

# WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

June 2021

Prepared by Gwayakocchigewin LP

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The Waasigan Transmission Line is a proposed double-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Thunder Bay and Atikokan and a single-circuit 230 kV transmission line, between Atikokan to Dryden. It is currently being developed by Hydro One with construction expected to begin in 2024.

## About Gwayakocchigewin LP (GLP)

- GLP is a First Nation partnership owned by Eagle Lake First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Seine River First Nation, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, and Ojibway Nation of Saugeen (joined May 2021)
- The sole mission of Gwayakocchigewin, is to partner in the development of the Waasigan Transmission Line on the basis of meaningful protection and economic accommodation, including long term, sustainable socio-economic benefits, business, training and employment opportunities within its homelands. Each member First Nation is represented by a:

**Board Member:** She/He leads the overall business and direction of GLP. At this stage in the project development, the Board of Director's responsibilities are focused on assisting, supporting the legal negotiation of the Hydro One and GLP Term Sheet, Definitive Documentation and Economic Accommodation. They are also working very closely with the Protection Committee in the development, approval of the Environmental Assessment.

**Protection Committee Member:** She/He is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the First Nation's participation in all components of the Environmental Assessment. This includes traditional knowledge and land use studies, archeology, value and rights impact Assessments, environmental, social and cultural mitigation measures, etc.

**Community Engagement Coordinator:** She/He is responsible for serving as a primary liaison between Hydro One, GLP and their First Nation. This includes information sharing and supporting the coordination of local community engagement related to the advancement of the Project, environmental assessment, training, employment and contracting initiatives.

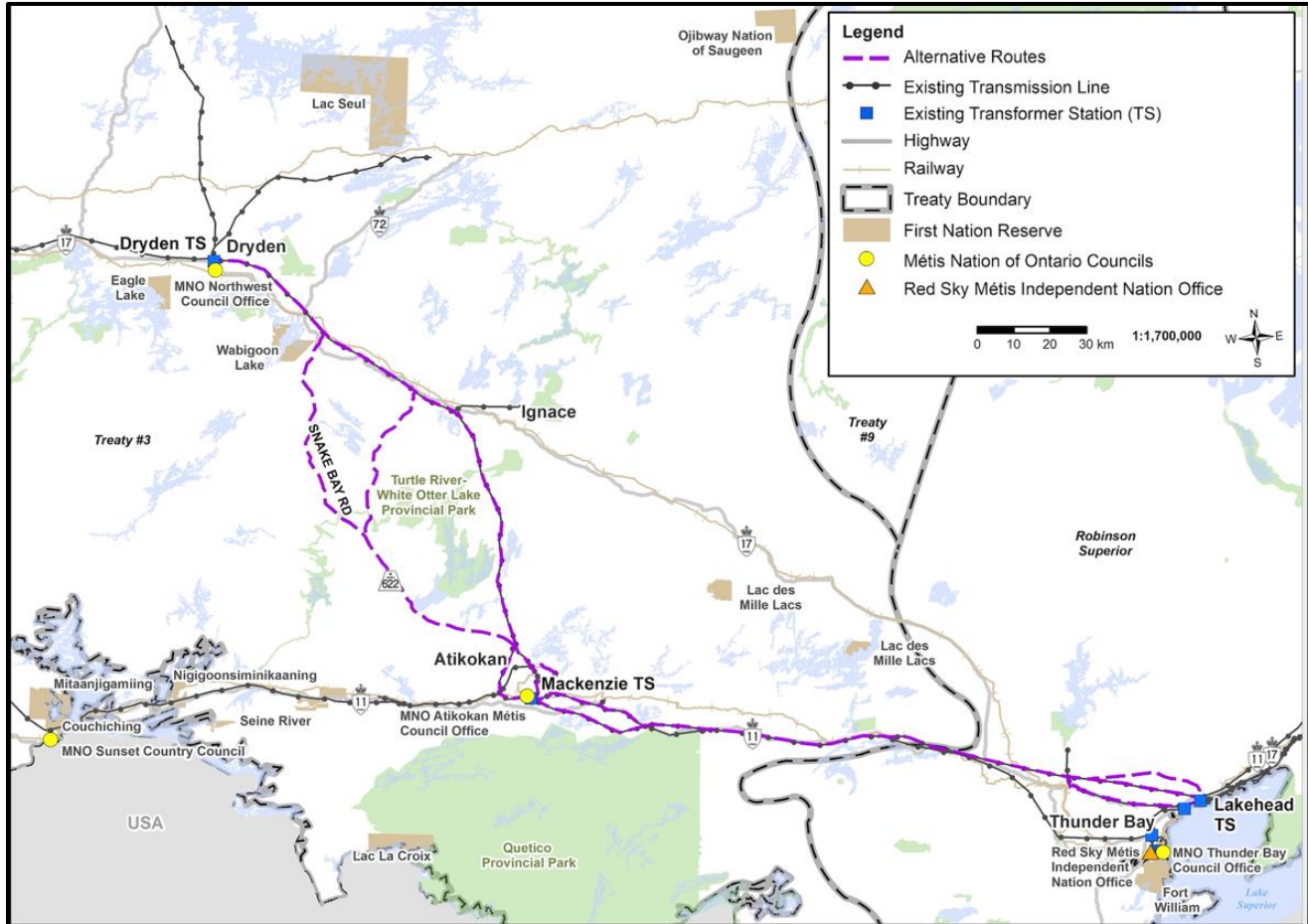
## What's Happened in the Last 3 Months?

