APPENDIX

B-4 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CONSULTATION MATERIALS AND CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS PIC 1 Letters and Correspondence Records



May 25, 2022

Chief Dean Sayers Batchewana First Nation 236 Frontenac Street Sault Ste. Marie, ON PA 5K9 Sent via E-mail

<u>Subject: PUC Transmission LP, Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B',</u> <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>

Dear Chief Sayers,

PUC Transmission LP (PUC) has retained WSP Canada Inc. to undertake the Category 'B' Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study prior to constructing a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This transmission line and station are proposed to serve the increased electrical needs of Algoma Steel due to the addition of new electric arc furnaces (EAFs) to replace the existing blast furnaces. PUC has initiated planning for the development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a transmission line from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station.

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team

Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson	
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinato	
PUC Services Inc.	PUC Services Inc.	

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead	Impact Assessment	WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jeremiah Pariag will serve as the primary contacts for this project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for their new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station on its property. This project requires undertaking a Class EA, which began in 2021.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes (the "Route and Station Options") for the new 230 kV transmission line and station. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, socioeconomic, and natural environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

Work for preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the Project has been initiated. The ESR will examine the alternative route and station options and determine, from an environmental, technical and socio-economic perspective, the preferred route and station location for the Project.

THE PROCESS

The ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #1**.

The Class EA process defines an environmental planning process that meets all requirements of the EA Act, including:

- Name and description of the proposed project;
- A description of the need (justification) for the proposed project;
- A description of the alternatives for the project, including maps;
- A description of a study area for the project and the existing environment;

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- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
- A description of the preferred alternative;
- A description of the consultation that was undertaken;
- A description of other applicable permits and approvals required for the project;
- A description of mitigation measures and predicted net effects; and
- A description of any required environmental monitoring.

The Class EA process describes the process that must be followed for a defined class of projects/undertakings in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act.

The Class EA process applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation projects. Transmission facilities covered under the Class EA process include:

a) The planning, design and construction of minor transmission lines and/or transmission stations (including telecommunication stations), and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of these facilities.

"Minor transmission lines" means all transmission lines that:

- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kilovolts (kV) and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 kilometres (km) in length; or
- ii. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km and less than 75 km in length.
- b. (Note: Transmission lines that are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are equal to or greater than 75 km in length are excluded; those projects are subject to an Individual EA). The planning, design and construction required to modify or upgrade a transmission line, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the revised line where:
 - i. The work requires replacement of poles or towers and/or changes in the right-of-way (RoW) for existing transmission lines capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV.
 - ii. The modified or upgraded existing lines would operate at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV, and equal to or less than 500 kV (nominal voltage).
- c. The planning, design and construction required to modify or expand a transmission station, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the modified station where:
 - i. Acquisition of additional property is required; and,
 - ii. The modified stations are capable of operating at a nominal voltage level of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV (where a station has more than one voltage level, the highest level is used in defining the station's nominal operating voltage).

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PROJECT SITE

Based on the preliminary assessment, four feasible route options and two new station options were identified. In April 2022, after issuing the Notice of Commencement (**Attachment #2**), PUC introduced the new Route Option 5 based on advancement of preliminary engineering work, information acquired through the Class EA process, and consultation with stakeholders and the public. Specifically, input received from residents and property owners within the Study Area identified land use constraints/opportunities, which resulted in the introduction of Route Option 5.

The route options, including the route refinements as shown in **Attachment #3**, were carried forward for the comparative evaluation.

No other viable alternatives were identified for the proposed 230 kV transmission line and station due to the configuration of equipment within and around the future EAF station and Hydro One Third Line Station.

Where possible, the Project will be located within existing road allowances. Temporary working space and laydown areas may be required adjacent to these areas to facilitate the movement and storage of equipment necessary for construction. Permanent easements will be required as well. PUC will work with regulators and landowners to identify and secure appropriate working space and easements as required.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

Please refer to Attachment #1 for a summary of the proposed timing for each of the Class EA phases.

Following the completion of Public Information Centre #1 (PIC #1), subsequent activities will be completed in accordance with the following schedule:

- Select and announce preferred route alternative in Summer 2022;
- Circulate Draft ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities and review agencies in early Fall 2022;
- Circulate Final ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities, review agencies, and the greater public during the 30-day Public Review period in September 2022; and
- Upon completion of the draft ESR, PUC will issue a Notice of Completion to all stakeholders including municipal, provincial, and federal government officials, as well as, government agencies, Indigenous Peoples and Communities, potentially affected and interested persons, and interest groups.

POTENTIAL STUDY IMPACTS

It is expected that the majority of adverse environmental and/or socio-economic effects will be construction related. These effects are expected to be temporary and transitory. All facilities to be constructed for the Project will also be above ground, no underground facilities are being proposed. Routing will avoid or minimize environmental effect to the extent feasible, and Project components will be constructed to minimize environmental or socioeconomic impacts.

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Mitigation measures that will be recommended in the ESR will be followed in conjunction with other provincial and municipal standards. In addition, PUC will use professional judgement, past experience, industry best practices and any additional feedback received through the consultation process when constructing the Project.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, Section 4.1.1, the Project Team contacted the Ministry of Energy on April 25th, 2022, to confirm which Indigenous Peoples and Communities may have an interest in the project. On May 18th, 2022, the Ministry of Energy provided a preliminary list of Indigenous Peoples and Communities that may take an interest in the project based on proximity and/or our knowledge of the treaties and traditional territories associated with these communities. This list includes the following communities:

- Batchewana First Nation;
- Garden River First Nation;
- Michipicoten First Nation;
- MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; and
- MNO Region 4.

Open engagement with Indigenous Communities, stakeholders, and the public will be a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input shall be examined and considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with Batchewana First Nation as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this Study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

Contact with Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and review agencies involves the formal act of notification and requesting comments and input. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be convened for this Study, with the goal of the first PIC being to provide members of the Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and stakeholders with an opportunity to introduce the Study, discuss the project timeline, and outline upcoming environmental studies. As such, the Project Team is excited to announce that the first PIC will be held in-person on **May 26th**, **2022** and virtually on **May 31st**, **2022**. PIC materials will be made available throughout the commenting period. Comments related to PIC #1 are requested between **May 26th**, **2022**, and **June 9th**, **2022**; however, comments are welcome at any time during the Study. See **Attachment #4** for further detail on PIC #1.

One subsequent PIC will be scheduled in late Summer 2022 to share project updates and solicit input from Indigenous Peoples and Communities, key stakeholders, and the public.

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Per Section 4.3 of the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, under Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, comments and information collected under the authority of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act or information that is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, including personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) for the purpose of transparency and consultation and will become part of the public record. 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. If you have accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please let us know and we will make the required accommodations. For more information, please contact the MECP's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

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NEXT STEPS

Your input and ideas are important to the Study process, and we very much want to engage with your community throughout this Study. If your community has an interest in participating in the project and/or meeting with the Project Team, please indicate this to Dominic and/or Jeremiah using the contact information below. If there is another way in which you would like to engage or share information, please let us know how we can best work with you.

If you are not interested in engaging with this Study but would like us to provide you with updates throughout the project, including notification of future public meetings and study completion, please let us know and we will send you the information as it becomes available. Please let us know as well if you are not interested in participating in this Study.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com cc: Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. 289-835-2548 Jeremiah.Pariag@wsp.com

Danny Sayers Jr., Consultation Coordinator, Batchewana First Nation Jairus Patterson, Communications Coordinator, PUC Transmission LP Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

- Attachment #1 Class EA Process and Project Schedule
- Attachment #2 Notice of Commencement
- Attachment #3 Project Maps
- Attachment #4 Notice of Public Information Centre #1

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Attachment #1 – Class EA Process and Project Schedule

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Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Late Fall 2022

September 2022

Issue final notification and commence review period of draft ESR

Finalize ESR AND **SUBMIT** Statement of Completion to MECP

Attachment #2 – Notice of Commencement

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

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Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

PUC Transmission LP has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kV line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault St. Marie as part of an expansion of the electrical supply related to load expansion at Algoma Steel. The 230-kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS), which is located in the City of Sault St. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant.

This Study will identify the effects on the environment for the potential circuit routes and determine the preferred route. The Study Area and sites under consideration are shown in the Key Map.

THE PROCESS

The Study is being conducted in accordance with the planning process for Category 'B' projects, subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities as amended, approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and *Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 116*/01 (the electricity project regulation). The Class Environmental Assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project and the identification of mitigation measures.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in multiple in-person and virtual open houses to discuss the project as the Study proceeds.

To provide comments, request additional information or to be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
Tel.: (705) 941-8386	Tel.: (289) 835-2548
Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.



Attachment #3 – Project Maps

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



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Attachment #4 – Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Public Information Centre #1 Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant. There are two location options for the new substation.

This study will identify the potential effects on the environment from each of the circuit route and substation location options, and then determine the preferred options. The Study Area, route options, and substation location options under consideration are shown in the attached map.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning, and the Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the route and station options, and the selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigations, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS*	VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS
Date: May 26 th , 2022	Date: May 31 st , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com
* Please note that masks are required for the in- person PIC.	

To provide comments, request additional information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
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May 26, 2022 Chief Andy Rickard 7 Shingwauk Street, RR 4 Garden River, ON, P6A 628

Sent via E-mail

<u>Subject: PUC Transmission LP, Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B',</u> <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>

Dear Chief Rickard,

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Open engagement with Indigenous Communities, stakeholders, and the public will be a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input shall be examined and considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with Garden River First Nation as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this Study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

Contact with Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and review agencies involves the formal act of notification and requesting comments and input. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be convened for this Study, with the goal of the first PIC being to provide members of the Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and stakeholders with an opportunity to introduce the Study, discuss the project timeline, and outline upcoming environmental studies. As such, the Project Team is excited to announce that the first PIC will be held in-person on **May 26th**, **2022** and virtually on **May 31st**, **2022**. PIC materials will be made available throughout the commenting period. Comments related to PIC #1 are requested between **May 26th**, **2022**, and **June 9th**, **2022**; however, comments are welcome at any time during the Study. See **Attachment #4** for further detail on PIC #1.

