

November 8, 2021

George Finch
Mayor
Municipality of South Huron
322 Main Street South
P.O. Box 759
Exeter, ON, N0M 1S6
gfinch@southhuron.ca

**Re: NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT
Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities
2022 Wood Pole Replacement Program – Circuit L7S**

Dear Mayor George Finch,

This letter is to inform you that Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is initiating a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the planned wood pole replacements for the following project as part of the 2022 Wood Pole Replacement Program (WPRP):

1. WPRP 2022 – Circuit L7S: existing 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line located in the Municipality of South Huron, Municipality of North Middlesex, Township of Lucan Biddulph, Township of Perth South, Municipality of West Perth, and Town of St. Marys. The wood pole replacement work consists of replacing approximately 28 end-of-life structures between Grand Bend East DS and Lake Huron WTP CTS, Seaforth L7S JCT and Goshen CSS, Biddulph JCT and Grand Bend East DS, Kirkton JCT and Biddulph JCT, Portland JCT and St. Marys Cement CTS, and Centralia TS and AWSC McGillivry CTS.

The project area is shown on the attached map.

Project Description

The Wood Pole Replacement Program is an annual routine maintenance program that, through various testing and inspections, determines the need for end-of-life wood pole structures to be replaced due to aging infrastructure or degradation due to insect activity, decomposition, weather damage, or woodpecker activity. Replacement of these wood pole structures, and their associated components, will ensure the continued reliability and integrity of the Ontario transmission system and the electricity supply to communities.

We anticipate that this work would be carried out within the existing transmission right-of-way, with no new corridor being required. Where possible, access to the wood pole structures would be gained using existing

roads and trails along the existing transmission right-of-way. There would be very little noticeable difference in the transmission line after the replacement of the wood pole structures have been completed. These types of projects are considered routine replacement work that typically have minimal effects.

The wood pole replacements during a program year typically occur in line section pockets along a transmission line circuit, driven by the need to replace the most critically damaged structures following tests, and do not require that all wood poles within that line section be replaced at that time. Some circuits might only require a single structure to be replaced, for example, where multiple corridors intersect, where others might require numerous structures to be replaced at the same time. Some circuits may require multiple years of construction to complete the replacement work, due to the volume of structures requiring replacement, and are not always consecutive wood poles being replaced in a given year. Weather hazards, seasonal limitations (e.g., harvest, hunting, nesting, etc.), and lost outages that enable us to safely perform the replacement work due to other emergencies, are all factors that impact the ability to replace the wood poles structures.

During the execution of the Wood Pole Replacement Program, Hydro One employs standard mitigation measures and protocols, adapted as necessary to the local environment, to minimize any environmental effects expected to result from this work.

Class Environmental Assessment Process

This project is subject to the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA for MTF) in accordance with the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Class EA for MTF is a streamlined process for planning transmission projects that have a predictable range of environmental effects and feasible mitigation measures that can be applied (www.hydroone.com/ClassEA).

Within the Class EA for MTF there are two tiers of assessment (levels) designed to be commensurate with project scale and associated potential for environmental effects. These include: i) Screening Process, and ii) Full Class EA Process.

The Screening Process is a further streamlined process for smaller scale projects with minimal environmental effects (confirmed upon satisfying 16 screening criteria). This project is similar to examples provided within the Class EA document where the Screening Process would typically apply. As such, contingent upon consultation activities and satisfaction of the applicable criteria, it is anticipated that this project will follow the Screening Process.

We welcome your comments and feedback regarding this project. Should there be any update to the project information provided, I will ensure that you are promptly informed.

Information regarding this project will also be available on our project website at <http://www.hydroone.com/woodpoles>.

Your input on this project is valued and would be appreciated by December 7, 2021.

