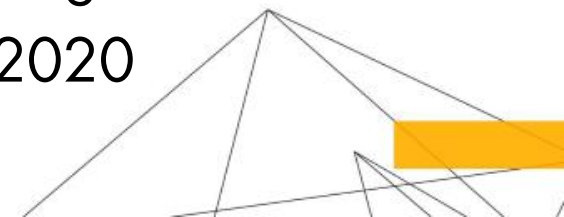




CHATHAM TO LAKESHORE LINE UPDATE

County of Essex Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020



TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- Project overview and status
- What we have heard to date
- Next steps



BEING A COMMUNITY PARTNER



Consultation and community engagement is a top priority for Hydro One. Feedback collected has and will continue to shape our process.



We are always looking for ways to strengthen our partnerships including identifying ways in which Hydro One and the project can support the County of Essex. We are committed to working closely with your community to learn more about their future energy needs.



PROJECT OVERVIEW



A safe and reliable power supply is essential to ensure southwestern Ontario can continue to grow now and into the future.

In June 2019, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) requested Hydro One build a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line from the Chatham Switching Station to the future Lakeshore Switching Station.

This project requires undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment which began in January 2020.

It is anticipated this line will be in-service prior to the end of 2025.

HOW THE NEW LINE WILL SUPPORT THE REGION

As businesses and industry continue to expand in the region, so does the need for more electricity.



The new high voltage transmission line will support the region by:



Ensuring critical infrastructure is in place to keep southwestern Ontario one of North America's agricultural hubs



Improving reliability for homes and businesses including both Hydro One and local distribution customers



Connecting more people and industry to the grid by bringing enough energy to power a city the size of Windsor to the area



Supporting the local economy by creating new direct and spin off jobs and training opportunities as one of the largest electricity infrastructure projects in the region

CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

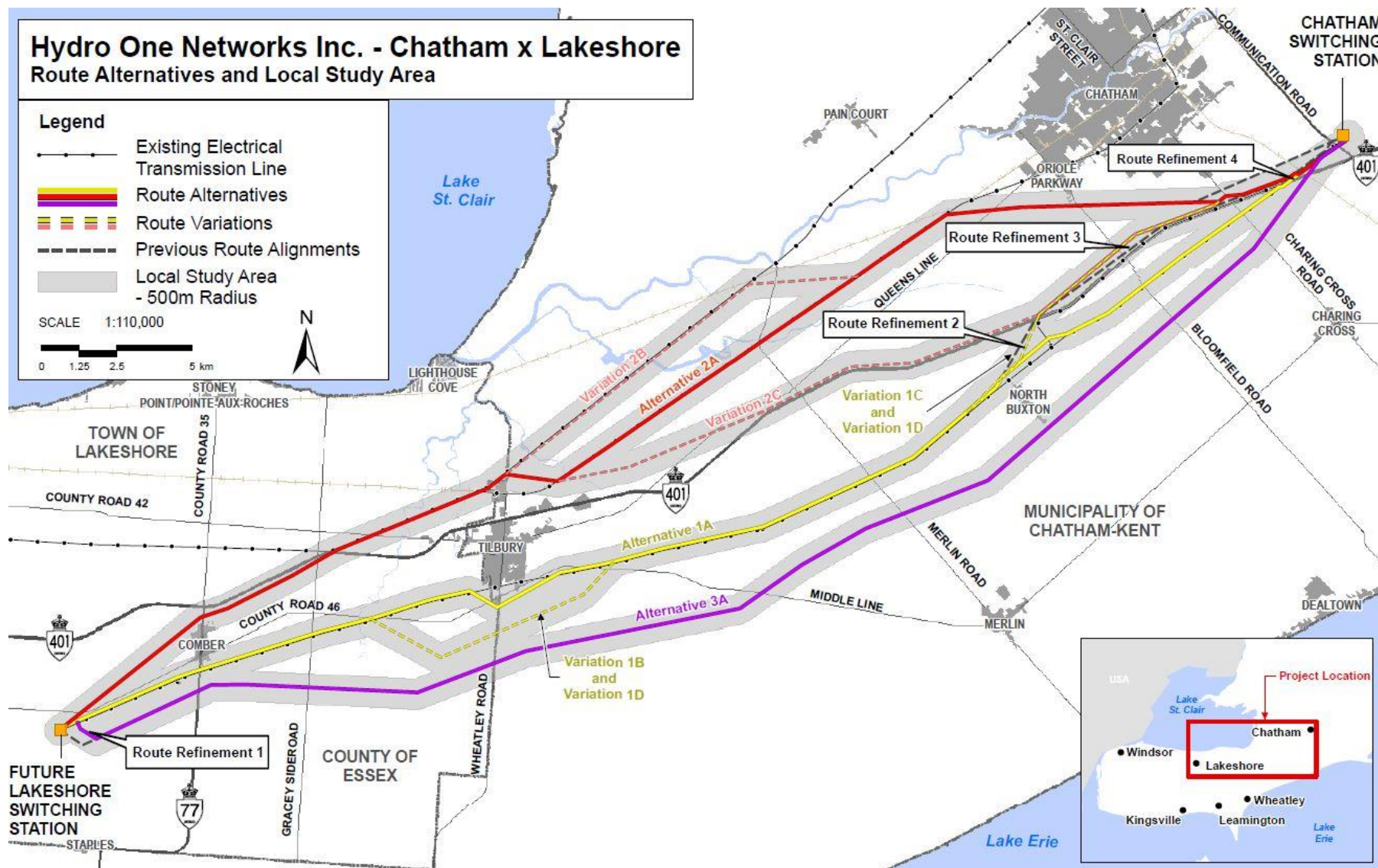


The Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities sets out a planning and decision-making process for projects with predictable environmental effects that can be mitigated.

KEY COMPONENTS

- Consultation with Indigenous communities, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies;
- Collection of environmental inventory;
- Identification and evaluation of alternative methods;
- Identification of potential effects and mitigation measures;
- Selection of a preferred alternative
- A draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) that will be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period; and
- Submission of Statement of Completion and Final ESR

REFINED ROUTE ALTERNATIVES WE ARE EVALUATING



WHERE WE ARE TO DATE

Public input is collected and considered on an ongoing basis during community engagement activities.

SINCE JANUARY 2020 OUR TEAM HAS:

- Hosted two virtual Information Sessions and launched a virtual Open House
- Facilitated two Technical Advisory Committee Meeting made up of First Nations representatives, and technical and industry stakeholders
- Arranged video conference and in-person meetings with interested community members
- Met with municipal councils and key industry organizations in the study area
- Continued to engage and schedule workshops with Indigenous communities

WHAT WE HAVE HEARD:

- Protecting agricultural features should be considered when both selecting the route and designing the line
- Farming practices should be considered as part of the solution used to deliver this project

PROJECT MILESTONES



We are here



NEXT STEPS



Hydro One will continue to collect feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders.



The project team will consider all feedback received and evaluate the results of environmental and technical research, to select the preferred route for the new transmission line.



The preferred route alternative and the rationale for its selection will be presented in early 2021.



THANK YOU

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