One subsequent PIC will be scheduled in late Summer 2022 to share project updates and solicit input from Indigenous Peoples and Communities, key stakeholders, and the public.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Per Section 4.3 of the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, under Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, comments and information collected under the authority of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act or information that is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, including personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) for the purpose of transparency and consultation and will become part of the public record. 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. If you have accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please let us know and we will make the required accommodations. For more information, please contact the MECP's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

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NEXT STEPS

Your input and ideas are important to the Study process, and we very much want to engage with your community throughout this Study. If your community has an interest in participating in the project and/or meeting with the Project Team, please indicate this to Dominic and/or Jeremiah using the contact information below. If there is another way in which you would like to engage or share information, please let us know how we can best work with you.

If you are not interested in engaging with this Study but would like us to provide you with updates throughout the project, including notification of future public meetings and study completion, please let us know and we will send you the information as it becomes available. Please let us know as well if you are not interested in participating in this Study.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com cc: Chevenne Nolan, Consultation Coordinat Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. 289-835-2548 Jeremiah.Pariag@wsp.com

Cheyenne Nolan, Consultation Coordinator, Garden River First Nation Jairus Patterson, Communications Coordinator, PUC Transmission LP Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

- Attachment #1 Class EA Process and Project Schedule
- Attachment #2 Notice of Commencement
- Attachment #3 Project Maps
- Attachment #4 Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Attachment #1 – Class EA Process and Project Schedule

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Late Fall 2022

September 2022

Issue final notification and commence review period of draft ESR

Finalize ESR AND **SUBMIT** Statement of Completion to MECP

Attachment #2 – Notice of Commencement

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

PUC Transmission LP has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kV line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault St. Marie as part of an expansion of the electrical supply related to load expansion at Algoma Steel. The 230-kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS), which is located in the City of Sault St. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant.

This Study will identify the effects on the environment for the potential circuit routes and determine the preferred route. The Study Area and sites under consideration are shown in the Key Map.

THE PROCESS

The Study is being conducted in accordance with the planning process for Category 'B' projects, subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities as amended, approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and *Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 116*/01 (the electricity project regulation). The Class Environmental Assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project and the identification of mitigation measures.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in multiple in-person and virtual open houses to discuss the project as the Study proceeds.

To provide comments, request additional information or to be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
Tel.: (705) 941-8386	Tel.: (289) 835-2548
Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.



Attachment #3 – Project Maps

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



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Attachment #4 – Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Public Information Centre #1 Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant. There are two location options for the new substation.

This study will identify the potential effects on the environment from each of the circuit route and substation location options, and then determine the preferred options. The Study Area, route options, and substation location options under consideration are shown in the attached map.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning, and the Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the route and station options, and the selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigations, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS*	VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS
Date: May 26 th , 2022	Date: May 31 st , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com
* Please note that masks are required for the in- person PIC.	

To provide comments, request additional information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.







May 25, 2022

Chief Patricia Tangie Michipicoten First Nation PO Box 1, Site 8, RR 1 Wawa, ON, POS 1KO Sent via E-mail

<u>Subject: PUC Transmission LP, Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B',</u> <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>

Dear Chief Tangie,

PUC Transmission LP (PUC) has retained WSP Canada Inc. to undertake the Category 'B' Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study prior to constructing a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This transmission line and station are proposed to serve the increased electrical needs of Algoma Steel due to the addition of new electric arc furnaces (EAFs) to replace the existing blast furnaces. PUC has initiated planning for the development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a transmission line from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station.

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team

Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinator
PUC Services Inc.	PUC Services Inc.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead		WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jeremiah Pariag will serve as the primary contacts for this project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for their new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station on its property. This project requires undertaking a Class EA, which began in 2021.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes (the "Route and Station Options") for the new 230 kV transmission line and station. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, socioeconomic, and natural environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

Work for preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the Project has been initiated. The ESR will examine the alternative route and station options and determine, from an environmental, technical and socio-economic perspective, the preferred route and station location for the Project.

THE PROCESS

The ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #1**.

The Class EA process defines an environmental planning process that meets all requirements of the EA Act, including:

- Name and description of the proposed project;
- A description of the need (justification) for the proposed project;
- A description of the alternatives for the project, including maps;
- A description of a study area for the project and the existing environment;

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2
- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
- A description of the preferred alternative;
- A description of the consultation that was undertaken;
- A description of other applicable permits and approvals required for the project;
- A description of mitigation measures and predicted net effects; and
- A description of any required environmental monitoring.

The Class EA process describes the process that must be followed for a defined class of projects/undertakings in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act.

The Class EA process applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation projects. Transmission facilities covered under the Class EA process include:

a) The planning, design and construction of minor transmission lines and/or transmission stations (including telecommunication stations), and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of these facilities.

"Minor transmission lines" means all transmission lines that:

- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kilovolts (kV) and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 kilometres (km) in length; or
- ii. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km and less than 75 km in length.
- b. (Note: Transmission lines that are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are equal to or greater than 75 km in length are excluded; those projects are subject to an Individual EA). The planning, design and construction required to modify or upgrade a transmission line, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the revised line where:
 - i. The work requires replacement of poles or towers and/or changes in the right-of-way (RoW) for existing transmission lines capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV.
 - ii. The modified or upgraded existing lines would operate at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV, and equal to or less than 500 kV (nominal voltage).
- c. The planning, design and construction required to modify or expand a transmission station, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the modified station where:
 - i. Acquisition of additional property is required; and,
 - ii. The modified stations are capable of operating at a nominal voltage level of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV (where a station has more than one voltage level, the highest level is used in defining the station's nominal operating voltage).

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PROJECT SITE

Based on the preliminary assessment, four feasible route options and two new station options were identified. In April 2022, after issuing the Notice of Commencement (**Attachment #2**), PUC introduced the new Route Option 5 based on advancement of preliminary engineering work, information acquired through the Class EA process, and consultation with stakeholders and the public. Specifically, input received from residents and property owners within the Study Area identified land use constraints/opportunities, which resulted in the introduction of Route Option 5.

The route options, including the route refinements as shown in **Attachment #3**, were carried forward for the comparative evaluation.

No other viable alternatives were identified for the proposed 230 kV transmission line and station due to the configuration of equipment within and around the future EAF station and Hydro One Third Line Station.

Where possible, the Project will be located within existing road allowances. Temporary working space and laydown areas may be required adjacent to these areas to facilitate the movement and storage of equipment necessary for construction. Permanent easements will be required as well. PUC will work with regulators and landowners to identify and secure appropriate working space and easements as required.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

Please refer to Attachment #1 for a summary of the proposed timing for each of the Class EA phases.

Following the completion of Public Information Centre #1 (PIC #1), subsequent activities will be completed in accordance with the following schedule:

- Select and announce preferred route alternative in Summer 2022;
- Circulate Draft ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities and review agencies in early Fall 2022;
- Circulate Final ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities, review agencies, and the greater public during the 30-day Public Review period in September 2022; and
- Upon completion of the draft ESR, PUC will issue a Notice of Completion to all stakeholders including municipal, provincial, and federal government officials, as well as, government agencies, Indigenous Peoples and Communities, potentially affected and interested persons, and interest groups.

POTENTIAL STUDY IMPACTS

It is expected that the majority of adverse environmental and/or socio-economic effects will be construction related. These effects are expected to be temporary and transitory. All facilities to be constructed for the Project will also be above ground, no underground facilities are being proposed. Routing will avoid or minimize environmental effect to the extent feasible, and Project components will be constructed to minimize environmental or socioeconomic impacts.

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Mitigation measures that will be recommended in the ESR will be followed in conjunction with other provincial and municipal standards. In addition, PUC will use professional judgement, past experience, industry best practices and any additional feedback received through the consultation process when constructing the Project.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, Section 4.1.1, the Project Team contacted the Ministry of Energy on April 25th, 2022, to confirm which Indigenous Peoples and Communities may have an interest in the project. On May 18th, 2022, the Ministry of Energy provided a preliminary list of Indigenous Peoples and Communities that may take an interest in the project based on proximity and/or our knowledge of the treaties and traditional territories associated with these communities. This list includes the following communities:

- Batchewana First Nation;
- Garden River First Nation;
- Michipicoten First Nation;
- MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; and
- MNO Region 4.

Open engagement with Indigenous Communities, stakeholders, and the public will be a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input shall be examined and considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with Michipicoten First Nation as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this Study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

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One subsequent PIC will be scheduled in late Summer 2022 to share project updates and solicit input from Indigenous Peoples and Communities, key stakeholders, and the public.

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Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com cc: Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. 289-835-2548 Jeremiah.Pariag@wsp.com

Alex Marques, Community and Land Use Planner, Michipicoten First Nation Jairus Patterson, Communications Coordinator, PUC Transmission LP Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

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- Attachment #2 Notice of Commencement
- Attachment #3 Project Maps
- Attachment #4 Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Attachment #1 – Class EA Process and Project Schedule

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Late Fall 2022

September 2022

Issue final notification and commence review period of draft ESR

Finalize ESR AND **SUBMIT** Statement of Completion to MECP

Attachment #2 – Notice of Commencement

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

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This Study will identify the effects on the environment for the potential circuit routes and determine the preferred route. The Study Area and sites under consideration are shown in the Key Map.