- Hydro One and Gwayakocchigewin negotiations on a formal Term Sheet (outlining the key benefits to the eight member First Nations including equity ownership, contracting and employment opportunities), have stopped since the parties cannot come to an agreement. There is no expected timing on if, or when they will continue.
- Gwayakocchigewin issued a letter of formal objection to Hydro One and the Ministry of Environment on Hydro One's proposed Environmental Assessment 'Terms of Reference' for the Waasigan Project. GLP has formally advised all parties that NO environmental work is to proceed on First Nation homelands until the Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference has been approved and the COVID pandemic is not impacting the community's engagement on the Project.
- Hydro One selected Forbes Brothers and Valard in an "Early Contractor Involvement (ECI)" process. The contractors will each work with Hydro One for a one year period, provide a formal recommendation for future construction of the Waasigan Transmission Line.

## What's Happening Next?

- Gwayakocchigewin will await Hydro One's return to formal negotiations on the Term Sheet. Should there be no positive movement, the GLP Board of Directors will seek direction from community leadership on how to proceed.
- GLP will hire a part-time 'Indigenous Business Readiness Coordinator', responsible for outreach to First Nation communities, businesses and individuals to identify, develop future economic development opportunities. This includes developing a GLP First Nation business inventory and gap analysis. Once the business capacity is known, GLP will work with the communities to address any gaps in order to maximize contracting to First Nation businesses on the Project.
- Hydro One advised GLP it is mobilizing LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to the northwest of Thunder Bay commencing June 11, 2021. The technology is used to collect data over broad geographic areas from the air and is used for a variety of mapping, modeling and operational monitoring needs. GLP formally advised Hydro One its First Nations do not currently support Hydro One proceeding with the activities without a partnership agreement with GLP and the EA ToR approval.

## Hydro One's Refined Route Selection Study Area



### For more information or to provide your feedback

- Contact your local Band Office
- Contact Gwayakocchigewin [pboileau@northvista.ca](mailto:pboileau@northvista.ca) / 807-627-7420
- Contact Hydro One at [Community.Relations@HydroOne.com](mailto:Community.Relations@HydroOne.com)
- Visit Hydro One's Project Websites at [www.hydroone.com/Waasigan](http://www.hydroone.com/Waasigan)
- Contact your local Community Engagement Coordinator or Protection Committee Member

*"Making Decisions The Right Way"*