Eryn Brown

Communication Services Officer

Office: 1-877-345-6799

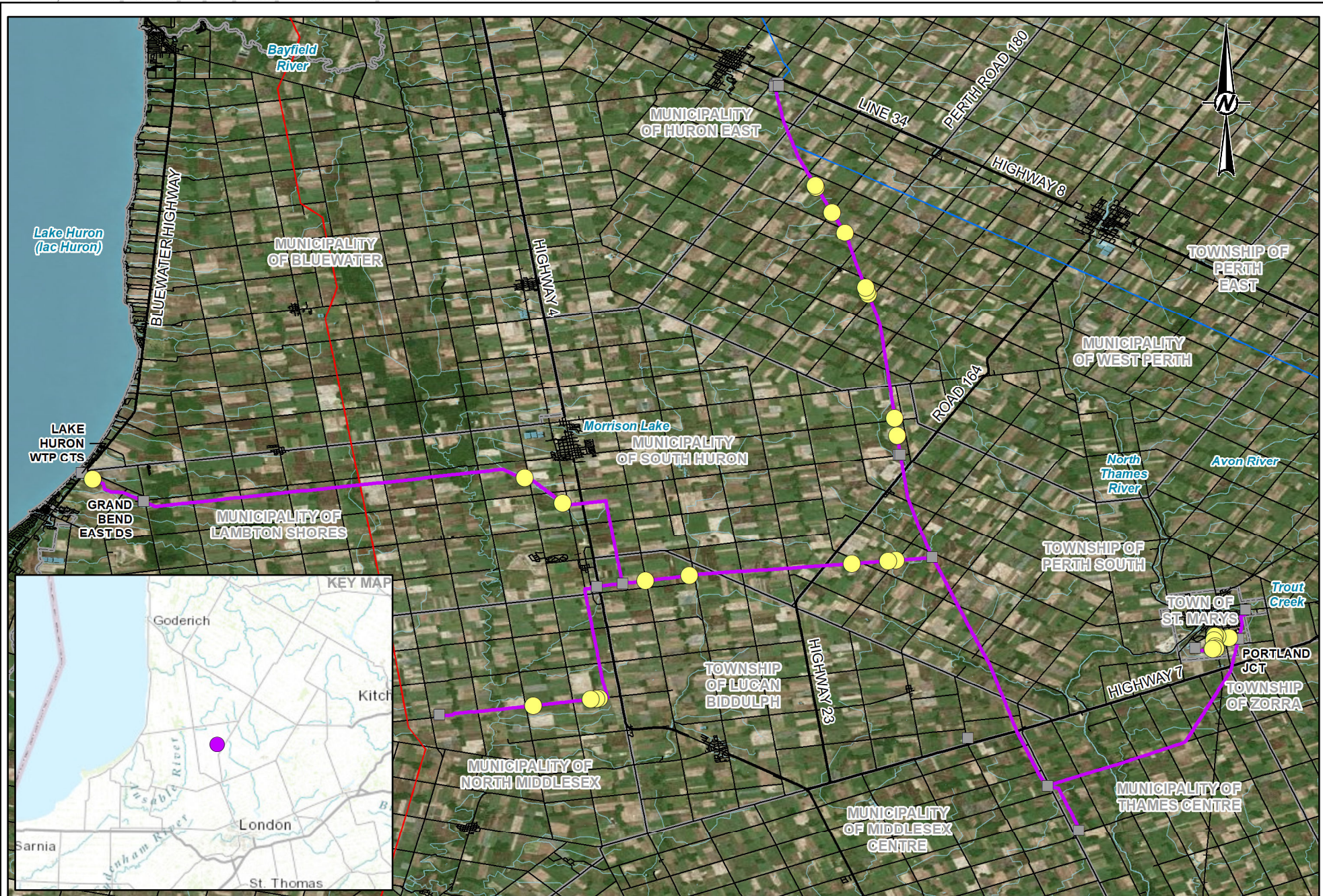
Email: Community.Relations@HydroOne.com

Attachment: Project Area Map







CC: Marissa Vaughan, Councillor, Ward 1 – Stephen, Municipality of South Huron
Dianne Faubert, Councillor, Ward 1 – Stephen, Municipality of South Huron
Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of South Huron
Kimberly Miller-Bautista, Environmental Planner, Environmental Services, Hydro One Networks Inc.
Justin Banninga, Manager – North-East Transmission Lines, Environmental Services, Hydro One Networks Inc.

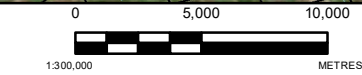
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

All personal information included in your request – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, under the authority of section 30 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public. As this information is collected for the purpose of a public record, the protection of personal information provided in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) does not apply (s.37). 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.