THE PROCESS

The Study is being conducted in accordance with the planning process for Category 'B' projects, subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities as amended, approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and *Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 116*/01 (the electricity project regulation). The Class Environmental Assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project and the identification of mitigation measures.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in multiple in-person and virtual open houses to discuss the project as the Study proceeds.

To provide comments, request additional information or to be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
Tel.: (705) 941-8386	Tel.: (289) 835-2548
Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.



Attachment #3 – Project Maps

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



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Attachment #4 – Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Public Information Centre #1 Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant. There are two location options for the new substation.

This study will identify the potential effects on the environment from each of the circuit route and substation location options, and then determine the preferred options. The Study Area, route options, and substation location options under consideration are shown in the attached map.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning, and the Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the route and station options, and the selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigations, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS*	VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS
Date: May 26 th , 2022	Date: May 31 st , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com
* Please note that masks are required for the in- person PIC.	

To provide comments, request additional information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.







May 25, 2022

President Kim Powley MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council 26 Queen Street East Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6A 1Y3

Sent via E-mail

<u>Subject: PUC Transmission LP, Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B',</u> <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>

Dear Kim Powley,

PUC Transmission LP (PUC) has retained WSP Canada Inc. to undertake the Category 'B' Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study prior to constructing a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This transmission line and station are proposed to serve the increased electrical needs of Algoma Steel due to the addition of new electric arc furnaces (EAFs) to replace the existing blast furnaces. PUC has initiated planning for the development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a transmission line from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station.

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team

Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinator
PUC Services Inc.	PUC Services Inc.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead	Impact Assessment	WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jeremiah Pariag will serve as the primary contacts for this project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for their new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station on its property. This project requires undertaking a Class EA, which began in 2021.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes (the "Route and Station Options") for the new 230 kV transmission line and station. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, socioeconomic, and natural environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

Work for preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the Project has been initiated. The ESR will examine the alternative route and station options and determine, from an environmental, technical and socio-economic perspective, the preferred route and station location for the Project.

THE PROCESS

The ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #1**.

The Class EA process defines an environmental planning process that meets all requirements of the EA Act, including:

- Name and description of the proposed project;
- A description of the need (justification) for the proposed project;
- A description of the alternatives for the project, including maps;
- A description of a study area for the project and the existing environment;

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
- A description of the preferred alternative;
- A description of the consultation that was undertaken;
- A description of other applicable permits and approvals required for the project;
- A description of mitigation measures and predicted net effects; and
- A description of any required environmental monitoring.

The Class EA process describes the process that must be followed for a defined class of projects/undertakings in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act.

The Class EA process applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation projects. Transmission facilities covered under the Class EA process include:

a) The planning, design and construction of minor transmission lines and/or transmission stations (including telecommunication stations), and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of these facilities.

"Minor transmission lines" means all transmission lines that:

- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kilovolts (kV) and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 kilometres (km) in length; or
- ii. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km and less than 75 km in length.
- b. (Note: Transmission lines that are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are equal to or greater than 75 km in length are excluded; those projects are subject to an Individual EA). The planning, design and construction required to modify or upgrade a transmission line, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the revised line where:
 - i. The work requires replacement of poles or towers and/or changes in the right-of-way (RoW) for existing transmission lines capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV.
 - ii. The modified or upgraded existing lines would operate at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV, and equal to or less than 500 kV (nominal voltage).
- c. The planning, design and construction required to modify or expand a transmission station, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the modified station where:
 - i. Acquisition of additional property is required; and,
 - ii. The modified stations are capable of operating at a nominal voltage level of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV (where a station has more than one voltage level, the highest level is used in defining the station's nominal operating voltage).

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PROJECT SITE

Based on the preliminary assessment, four feasible route options and two new station options were identified. In April 2022, after issuing the Notice of Commencement (**Attachment #2**), PUC introduced the new Route Option 5 based on advancement of preliminary engineering work, information acquired through the Class EA process, and consultation with stakeholders and the public. Specifically, input received from residents and property owners within the Study Area identified land use constraints/opportunities, which resulted in the introduction of Route Option 5.

The route options, including the route refinements as shown in **Attachment #3**, were carried forward for the comparative evaluation.

No other viable alternatives were identified for the proposed 230 kV transmission line and station due to the configuration of equipment within and around the future EAF station and Hydro One Third Line Station.

Where possible, the Project will be located within existing road allowances. Temporary working space and laydown areas may be required adjacent to these areas to facilitate the movement and storage of equipment necessary for construction. Permanent easements will be required as well. PUC will work with regulators and landowners to identify and secure appropriate working space and easements as required.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

Please refer to Attachment #1 for a summary of the proposed timing for each of the Class EA phases.

Following the completion of Public Information Centre #1 (PIC #1), subsequent activities will be completed in accordance with the following schedule:

- Select and announce preferred route alternative in Summer 2022;
- Circulate Draft ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities and review agencies in early Fall 2022;
- Circulate Final ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities, review agencies, and the greater public during the 30-day Public Review period in September 2022; and
- Upon completion of the draft ESR, PUC will issue a Notice of Completion to all stakeholders including municipal, provincial, and federal government officials, as well as, government agencies, Indigenous Peoples and Communities, potentially affected and interested persons, and interest groups.

POTENTIAL STUDY IMPACTS

It is expected that the majority of adverse environmental and/or socio-economic effects will be construction related. These effects are expected to be temporary and transitory. All facilities to be constructed for the Project will also be above ground, no underground facilities are being proposed. Routing will avoid or minimize environmental effect to the extent feasible, and Project components will be constructed to minimize environmental or socioeconomic impacts.

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Mitigation measures that will be recommended in the ESR will be followed in conjunction with other provincial and municipal standards. In addition, PUC will use professional judgement, past experience, industry best practices and any additional feedback received through the consultation process when constructing the Project.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, Section 4.1.1, the Project Team contacted the Ministry of Energy on April 25th, 2022, to confirm which Indigenous Peoples and Communities may have an interest in the project. On May 18th, 2022, the Ministry of Energy provided a preliminary list of Indigenous Peoples and Communities that may take an interest in the project based on proximity and/or our knowledge of the treaties and traditional territories associated with these communities. This list includes the following communities:

- Batchewana First Nation;
- Garden River First Nation;
- Michipicoten First Nation;
- MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; and
- MNO Region 4.

Open engagement with Indigenous Communities, stakeholders, and the public will be a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input shall be examined and considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this Study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

Contact with Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and review agencies involves the formal act of notification and requesting comments and input. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be convened for this Study, with the goal of the first PIC being to provide members of the Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and stakeholders with an opportunity to introduce the Study, discuss the project timeline, and outline upcoming environmental studies. As such, the Project Team is excited to announce that the first PIC will be held in-person on **May 26th**, **2022** and virtually on **May 31st**, **2022**. PIC materials will be made available throughout the commenting period. Comments related to PIC #1 are requested between **May 26th**, **2022**, and **June 9th**, **2022**; however, comments are welcome at any time during the Study. See **Attachment #4** for further detail on PIC #1.

One subsequent PIC will be scheduled in late Summer 2022 to share project updates and solicit input from Indigenous Peoples and Communities, key stakeholders, and the public.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Per Section 4.3 of the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, under Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, comments and information collected under the authority of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act or information that is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, including personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) for the purpose of transparency and consultation and will become part of the public record. 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. If you have accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please let us know and we will make the required accommodations. For more information, please contact the MECP's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

NEXT STEPS

Your input and ideas are important to the Study process, and we very much want to engage with your community throughout this Study. If your community has an interest in participating in the project and/or meeting with the Project Team, please indicate this to Dominic and/or Jeremiah using the contact information below. If there is another way in which you would like to engage or share information, please let us know how we can best work with you.

If you are not interested in engaging with this Study but would like us to provide you with updates throughout the project, including notification of future public meetings and study completion, please let us know and we will send you the information as it becomes available. Please let us know as well if you are not interested in participating in this Study.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com cc: Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. 289-835-2548 Jeremiah.Pariag@wsp.com

Jairus Patterson, Communications Coordinator, PUC Transmission LP Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

- Attachment #1 Class EA Process and Project Schedule
- Attachment #2 Notice of Commencement
- Attachment #3 Project Maps
- Attachment #4 Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Attachment #1 – Class EA Process and Project Schedule

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Late Fall 2022

September 2022

Issue final notification and commence review period of draft ESR

Finalize ESR AND **SUBMIT** Statement of Completion to MECP

Attachment #2 – Notice of Commencement

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

PUC Transmission LP has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kV line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault St. Marie as part of an expansion of the electrical supply related to load expansion at Algoma Steel. The 230-kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS), which is located in the City of Sault St. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant.

This Study will identify the effects on the environment for the potential circuit routes and determine the preferred route. The Study Area and sites under consideration are shown in the Key Map.

THE PROCESS

The Study is being conducted in accordance with the planning process for Category 'B' projects, subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities as amended, approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and *Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 116*/01 (the electricity project regulation). The Class Environmental Assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project and the identification of mitigation measures.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in multiple in-person and virtual open houses to discuss the project as the Study proceeds.

To provide comments, request additional information or to be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
Tel.: (705) 941-8386	Tel.: (289) 835-2548
Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.



Attachment #3 – Project Maps

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



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STREET	CLIENT:		PUC TRANSMISSION LP	
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Land	115		221-01502-00	CS
Contraction of the local distance		•	DATE:	FIGURE:
	GOL	DER	MAY 2022	1

Attachment #4 – Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Public Information Centre #1 Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant. There are two location options for the new substation.

This study will identify the potential effects on the environment from each of the circuit route and substation location options, and then determine the preferred options. The Study Area, route options, and substation location options under consideration are shown in the attached map.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning, and the Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the route and station options, and the selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigations, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS*	VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS
Date: May 26 th , 2022	Date: May 31 st , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com
* Please note that masks are required for the in- person PIC.	

