

Notice of Commencement

Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities: Essex Transmission Line Project

Essex Transmission is initiating the Screening Process under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities* (Class EA for TF) to support long-term electricity demand in the Windsor-Essex region, which is experiencing significant pressure related to expansion across the greenhouse, agri-food, automotive/electric vehicle, and advanced manufacturing sectors. Existing 27.6 kV infrastructure is currently operating under constrained conditions, limiting new customer connections and restricting broader economic development. To address these challenges, Essex Transmission is proposing new transmission infrastructure that will increase system capacity and improve reliability. The proposed works include:

230 kV Transmission Components including two new 230 kV transformer stations (TS-1A and TS-1B) connected by 230 kV transmission lines to Lakeshore TS to create network hubs, detailed are as follows:

- One new transformer station called TS-1A located west of Highway 77 and Mersea Road 10
- One new 230 kV double-circuit line extending approximately 6.5 km south from the existing Hydro One Lakeshore transformer station (southeast of County Road 46 and Rochester Townline Road) to the TS-1A transformer station.
- One new transformer station called TS-1B located south of County Road 8 and east of Highway 77.
- One new 230 kV double-circuit line extending approximately 6.3 km south from the existing Hydro One Lakeshore transformer station to the TS-1B transformer station.

Additional Transmission Network – additional facilities required to connect TS-1A to customer load centers including:

- New 115 kV or 230 kV transmission circuits running south approximately 9.6 km from TS-1A to a proposed transmission station located north of County Road 18 and east of Albuna Townline.
- Transmission line taps located on private properties to connect new 115 kV or 230 kV transmission circuits to agricultural facilities.
- New 115 kV or 230 kV transmission circuits running east approximately 3 km from proposed transmission station to an additional transmission station located north of Mersea Road 5 and east of Highway 77

Additional transmission facilities to connect TS-1B to customer load centres will be developed in a later project phase to support regional growth, improve system flexibility, and maintain long-term reliability. Routing alternatives were assessed to identify technically feasible corridors while minimizing conflicts with existing Hydro One infrastructure, sensitive environmental features, and nearby residential and agricultural lands.

Class Environmental Assessment Process

The Screening Process is being planned in accordance with the Class EA for TF (<http://www.ontario.ca/page/class-ea-minor-transmission-facilities>) projects with predictable environmental effects that can be managed utilizing well-established mitigation measures. Within the Class EA for TF, Projects are evaluated against two tiers of assessment: (1) the Screening Process; and (2) the Full Class EA Process. The Screening Process evaluates projects against 16 mandatory screening criteria that consider potential effects on natural, cultural, socio-economic, and technical environments. A project may proceed only if no significant adverse effects are anticipated. **Based on its scope, and subject to consultation and confirmation that all criteria are met, the Essex Transmission Project is anticipated to proceed under the Screening Process**, with construction expected from Q2 2027 to Q4 2028.

Your Input is Valued

To provide comments, request information or join the Project mailing list, please contact the Project Team below or visit our website at www.essextransmission.ca. Feedback is welcome and requested by **May 29, 2026**. Comments, excluding personal information, will form part of the public record under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) and the *Access to Information Act*.

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