LEGEND

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|---|---|---|----------------------|
|  | Wood Pole Replacement (Approximate Work Area) |  | Highway |
|  | Existing Transmission Station and/or Junction |  | Municipal Boundaries |
| | Circuit L7S -115 kV Transmission Line | | Water |
|  | Transmission Line (230 kV) | | |
|  | Transmission Line (500 kV) | | |
| | Road | | |



PROJECT
2022 WOOD POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT – CIRCUIT L7S

TITLE
GENERAL AREA MAP

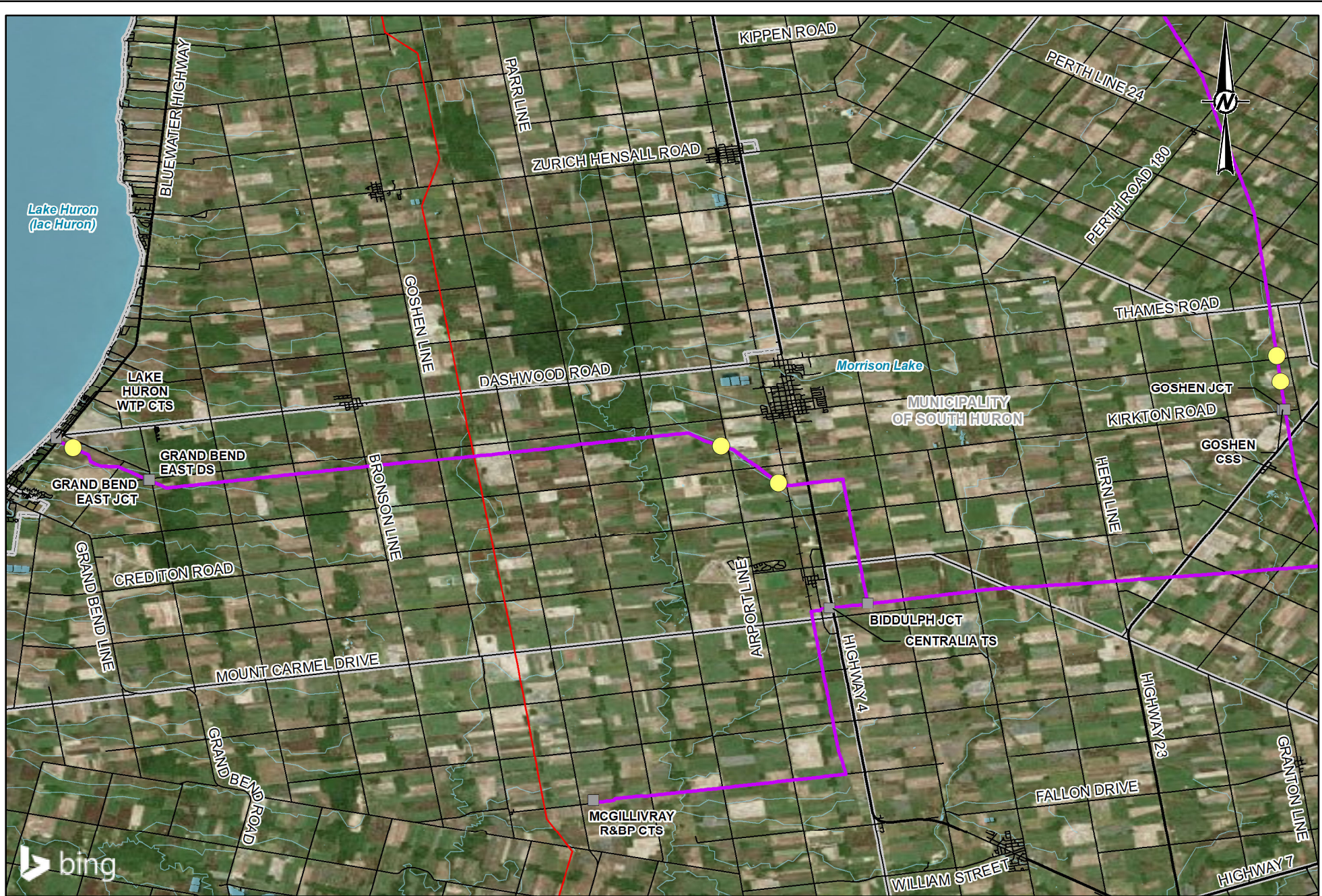
REFERENCE(S)

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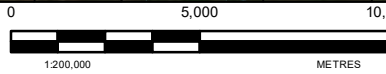
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- Wood Pole Replacement (Approximate Work Area)
- Existing Transmission Station and/or Junction
- Circuit L7S -115 kV Transmission Line
- Transmission Line (500 kV)
- Road
- Highway
- Municipal Boundaries
- Water



PROJECT
2022 WOOD POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT – CIRCUIT L7S

TITLE GENERAL AREA MAP - MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

REFERENCE(S)

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