To provide comments, request additional information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.







May 25, 2022 Justin Hunt MNO Region 4

Sent via E-mail

<u>Subject: PUC Transmission LP, Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B',</u> <u>Sault Ste. Marie</u>

Dear Justin Hunt,

PUC Transmission LP (PUC) has retained WSP Canada Inc. to undertake the Category 'B' Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study prior to constructing a 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This transmission line and station are proposed to serve the increased electrical needs of Algoma Steel due to the addition of new electric arc furnaces (EAFs) to replace the existing blast furnaces. PUC has initiated planning for the development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a transmission line from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station.

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team			
Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson		
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinator		
PUC Services Inc.	PUC Services Inc.		

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead		WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jeremiah Pariag will serve as the primary contacts for this project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for their new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station on its property. This project requires undertaking a Class EA, which began in 2021.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes (the "Route and Station Options") for the new 230 kV transmission line and station. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, socioeconomic, and natural environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

Work for preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the Project has been initiated. The ESR will examine the alternative route and station options and determine, from an environmental, technical and socio-economic perspective, the preferred route and station location for the Project.

THE PROCESS

The ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #1**.

The Class EA process defines an environmental planning process that meets all requirements of the EA Act, including:

- Name and description of the proposed project;
- A description of the need (justification) for the proposed project;
- A description of the alternatives for the project, including maps;
- A description of a study area for the project and the existing environment;

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
- A description of the preferred alternative;
- A description of the consultation that was undertaken;
- A description of other applicable permits and approvals required for the project;
- A description of mitigation measures and predicted net effects; and
- A description of any required environmental monitoring.

The Class EA process describes the process that must be followed for a defined class of projects/undertakings in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act.

The Class EA process applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation projects. Transmission facilities covered under the Class EA process include:

a) The planning, design and construction of minor transmission lines and/or transmission stations (including telecommunication stations), and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of these facilities.

"Minor transmission lines" means all transmission lines that:

- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kilovolts (kV) and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 kilometres (km) in length; or
- ii. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km and less than 75 km in length.
- b. (Note: Transmission lines that are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are equal to or greater than 75 km in length are excluded; those projects are subject to an Individual EA). The planning, design and construction required to modify or upgrade a transmission line, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the revised line where:
 - i. The work requires replacement of poles or towers and/or changes in the right-of-way (RoW) for existing transmission lines capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV.
 - ii. The modified or upgraded existing lines would operate at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV, and equal to or less than 500 kV (nominal voltage).
- c. The planning, design and construction required to modify or expand a transmission station, and the subsequent operation, maintenance and retirement of the modified station where:
 - i. Acquisition of additional property is required; and,
 - ii. The modified stations are capable of operating at a nominal voltage level of equal to or greater than 115 kV and equal to or less than 500 kV (where a station has more than one voltage level, the highest level is used in defining the station's nominal operating voltage).

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PROJECT SITE

Based on the preliminary assessment, four feasible route options and two new station options were identified. In April 2022, after issuing the Notice of Commencement (**Attachment #2**), PUC introduced the new Route Option 5 based on advancement of preliminary engineering work, information acquired through the Class EA process, and consultation with stakeholders and the public. Specifically, input received from residents and property owners within the Study Area identified land use constraints/opportunities, which resulted in the introduction of Route Option 5.

The route options, including the route refinements as shown in **Attachment #3**, were carried forward for the comparative evaluation.

No other viable alternatives were identified for the proposed 230 kV transmission line and station due to the configuration of equipment within and around the future EAF station and Hydro One Third Line Station.

Where possible, the Project will be located within existing road allowances. Temporary working space and laydown areas may be required adjacent to these areas to facilitate the movement and storage of equipment necessary for construction. Permanent easements will be required as well. PUC will work with regulators and landowners to identify and secure appropriate working space and easements as required.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

Please refer to Attachment #1 for a summary of the proposed timing for each of the Class EA phases.

Following the completion of Public Information Centre #1 (PIC #1), subsequent activities will be completed in accordance with the following schedule:

- Select and announce preferred route alternative in Summer 2022;
- Circulate Draft ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities and review agencies in early Fall 2022;
- Circulate Final ESR to Indigenous Peoples and Communities, review agencies, and the greater public during the 30-day Public Review period in September 2022; and
- Upon completion of the draft ESR, PUC will issue a Notice of Completion to all stakeholders including municipal, provincial, and federal government officials, as well as, government agencies, Indigenous Peoples and Communities, potentially affected and interested persons, and interest groups.

POTENTIAL STUDY IMPACTS

It is expected that the majority of adverse environmental and/or socio-economic effects will be construction related. These effects are expected to be temporary and transitory. All facilities to be constructed for the Project will also be above ground, no underground facilities are being proposed. Routing will avoid or minimize environmental effect to the extent feasible, and Project components will be constructed to minimize environmental or socioeconomic impacts.

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Mitigation measures that will be recommended in the ESR will be followed in conjunction with other provincial and municipal standards. In addition, PUC will use professional judgement, past experience, industry best practices and any additional feedback received through the consultation process when constructing the Project.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, Section 4.1.1, the Project Team contacted the Ministry of Energy on April 25th, 2022, to confirm which Indigenous Peoples and Communities may have an interest in the project. On May 18th, 2022, the Ministry of Energy provided a preliminary list of Indigenous Peoples and Communities that may take an interest in the project based on proximity and/or our knowledge of the treaties and traditional territories associated with these communities. This list includes the following communities:

- Batchewana First Nation;
- Garden River First Nation;
- Michipicoten First Nation;
- MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council; and
- MNO Region 4.

Open engagement with Indigenous Communities, stakeholders, and the public will be a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input shall be examined and considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with MNO Region 4 as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this Study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

Contact with Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and review agencies involves the formal act of notification and requesting comments and input. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) will be convened for this Study, with the goal of the first PIC being to provide members of the Indigenous Peoples and Communities, the public, and stakeholders with an opportunity to introduce the Study, discuss the project timeline, and outline upcoming environmental studies. As such, the Project Team is excited to announce that the first PIC will be held in-person on **May 26th**, **2022** and virtually on **May 31st**, **2022**. PIC materials will be made available throughout the commenting period. Comments related to PIC #1 are requested between **May 26th**, **2022**, and **June 9th**, **2022**; however, comments are welcome at any time during the Study. See **Attachment #4** for further detail on PIC #1.

One subsequent PIC will be scheduled in late Summer 2022 to share project updates and solicit input from Indigenous Peoples and Communities, key stakeholders, and the public.

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P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Per Section 4.3 of the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, under Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, comments and information collected under the authority of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act or information that is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, including personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) for the purpose of transparency and consultation and will become part of the public record. 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. If you have accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please let us know and we will make the required accommodations. For more information, please contact the MECP's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510
NEXT STEPS

Your input and ideas are important to the Study process, and we very much want to engage with your community throughout this Study. If your community has an interest in participating in the project and/or meeting with the Project Team, please indicate this to Dominic and/or Jeremiah using the contact information below. If there is another way in which you would like to engage or share information, please let us know how we can best work with you.

If you are not interested in engaging with this Study but would like us to provide you with updates throughout the project, including notification of future public meetings and study completion, please let us know and we will send you the information as it becomes available. Please let us know as well if you are not interested in participating in this Study.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com cc: Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. 289-835-2548 Jeremiah.Pariag@wsp.com

Jairus Patterson, Communications Coordinator, PUC Transmission LP Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

- Attachment #1 Class EA Process and Project Schedule
- Attachment #2 Notice of Commencement
- Attachment #3 Project Maps
- Attachment #4 Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Attachment #1 – Class EA Process and Project Schedule

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Late Fall 2022

September 2022

Issue final notification and commence review period of draft ESR

Finalize ESR AND **SUBMIT** Statement of Completion to MECP

Attachment #2 – Notice of Commencement

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

PUC Transmission LP has initiated a Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kV line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault St. Marie as part of an expansion of the electrical supply related to load expansion at Algoma Steel. The 230-kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS), which is located in the City of Sault St. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant.

This Study will identify the effects on the environment for the potential circuit routes and determine the preferred route. The Study Area and sites under consideration are shown in the Key Map.

THE PROCESS

The Study is being conducted in accordance with the planning process for Category 'B' projects, subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities as amended, approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* and *Ontario Regulation (O.Reg.) 116*/01 (the electricity project regulation). The Class Environmental Assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project and the identification of mitigation measures.

The public will have the opportunity to participate in multiple in-person and virtual open houses to discuss the project as the Study proceeds.

To provide comments, request additional information or to be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
Tel.: (705) 941-8386	Tel.: (289) 835-2548
Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.



Attachment #3 – Project Maps

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



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Attachment #4 – Notice of Public Information Centre #1

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

Notice of Public Information Centre #1 Class Environmental Assessment Study For the 230 kV Transmission Project

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP initiated a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a 230/115/34.5 kV substation in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line that will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate in a new 230/115/34.5 kV substation, which will be located at or near the Algoma Steel plant. There are two location options for the new substation.

This study will identify the potential effects on the environment from each of the circuit route and substation location options, and then determine the preferred options. The Study Area, route options, and substation location options under consideration are shown in the attached map.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning, and the Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the route and station options, and the selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigations, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS*	VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS
Date: May 26 th , 2022	Date: May 31 st , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com
* Please note that masks are required for the in- person PIC.	

To provide comments, request additional information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIOPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*, comments, and information regarding this project, with the exception of personal information, will become part of the public record.





