydro One's discussions with Indigenous communities with respect to use of Crown lands for the Waasigan Project. Provide all documents and correspondence with respect to the same.
- b) Explain the process for obtaining land use permits for Crown lands including with respect to obligations for consultation.
- c) Explain in detail Hydro One's Consultation Plan. Provide all documents and correspondence with Indigenous communities and the Crown relating to the same.

#### 6-MNO-9

Reference: EB-2023-0198 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Application – Waasigan Project – Application and Evidence, Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Pages 1-3.

- a) Describe in detail how Hydro One considered route alternatives based on concerns expressed by groups other than the Kaministiquia community, including Indigenous communities.
- b) Provide copies of all correspondence and documents between Hydro One and Indigenous communities with respect to route options, analysis, and selection.
- c) Explain in detail the decision to route through the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park, how this was balanced against other factors considered in Hydro One's route analysis.
- d) Provide a detailed analysis of costs associated with routing through the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park relative to alternatives.

- e) Provide all documents and correspondence between Hydro One and MECP and MNRF related to routing, including with respect to routing through the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park.
- f) Provide copies of all correspondence received by Hydro One expressing concerns with or opposing Hydro One's proposed routing through the Campus Lake Conservation Reserve and the Turtle River-White Otter Lake Provincial Park.
- g) Provide copies of all correspondence and documents received by Hydro One expressing concerns with or opposing the use of unoccupied Crown land for the Project.
- h) Provide copies of all documents and correspondence received by Hydro One expressing concerns with or opposing routes in proximity to First Nation reserves.
- i) Provide copies of all documents and correspondence received by Hydro One expressing concerns or opposing Hydro One's preferred route.
- j) Provide all documents and correspondence between Hydro One and IESO related to route alternatives and analysis.