From:	ElSetouhy, Lina
То:	<u>"chiefdeansayers@batchewana.ca"</u>
Cc:	"dansavers@batchewana.ca"; "Jairus Patterson"; Pariag, Jeremiah; "Dominic Parrella"; Skillen, Tamara
Subject:	PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station
Date:	May 25, 2022 11:01:00 AM
Attachments:	Indigenous Communities Notice of PIC Letter (Batchewana First Nation).pdf

Hello Chief Sayers,

Please see the attached letter the upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 and information regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #1 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS* Date: May 26th, 2022 Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM Location: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7) Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS Date: May 31st, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #1 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

Lina ElSetouhy (RPP, MCIP, ENV SP), She/Her Environmental Planner Earth and Environment T+ 1 289-982-4306 SOLDER

On behalf of:

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng. Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP Tel.: (705) 941-8386 Email: <u>dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com</u>

Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc.

Tel.: (289) 835-2548 Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com From: Jauvonne kitto
Jkitto@gardenriver.org>
Sent: May 26, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Jairus Patterson
jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com>; Jad.Murtada@wsp.com
Cc: Cheyenne Nolan <CNolan@gardenriver.org>; Stephanie Seymour
sseymour@gardenriver.org>; Tanya Boissoneau
tboissoneau@gardenriver.org>
Subject: RE: PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental
Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station - Garden River FN
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated outside of PUC. Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Jairus,

As per our discussion today and given the short notice to attend the public meeting, we will not be in attendance. I ask that we have direct meeting with the Garden River FN at a dually agreed upon time. Please work with Cheyenne and Tanya to coordinate this meeting with our respective teams.

We look forward to the discussion and receiving the Class Environmental Assessment in advance.

Thank you,

Jauvonne Kitto A/Executive Director Ketegaunseebee (Garden River First Nation) 7 Shingwauk Street Garden River, ON P6A 6Z8

Email: jkitto@gardenriver.org Ph: (705) 989-4970



From: Cheyenne Nolan <<u>CNolan@gardenriver.org</u>>

Sent: May 26, 2022 8:16 AM

To: Jauvonne kitto <<u>Jkitto@gardenriver.org</u>>; Stephanie Seymour <<u>sseymour@gardenriver.org</u>>; Richard Perrault <<u>rperrault@gardenriver.org</u>>

Subject: FW: PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station

Good morning,

Please see attached. Also note – the first PIC is dated for today May 26, 2022.

Thanks, Cheyenne

From: Murtada, Jad <<u>Jad.Murtada@wsp.com</u>>

Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:56 AM

To: Andy Rickard <<u>ARickard@gardenriver.org</u>>

Cc: Cheyenne Nolan <<u>CNolan@gardenriver.org</u>>; <u>jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com</u>; Pariag, Jeremiah <<u>Jeremiah.Pariag@wsp.com</u>>; Dominic Parrella <<u>dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com</u>>; Skillen, Tamara <<u>Tamara_Skillen@golder.com</u>>; ElSetouhy, Lina <<u>Lina.Elsetouhy@wsp.com</u>>

Subject: PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station

You don't often get email from jad.murtada@wsp.com. Learn why this is important

Hello Chief Rickard,

My name is Jad Murtada and I am an Environmental Planner with WSP reaching out on behalf of PUC Transmission regarding a Class EA Study and Notice of PIC that we are conducting.

Please see the attached letter the upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 and information regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #1 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS* Date: May 26th, 2022 Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM Location: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7) Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS

Date: May 31st, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #1 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

Jad Murtada, *He/Him/His* Enviornmental Planner – Ontario Earth and Environment

T+ 1 905-829-6262



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-LAEmHhHzdJzBITWfa4Hgs7pbKI

From:	<u>ElSetouhy, Lina</u>
То:	ptangie@michipicoten.com
Cc:	a.marques@michipicoten.com; Jairus Patterson; Dominic Parrella; Pariag, Jeremiah; Skillen, Tamara
Subject:	PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station
Date:	May 25, 2022 11:03:00 AM
Attachments:	Indigenous Communities Notice of PIC Letter (Michipicoten First Nation).pdf

Hello Chief Tangie,

Please see the attached letter with information regarding the upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 and the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #1 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS* Date: May 26th, 2022 Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM Location: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7) Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS Date: May 31st, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #1 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

Lina ElSetouhy (RPP, MCIP, ENV SP), She/Her Environmental Planner Earth and Environment T+ 1 289-982-4306 SOLDER

On behalf of:

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng. Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP Tel.: (705) 941-8386 Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com

Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead

WSP Canada Inc. Tel.: (289) 835-2548 Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

From:	<u>ElSetouhy, Lina</u>
То:	JustinH@metisnation.org
Cc:	<u>Jairus Patterson; Dominic Parrella; Pariag, Jeremiah; Skillen, Tamara</u>
Subject:	PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station
Date:	May 25, 2022 11:05:00 AM
Attachments:	Indigenous Communities Notice of PIC Letter (MNO Region 4).pdf

Hello Justin Hunt,

Please see the attached letter with information regarding the upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 and the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #1 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS* Date: May 26th, 2022 Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM Location: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7) Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS Date: May 31st, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #1 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

Lina ElSetouhy (RPP, MCIP, ENV SP), She/Her Environmental Planner Earth and Environment T+ 1 289-982-4306 SOLDER

On behalf of:

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng. Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP Tel.: (705) 941-8386 Email: <u>dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com</u>

Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc.

WSP Canada Inc. Tel.: (289) 835-2548 Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

From:	ElSetouhy, Lina
То:	kimmysue2014@gmail.com
Cc:	<u>Jairus Patterson; Dominic Parrella; Pariag, Jeremiah; Skillen, Tamara</u>
Subject:	PUC Transmission LP - Notice of Public Information Centre #1 for Class Environmental Assessment of new 230 kV Transmission Line and Station
Date:	May 25, 2022 11:04:00 AM
Attachments:	Indigenous Communities Notice of PIC Letter (MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council).pdf

Hello Kim Powley,

Please see the attached letter with information regarding the upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 and the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #1 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #1 DETAILS* Date: May 26th, 2022 Time: 4:30PM to 7:30PM Location: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7) Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #1 DETAILS Date: May 31st, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #1 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or wish to be added to the mailing list, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you,

Lina ElSetouhy (RPP, MCIP, ENV SP), She/Her Environmental Planner Earth and Environment T+ 1 289-982-4306 SOLDER

On behalf of:

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng. Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP Tel.: (705) 941-8386 Email: dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com

Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc.

Tel.: (289) 835-2548 Email: jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com PIC 2 Letters and Correspondence Records



August 2, 2022

Chief Dean Sayers Batchewana First Nation 236 Frontenac Street Sault Ste. Marie, ON PA 5K9

Sent via E-mail

Subject: Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B' - Notice of Completion and Notice of Public Information Centre #2 for the PUC Transmission LP, 230 kV Transmission Line Project, Sault Ste. Marie

Dear Chief Sayers,

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP (PUC) commenced planning activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and an associated 230/115/34.5 kV transformer station (the Project). This Project requires undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities, which began in 2021.

The proposed double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, which will be approximately 14 kilometers (km) long, will convey electricity from Hydro One's Third Line Station in the city's north end to a new PUC transformer station in the west end, and then a 115 kV line will convey electricity to a future Algoma Steel Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) Station. The double-circuit configuration provides redundancy of supply to accommodate future maintenance or service interruptions. With two circuits on one set of poles, PUC will be providing redundancy that will carry the full Algoma load on one circuit alone, while the other is down for maintenance or due to potential contingency situations, such as weather events.

As the next step in the 230 kV Transmission Project, PUC has completed a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR). This document outlines the Class EA process that has been conducted to date and will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period, beginning on August 2, 2022 and ending on August 31, 2022.

Please refer to Attachment #1 for a copy of the Notice of Completion for the draft ESR.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team

Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinator
PUC Transmission LP	PUC Transmission LP

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead	Impact Assessment	WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jairus Patterson will serve as the **primary contacts** for this Project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV transformer station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for its new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station. This Project requires undertaking a Class EA.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes and station locations (the "Route and Station Options") for the Project. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, social, and environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

THE PROCESS

The draft ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (Hydro One 2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #2**.

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P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

The Class EA process describes the process that must be followed for a defined class of projects/undertakings in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act, including:

- Name and description of the proposed project;
- A description of the need (justification) for the proposed project;
- A description of the alternatives for the project, including maps;
- A description of a study area for the project and the existing environment;
- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
- A description of the preferred alternative;
- A description of the consultation that was undertaken;
- A description of other applicable permits and approvals required for the project;
- A description of mitigation measures and predicted net effects; and
- A description of any required environmental monitoring.

The Class EA process applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation projects. Transmission facilities covered under the Class EA process include:

a) The planning, design, and construction of minor transmission lines and/or transmission stations (including telecommunication stations), and the subsequent operation, maintenance, and retirement of these facilities.

"Minor transmission lines" means all transmission lines that:

- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km in length; or
- ii. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km and less than 75 km in length.

PROJECT SITE

Through this Class EA, five alternative route segments and three station options, as well as their associated variations, were evaluated. Based on environmental, social and technical information collected, including feedback received, **Route Option D** and **Station Option 1-A** were selected as the preferred options for the new transmission line and station. These options are shown in **Attachment #3** and in more detail at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

The draft ESR summarizes the Class EA process, route and station alternatives identified, environmental information collected, consultation undertaken, the route and station evaluation and selection process, potential environmental effects, and the measures proposed to mitigate the effects.

Where possible, the proposed transmission line right-of-way (ROW) will be located within an existing PUC easement and existing road allowances. Within the 14 km stretch, there are portions common to all alternative route options. These portions are identified as the "Common Elements Route". The Common Elements Route is

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510 a line that extends approximately 260 metres (m) north of the Hydro One Third Line Station, then extends west approximately 830 m west of Goulais Avenue, then south to approximately 285 m south of Third Line West. From here several alternative routes extended and terminated at the southern end of the line where a second segment of the Common Elements Route would connect the transmission line to the new station and then onto the Algoma Steel EAF station.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

Following the 30-day review period of the draft ESR, PUC will finalize the ESR and file it with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The Project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR, though other regulatory approvals will be required prior to construction.

A request may be made to the MECP for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies); however, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. The MECP will not consider requests on other grounds. It should be noted that the proponent can legally proceed with the Project under the EA Act if no Part II Order requests are submitted during the comment period.

Requests should include the requester's contact information, as well as specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or comprehensive EA), how an order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister of the Environment Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3 <u>Minister.mecp@ontario.ca</u> Environmental Assessment Branch Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor Toronto, ON M4V 1P5 EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to PUC per the contact information provided below. Please visit the ministry's website for more information about requests for orders under section 16 of the EA Act at: www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-part-ii-order.

POTENTIAL STUDY IMPACTS

It is expected that the majority of adverse environmental and socio-economic effects will be construction related. These effects are expected to be temporary and transitory. Routing will avoid or minimize environmental effect to the extent feasible, and Project components will be constructed to minimize environmental and/or socio-economic impacts.

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Mitigation measures have been recommended in the draft ESR and will be followed in conjunction with other provincial and municipal standards. In addition, PUC will use professional judgement, past experience, industry best practices and any additional feedback received through the consultation process when constructing the Project.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, Section 4.1.1, the Project Team contacted the Ministry of Energy on April 25, 2022, to confirm which Indigenous peoples and communities may have an interest in the project. On May 18, 2022, the Ministry of Energy provided a preliminary list of Indigenous communities that may take an interest in the project based on proximity and/or knowledge of the treaties and traditional territories associated with these communities. This list included the following communities:

- Batchewana First Nation;
- Garden River First Nation;
- Michipicoten First Nation;

Open engagement with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the public is a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input are being considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with your community as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

Contact with Indigenous peoples and communities, the public, and review agencies involves the formal act of notification and requesting comments and input. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) are being convened for this study. The goal of the first PIC, which took place in May 2022, was to provide Indigenous peoples and communities, the public, and stakeholders with an opportunity to be introduced to the Class EA process, the project timeline, and the environmental studies to be undertaken. The Project Team is excited to announce that the second PIC will be held in-person on **August 16, 2022** and virtually on **August 18, 2022**. PIC materials will be made available throughout the commenting period. Comments related to PIC #2 are requested between **August 16, 2022**, and **August 31, 2022**; however, comments are welcome at any time. Please see **Attachment #1** for further detail about PIC #2.

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number, and property location – is provided to the MECP as part of the Class EA. The Information is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the MECP for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the

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P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

authority of the EA Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. 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. For more information, please contact the Ministry's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

NEXT STEPS

Your input and ideas are important to the Study process, and we very much want to engage with your community throughout this Class EA. If your community has an interest in participating in the project and/or meeting with the Project Team, please indicate this to Dominic and Jairus using the contact information below. If there is another way in which you would like to engage or share information, please let us know how we can best work with you.

If you are not interested in engaging in the Class EA process but would like us to provide you with updates throughout the Project, including notification of future public meetings and study completion, please let us know and we will send you the information as it becomes available. Please let us know as well if you are not interested in participating in this Study.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com



Jairus Patterson Communications Coordinator PUC Transmission LP 705-759-6581 jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com

cc:

Danny Sayers Jr., Consultation Coordinator, Batchewana First Nation Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

- Attachment #1 Notice of Completion and Notice of PIC #2
- Attachment #2 Class EA Process
- Attachment #3 Project Map

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Attachment #1 – Notice of Completion and Notice of Public Information Centre #2

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

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PUC Transmission LP - 230 kV Transmission Project Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report and Notice of Public Information Centre #2

As the next step in the 230 kV Transmission Project, PUC Transmission LP (PUC) has completed a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR). This document outlines the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process conducted to date and will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period, beginning on August 2nd, 2022 and ending on August 31st, 2022.

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC initiated a Class EA to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a transformer station in the city of Sault Ste. Marie as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate at a new transformer station, which will be located near the Algoma Steel plant.

Through this Class EA, five alternative route segments and three station options, as well as their associated variations, were evaluated. Based on environmental, social, and technical information collected, including feedback received, **Route Alternative D** and **Station Option 1-A** were selected as the preferred options for the new transmission line and station. These options are shown on the map below, and in more detail at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

The draft ESR summarizes the EA process, route and station alternatives, environmental information collected, consultation undertaken, route and station evaluation and selection process, potential environmental effects, and the measures proposed to mitigate the effects.

Having reached this milestone in the electricity transmission planning process, PUC will continue to work with landowners and other stakeholders as design and construction planning continues.

Next Steps and Providing Your Input:

The draft ESR will be available for comment from August 2nd to August 31st, 2022. The draft ESR can be viewed electronically on PUC's website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. Written comments or questions on the draft ESR must be received by the Project Team no later than **5:00PM on Wednesday, August 31st, 2022**, for consideration prior to finalizing the Class EA process.

During the review period, PUC will respond to and make best efforts to resolve any issues raised by concerned parties. Following the review period, PUC will finalize the ESR and file it with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP). The Project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR.

A request may be made to the MECP for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies); however, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. The MECP will not consider requests on other grounds. It should be noted that the proponent can legally proceed with the Project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* if no Part II Order requests are submitted during the comment period.

Requests should include the requester's contact information, as well as specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or comprehensive EA), how an order may prevent, mitigate, or



August 2022

remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister of Environment

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3 <u>Minister.mecp@ontario.ca</u>

Environmental Assessment Branch

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor Toronto, ON M4V 1P5 <u>EABDirector@ontario.ca</u>

Requests should also be copied to PUC per the contact information provided below. Please visit the ministry's website for more information about requests for orders under section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* at: www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-part-ii-order.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning. The Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the preferred route and station evaluation and selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigation measures, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #2 DETAILS [*]	VIRTUAL PIC #2 DETAILS
Date: August 16 th , 2022	Date: August 18 th , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:00PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

To provide comments, request information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number, and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed to the MECP for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. 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. For more information, please contact the Ministry's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.







wsp

Attachment #2 – Class EA Process

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

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Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Attachment #3 – Project Map

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	LEGEND:					
	ROUTE OPTION C					
	ROUTE C	OPTION D				
	230 kV C	OMMON ELEMENT ROUTE				
	—— 115 kV C	OMMON ELEMENT ROUTE				
	LOCAL S	TUDY AREA – 500 m RADIUS				
	NEW PU	C STATION OPTION				
/	ALGOMA	STEEL INC. (ASI) ELECTRIC	ARC			
5	FURANC	E (EAF) STATION				
	HYDRO (ONE THIRD LINE TRANSFORI	MER STATION (TS)			
REAT						
NOF						
RTHE						
RNB						
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-						
	TITLE:					
	FINAL	ROUTE AND STATION O	PTIONS			
ET	PROJECT:					
H	SAULT STE. MARIE 230 KV TRANSMISSION					
	PROJECT: CLASS EA					
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tres	GOLDER	JULY 2022	3			



August 2, 2022

Chief Andy Rickard Garden River First Nation 7 Shingwauk Street, RR 4 Garden River, ON, P6A 6Z8

Sent via E-mail

Subject: Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B' - Notice of Completion and Notice of Public Information Centre #2 for the PUC Transmission LP, 230 kV Transmission Line Project, Sault Ste. Marie

Dear Chief Rickard,

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP (PUC) commenced planning activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and an associated 230/115/34.5 kV transformer station (the Project). This Project requires undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities, which began in 2021.

The proposed double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, which will be approximately 14 kilometers (km) long, will convey electricity from Hydro One's Third Line Station in the city's north end to a new PUC transformer station in the west end, and then a 115 kV line will convey electricity to a future Algoma Steel Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) Station. The double-circuit configuration provides redundancy of supply to accommodate future maintenance or service interruptions. With two circuits on one set of poles, PUC will be providing redundancy that will carry the full Algoma load on one circuit alone, while the other is down for maintenance or due to potential contingency situations, such as weather events.

As the next step in the 230 kV Transmission Project, PUC has completed a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR). This document outlines the Class EA process that has been conducted to date and will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period, beginning on August 2, 2022 and ending on August 31, 2022.

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PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team

Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinator
PUC Transmission LP	PUC Transmission LP

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead	Impact Assessment	WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jairus Patterson will serve as the **primary contacts** for this Project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV transformer station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for its new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station. This Project requires undertaking a Class EA.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes and station locations (the "Route and Station Options") for the Project. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, social, and environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

THE PROCESS

The draft ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (Hydro One 2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #2**.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

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- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
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- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km in length; or
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PROJECT SITE

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PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510 a line that extends approximately 260 metres (m) north of the Hydro One Third Line Station, then extends west approximately 830 m west of Goulais Avenue, then south to approximately 285 m south of Third Line West. From here several alternative routes extended and terminated at the southern end of the line where a second segment of the Common Elements Route would connect the transmission line to the new station and then onto the Algoma Steel EAF station.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

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Minister of the Environment Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3 <u>Minister.mecp@ontario.ca</u> Environmental Assessment Branch Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor Toronto, ON M4V 1P5 EABDirector@ontario.ca

Requests should also be copied to PUC per the contact information provided below. Please visit the ministry's website for more information about requests for orders under section 16 of the EA Act at: www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-part-ii-order.

POTENTIAL STUDY IMPACTS

It is expected that the majority of adverse environmental and socio-economic effects will be construction related. These effects are expected to be temporary and transitory. Routing will avoid or minimize environmental effect to the extent feasible, and Project components will be constructed to minimize environmental and/or socio-economic impacts.

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Mitigation measures have been recommended in the draft ESR and will be followed in conjunction with other provincial and municipal standards. In addition, PUC will use professional judgement, past experience, industry best practices and any additional feedback received through the consultation process when constructing the Project.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As per the Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document, Section 4.1.1, the Project Team contacted the Ministry of Energy on April 25, 2022, to confirm which Indigenous peoples and communities may have an interest in the project. On May 18, 2022, the Ministry of Energy provided a preliminary list of Indigenous communities that may take an interest in the project based on proximity and/or knowledge of the treaties and traditional territories associated with these communities. This list included the following communities:

- Batchewana First Nation;
- Garden River First Nation;
- Michipicoten First Nation;

Open engagement with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, and the public is a key part of this EA. Reasonable alternatives and input are being considered based on their respective merits.

Should it be of interest, members of the Project Team would be happy to meet with the appropriate members and/or representatives of your community to engage in discussions about the Class EA process and gather input. PUC willingly accepts responsibility to engage with your community as part of the Class EA process and is committed to the open flow of information and ensuring that there are meaningful opportunities for you to provide input during this study. Should you have an interest in this project, we respectfully request that you inform us of the most appropriate way to share knowledge and information, and the way in which you and your community would like to engage in the Class EA process.

Contact with Indigenous peoples and communities, the public, and review agencies involves the formal act of notification and requesting comments and input. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) are being convened for this study. The goal of the first PIC, which took place in May 2022, was to provide Indigenous peoples and communities, the public, and stakeholders with an opportunity to be introduced to the Class EA process, the project timeline, and the environmental studies to be undertaken. The Project Team is excited to announce that the second PIC will be held in-person on **August 16, 2022** and virtually on **August 18, 2022**. PIC materials will be made available throughout the commenting period. Comments related to PIC #2 are requested between **August 16, 2022**, and **August 31, 2022**; however, comments are welcome at any time. Please see **Attachment #1** for further detail about PIC #2.

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NEXT STEPS

Your input and ideas are important to the Study process, and we very much want to engage with your community throughout this Class EA. If your community has an interest in participating in the project and/or meeting with the Project Team, please indicate this to Dominic and Jairus using the contact information below. If there is another way in which you would like to engage or share information, please let us know how we can best work with you.

If you are not interested in engaging in the Class EA process but would like us to provide you with updates throughout the Project, including notification of future public meetings and study completion, please let us know and we will send you the information as it becomes available. Please let us know as well if you are not interested in participating in this Study.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com



Jairus Patterson Communications Coordinator PUC Transmission LP 705-759-6581 jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com

cc:

Cheyenne Nolan, Consultation Coordinator, Garden River First Nation Tamara Skillen, Director of Environmental Impact Assessment – WSP Canada Inc. Lina ElSetouhy, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc. Jad Murtada, Environmental Planner – WSP Canada Inc.

Encl.

- Attachment #1 Notice of Completion and Notice of PIC #2
- Attachment #2 Class EA Process
- Attachment #3 Project Map

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Attachment #1 – Notice of Completion and Notice of Public Information Centre #2

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PUC Transmission LP - 230 kV Transmission Project Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report and Notice of Public Information Centre #2

As the next step in the 230 kV Transmission Project, PUC Transmission LP (PUC) has completed a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR). This document outlines the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process conducted to date and will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period, beginning on August 2nd, 2022 and ending on August 31st, 2022.

THE STUDY

In March 2022, PUC initiated a Class EA to evaluate alternatives for a double circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and a transformer station in the city of Sault Ste. Marie as part of an electrical supply expansion related to load increases at Algoma Steel. The 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, will start from Third Line Transformer Station (TS) in Sault Ste. Marie, and will terminate at a new transformer station, which will be located near the Algoma Steel plant.

Through this Class EA, five alternative route segments and three station options, as well as their associated variations, were evaluated. Based on environmental, social, and technical information collected, including feedback received, **Route Alternative D** and **Station Option 1-A** were selected as the preferred options for the new transmission line and station. These options are shown on the map below, and in more detail at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

The draft ESR summarizes the EA process, route and station alternatives, environmental information collected, consultation undertaken, route and station evaluation and selection process, potential environmental effects, and the measures proposed to mitigate the effects.

Having reached this milestone in the electricity transmission planning process, PUC will continue to work with landowners and other stakeholders as design and construction planning continues.

Next Steps and Providing Your Input:

The draft ESR will be available for comment from August 2nd to August 31st, 2022. The draft ESR can be viewed electronically on PUC's website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. Written comments or questions on the draft ESR must be received by the Project Team no later than **5:00PM on Wednesday, August 31st, 2022**, for consideration prior to finalizing the Class EA process.

During the review period, PUC will respond to and make best efforts to resolve any issues raised by concerned parties. Following the review period, PUC will finalize the ESR and file it with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP). The Project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR.

A request may be made to the MECP for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies); however, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. The MECP will not consider requests on other grounds. It should be noted that the proponent can legally proceed with the Project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* if no Part II Order requests are submitted during the comment period.

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August 2022

remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister of Environment

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3 <u>Minister.mecp@ontario.ca</u>

Environmental Assessment Branch

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor Toronto, ON M4V 1P5 <u>EABDirector@ontario.ca</u>

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PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning. The Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the preferred route and station evaluation and selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigation measures, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #2 DETAILS [*]	VIRTUAL PIC #2 DETAILS
Date: August 16 th , 2022	Date: August 18 th , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:00PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

To provide comments, request information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

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August 2022

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Attachment #2 – Class EA Process

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Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Attachment #3 – Project Map

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	LEGEND:		
	ROUTE C	OPTION D	
	230 kV C	OMMON ELEMENT ROUTE	
	—— 115 kV C	OMMON ELEMENT ROUTE	
	LOCAL S	TUDY AREA – 500 m RADIUS	
	NEW PU	C STATION OPTION	
1	ALGOMA	STEEL INC. (ASI) ELECTRIC	ARC
5	FURANC	E (EAF) STATION	
	HYDRO (ONE THIRD LINE TRANSFORI	MER STATION (TS)
REAT			
NOF			
RTHE			
RNR			
OAD			
-			
	TITLE:		
	FINAL	ROUTE AND STATION O	PTIONS
ET	PROJECT:		
F	SAULT STE. MARIE 230 KV TRANSMISSION		
	- PROJECT: CLASS EA		
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tres	GOLDER	JULY 2022	3



August 2, 2022

Chief Patricia Tangie Michipicoten First Nation PO Box 1, Site 8, RR 1 Wawa, ON POS 1K0

Sent via E-mail

Subject: Minor Transmission Facilities Class Environmental Assessment, Category 'B' - Notice of Completion and Notice of Public Information Centre #2 for the PUC Transmission LP, 230 kV Transmission Line Project, Sault Ste. Marie

Dear Chief Tangie,

In March 2022, PUC Transmission LP (PUC) commenced planning activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct a double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) line and an associated 230/115/34.5 kV transformer station (the Project). This Project requires undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Minor Transmission Facilities, which began in 2021.

The proposed double-circuit 230 kV transmission line, which will be approximately 14 kilometers (km) long, will convey electricity from Hydro One's Third Line Station in the city's north end to a new PUC transformer station in the west end, and then a 115 kV line will convey electricity to a future Algoma Steel Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) Station. The double-circuit configuration provides redundancy of supply to accommodate future maintenance or service interruptions. With two circuits on one set of poles, PUC will be providing redundancy that will carry the full Algoma load on one circuit alone, while the other is down for maintenance or due to potential contingency situations, such as weather events.

As the next step in the 230 kV Transmission Project, PUC has completed a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR). This document outlines the Class EA process that has been conducted to date and will be available for a 30-day public review and comment period, beginning on August 2, 2022 and ending on August 31, 2022.

Please refer to Attachment #1 for a copy of the Notice of Completion for the draft ESR.

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510

PROJECT TEAM

We would like to introduce you to the Project Team:

PUC Project Team

Dominic Parrella	Jairus Patterson
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Communications Coordinator
PUC Transmission LP	PUC Transmission LP

WSP Consulting Team

Jeremiah Pariag	Tamara Skillen	Lina ElSetouhy	Jad Murtada
Consultation and	Director – Environmental	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner
Engagement Lead	Impact Assessment	WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.
WSP Canada Inc.	WSP Canada Inc.		

Dominic Parrella and Jairus Patterson will serve as the **primary contacts** for this Project. Their contact information has been included at the end of this letter.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

In 2021, PUC was incorporated and approved for a transmission license by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

PUC identified the need for a 230 kV transmission line and a new 230/115/34.5 kV transformer station in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the immediate need for increased power supply to Algoma Steel for its new EAF project. PUC has initiated work on development activities, including seeking relevant environmental approvals to construct the 230 kV line, which will be approximately 14 km long, from the Hydro One Third Line Station to the future Algoma Steel EAF Station. This Project requires undertaking a Class EA.

Through the Class EA process, our team conducted an internal preliminary assessment to identify feasible routes and station locations (the "Route and Station Options") for the Project. The Project Team researched and mapped technical, social, and environmental constrains to identify potential opportunities to parallel linear infrastructure, such as existing transmission lines and highways, where possible.

THE PROCESS

The draft ESR is being prepared in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities guidance document (Hydro One 2022), which was approved under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). The Class EA process is illustrated in **Attachment #2**.

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The Class EA process describes the process that must be followed for a defined class of projects/undertakings in order to meet the requirements of the EA Act, including:

- Name and description of the proposed project;
- A description of the need (justification) for the proposed project;
- A description of the alternatives for the project, including maps;
- A description of a study area for the project and the existing environment;
- A description of the potential environmental effects (positive and negative);
- A description of the preferred alternative;
- A description of the consultation that was undertaken;
- A description of other applicable permits and approvals required for the project;
- A description of mitigation measures and predicted net effects; and
- A description of any required environmental monitoring.

The Class EA process applies to Category B transmission projects that are not associated with Category B generation projects. Transmission facilities covered under the Class EA process include:

a) The planning, design, and construction of minor transmission lines and/or transmission stations (including telecommunication stations), and the subsequent operation, maintenance, and retirement of these facilities.

"Minor transmission lines" means all transmission lines that:

- i. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 115 kV and less than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km in length; or
- ii. Are capable of operating at a nominal voltage of equal to or greater than 345 kV and are greater than 2 km and less than 75 km in length.

PROJECT SITE

Through this Class EA, five alternative route segments and three station options, as well as their associated variations, were evaluated. Based on environmental, social and technical information collected, including feedback received, **Route Option D** and **Station Option 1-A** were selected as the preferred options for the new transmission line and station. These options are shown in **Attachment #3** and in more detail at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

The draft ESR summarizes the Class EA process, route and station alternatives identified, environmental information collected, consultation undertaken, the route and station evaluation and selection process, potential environmental effects, and the measures proposed to mitigate the effects.

Where possible, the proposed transmission line right-of-way (ROW) will be located within an existing PUC easement and existing road allowances. Within the 14 km stretch, there are portions common to all alternative route options. These portions are identified as the "Common Elements Route". The Common Elements Route is

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510 a line that extends approximately 260 metres (m) north of the Hydro One Third Line Station, then extends west approximately 830 m west of Goulais Avenue, then south to approximately 285 m south of Third Line West. From here several alternative routes extended and terminated at the southern end of the line where a second segment of the Common Elements Route would connect the transmission line to the new station and then onto the Algoma Steel EAF station.

TIMELINE & ACTIVITIES

Following the 30-day review period of the draft ESR, PUC will finalize the ESR and file it with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The Project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR, though other regulatory approvals will be required prior to construction.

A request may be made to the MECP for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies); however, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. The MECP will not consider requests on other grounds. It should be noted that the proponent can legally proceed with the Project under the EA Act if no Part II Order requests are submitted during the comment period.

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Yours sincerely,

Dominic Parrella Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP 705-941-8386 Dominc.Parrella@ssmpuc.com



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Encl.

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The draft ESR summarizes the EA process, route and station alternatives, environmental information collected, consultation undertaken, route and station evaluation and selection process, potential environmental effects, and the measures proposed to mitigate the effects.

Having reached this milestone in the electricity transmission planning process, PUC will continue to work with landowners and other stakeholders as design and construction planning continues.

Next Steps and Providing Your Input:

The draft ESR will be available for comment from August 2nd to August 31st, 2022. The draft ESR can be viewed electronically on PUC's website at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. Written comments or questions on the draft ESR must be received by the Project Team no later than **5:00PM on Wednesday, August 31st, 2022**, for consideration prior to finalizing the Class EA process.

During the review period, PUC will respond to and make best efforts to resolve any issues raised by concerned parties. Following the review period, PUC will finalize the ESR and file it with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP). The Project will then be considered acceptable to proceed as outlined in the ESR.

A request may be made to the MECP for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies); however, only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. The MECP will not consider requests on other grounds. It should be noted that the proponent can legally proceed with the Project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* if no Part II Order requests are submitted during the comment period.

Requests should include the requester's contact information, as well as specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or comprehensive EA), how an order may prevent, mitigate, or



August 2022

remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister of Environment

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3 <u>Minister.mecp@ontario.ca</u>

Environmental Assessment Branch

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor Toronto, ON M4V 1P5 <u>EABDirector@ontario.ca</u>

Requests should also be copied to PUC per the contact information provided below. Please visit the ministry's website for more information about requests for orders under section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* at: www.ontario.ca/page/class-environmental-assessments-part-ii-order.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2

Public input and feedback are an important part of project planning. The Class EA process provides opportunities for us to hear from you. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the preferred route and station evaluation and selection process. Members of the Project Team will be available to discuss the approvals process, environmental studies, considerations, and mitigation measures, as well as the anticipated construction schedule.

IN-PERSON PIC #2 DETAILS [*]	VIRTUAL PIC #2 DETAILS
Date: August 16 th , 2022	Date: August 18 th , 2022
Time: 4:30PM to 7:00PM	Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
Location: Northern Community Centre	Location: To be held virtually via Zoom
(556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)	(Link to be provided upon registration)
Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC	Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

To provide comments, request information, or be added to the Project mailing list, please contact either of the following Project Team members or visit our website at: <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>.

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.	Jeremiah Pariag
Executive Lead, Special Projects	Consultation and Engagement Lead
PUC Transmission LP	WSP Canada Inc.
705-941-8386	289-835-2548
dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com	jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number, and property location – is collected, maintained, and disclosed to the MECP for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in Section 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. 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. For more information, please contact the Ministry's Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.







wsp

Attachment #2 – Class EA Process

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



Ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, community members, elected officials, interest groups and government agencies

Attachment #3 – Project Map

PUC Services Inc., 500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6P2

P: 705-759-6522 F: 705-759-6510



	LEGEND:		
	ROUTE C	OPTION D	
	230 kV C	OMMON ELEMENT ROUTE	
	—— 115 kV C	OMMON ELEMENT ROUTE	
	LOCAL S	TUDY AREA – 500 m RADIUS	
	NEW PU	C STATION OPTION	
1	ALGOMA	STEEL INC. (ASI) ELECTRIC	ARC
5	FURANC	E (EAF) STATION	
	HYDRO (ONE THIRD LINE TRANSFORI	MER STATION (TS)
REAT			
NOF			
RTHE			
RNR			
OAD			
-			
	TITLE:		
	FINAL	ROUTE AND STATION O	PTIONS
ET	PROJECT:		
F	SAULT STE. MARIE 230 KV TRANSMISSION		
	- PROJECT: CLASS EA		
	3r		
PIM	CLIENT:		
STIRE		PUC TRANSMISSION LF	
UE FI			
	MSD	PROJECT NO.:	REVIEWED BY:
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	• • • • = =	DATE:	FIGURE:
tres	GOLDER	JULY 2022	3

From:	Murtada, Jad	
То:	ptangie@michipicoten.com	
Cc:	ElSetouhy, Lina; Pariag, Jeremiah; jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com; Dominic Parrella	
Subject:	PUC Transmission - Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report and Notice of Public Information Centre #2	
Date:	August 2, 2022 5:06:45 PM	
Attachments:	PUC Transmission EA PIC #2 Michipicoten First Nation August 2022.pdf	

Dear Chief Tangie,

Please see the attached letter and combined *Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report* and *Notice of Public Information Centre #2* regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #2 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #2 DETAILS*

Date: August 16th, 2022 **Time**: 4:30PM to 7:00PM **Location**: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)

Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #2 DETAILS

Date: August 18th, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #2 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or would like to meet with the Project Team one-on-one to discuss this project, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

On behalf of the Project Team,

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.

Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP (705) 941-8386 dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. (289) 835-2548 jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

From:	Murtada, Jad		
То:	Andy Rickard; cnolan@gardenriver.org		
Cc:	ElSetouhy, Lina; Pariag, Jeremiah; jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com; Dominic Parrella		
Subject:	PUC Transmission - Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report and Notice of Public Information Centre #2		
Date:	August 2, 2022 5:04:37 PM		
Attachments:	PUC Transmission EA PIC #2 Garden River First Nation August 2022.pdf		

Dear Chief Rickard,

Please see the attached letter and combined *Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report* and *Notice of Public Information Centre #2* regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #2 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #2 DETAILS*

Date: August 16th, 2022 **Time**: 4:30PM to 7:00PM **Location**: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)

Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #2 DETAILS

Date: August 18th, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #2 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or would like to meet with the Project Team one-on-one to discuss this project, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

On behalf of the Project Team,

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.

Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP (705) 941-8386 dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. (289) 835-2548 jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com

From:	Murtada, Jad
То:	chiefdeansavers@batchewana.ca; dansavers@batchewana.ca
Cc:	ElSetouhy, Lina; Pariag, Jeremiah; jairus.patterson@ssmpuc.com; Dominic Parrella
Subject:	PUC Transmission - Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report and Notice of Public Information Centre #2
Date:	August 2, 2022 5:02:45 PM
Attachments:	PUC Transmission EA PIC #2 Batchewana First Nation August 2022.pdf

Dear Chief Sayers,

Please see the attached letter and combined *Notice of Completion of Draft Environmental Study Report* and *Notice of Public Information Centre #2* regarding the Class Environmental Assessment for PUC Transmission LP's proposed new 230 kV Transmission line and station in Sault Ste. Marie.

PIC #2 will take place as follows:

IN-PERSON PIC #2 DETAILS*

Date: August 16th, 2022 **Time**: 4:30PM to 7:00PM **Location**: Northern Community Centre (556 Goulais Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6C 5A7)

Registration: Please sign-in at the PIC

* Please note that masks are required for the in-person PIC.

VIRTUAL PIC #2 DETAILS

Date: August 18th, 2022 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM Location: To be held virtually via Zoom (Link to be provided upon registration) Registration: visit www.PUCTransmissionLP.com

If you are unable to attend the live meeting, the presentation materials and meeting recording will be shared after virtual PIC #2 at <u>www.PUCTransmissionLP.com</u>. If you have any questions about the project or would like to meet with the Project Team one-on-one to discuss this project, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

On behalf of the Project Team,

Dominic Parrella, P. Eng.

Executive Lead, Special Projects PUC Transmission LP (705) 941-8386 dominic.parrella@ssmpuc.com Jeremiah Pariag Consultation and Engagement Lead WSP Canada Inc. (289) 835-2548 jeremiah.pariag@wsp.com