Memorandum of Understanding between Conservation Ontario and Hydro One Networks Inc.

Originally endorsed (Conservation Ontario Council): June 21, 2021
Originally endorsed (Hydro One Networks Incorporated): June, 2021

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This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared as an update to the 2011 MOU between Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") and Conservation Ontario, which detailed communication protocols to be followed between Hydro One and Conservation Authorities when Hydro One work activities are planned or undertaken on lands regulated under the *Conservation Authorities Act* ("CA Act"), as well as on *CA-owned lands.* The 2011 MOU acknowledged that, at the time, as a Crown Corporation, all of Hydro One's construction, *maintenance* and emergency activities were exempt from CA permitting requirements under the (then) Section 28 of the CA Act and individual CA regulations. As of May 2017, Hydro One and its *affiliates* no longer hold status as crown corporations, and the exemption status from CA permitting ceased to apply. This updated MOU acknowledges the requirement for Hydro One and its *affiliates* (Hydro One Telecom Inc. and Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP) to obtain CA *permits* under Section 28.1 of the CA Act for their work. This MOU outlines additional protocols and best practices to continue the positive working relationship between Hydro One (and its said *affiliates*) and Ontario's CAs.

December 2025

Originally Endorsed: 2021

Document Revision Information

Version	Date	Version Details	Approval
1.0	June 2021	Original endorsement of Memorandum of Understanding by Conservation Ontario Council and Hydro One Networks Inc.	Conservation Ontario Council: June 21, 2021 Hydro One Networks Inc.: June, 2021
2.0	December 2025	Amendments to ensure conformity with amended *Conservation Authorities Act* and O. Reg. 41/24. Additional amendments to promote joint restoration projects and update select compliance protocols (Appendix One).	Conservation Ontario Council: December 8, 2025 Hydro One Networks Inc.: January 21, 2026
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Memorandum of Understanding between
Conservation Ontario and Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One")

Glossary of Terms

Affiliates:
Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP and Hydro One Telecom Inc.

Compensation:
Financial contribution made by Hydro One or an Affiliate to a Conservation Authority as a result of damages occurred, to the extent that such damages are caused by Hydro One or an Affiliate or Hydro One's contractors, during the course of Hydro One's or an Affiliate's maintenance or construction activities. Compensation may be provided in lieu of undertaking site restoration activities.

Conservation Authority (CA)
Local, watershed management agencies that deliver programs and services to protect and manage impacts on water and other natural resources in partnership with all levels of government, landowners and other organizations. Conservation Authorities are established through the *Conservation Authorities Act* ("CA Act"). There are 36 Conservation Authorities across Ontario.

Conservation Authority Authorizations ("Authorizations"):
Written documentation from the Conservation Authority providing authority to undertake works within conservation authority-owned lands. Note: This is distinct from *Conservation Authority Permits* (see below).

Conservation Authority-Owned Lands ("Conservation Areas"):
Lands owned or managed by the Conservation Authority. Conservation Authority-owned or managed lands are private property, however some may be publicly accessible. Conservation Authority-owned or managed lands may include forests, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest, recreational lands, natural heritage and cultural sites, as well as lands for flood and erosion control.

Conservation Authority Permits ("Permits"):
From subsection 28.1(1) of the CA Act. Refers to a permit to engage in activities otherwise prohibited under Section 28 of the CA Act (see "*regulated activities"*).

Per subsection 28.1(1), an Authority may issue a permit if, in the opinion of the Authority, the activity is not likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock, and the activity is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property, and any other requirements that may be prescribed by the regulations are met.

Conservation Authority Regulated Activities ("Regulated Activities")
Otherwise referred to as "prohibited activities", from the *Conservation Authorities Act*, subsection 28(1):

1. Activities to straighten, change, divert or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or to change or interfere in any way with a wetland.
2. Development activities in areas that are within the authority's jurisdiction and take place in *regulated areas*.

Conservation Authority Regulated Area(s) ("Regulated Areas"):
From the *Conservation Authorities Act,* subsection 28 (1):

Areas that are:
a) Hazardous lands;
b) Wetlands;
c) River or stream valleys (the limit of which shall be determined in accordance with the regulations);
d) Adjacent or close to the shoreline of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System or to an inland lake and that may be affected by flooding, erosion or dynamic beach hazards; or,
e) Other areas in which development should be prohibited or regulated, as may be determined by the regulations.

Conservation Ontario (CO)
A non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 conservation authorities.

Development Activities:
From Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits:

a) the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind,
b) any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure,
c) site grading, or
d) the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere;

Ecological Restoration:
Activities which are undertaken to assist with the recovery and/or rehabilitation of areas that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed during the course of Hydro One maintenance or construction activities.

Depending on the works undertaken, a range of potential restoration options may be considered, including seeding to stabilize bare/exposed soils, planting of native woody vegetation, repurposing of temporary access roads (e.g., for use as trails), etc.

Emergency Works:
Works required to mitigate emergency situations where prompt coordination of resources is required to address immediate or imminent damages and/or repairs to infrastructure in order for Hydro One to meet its requirements under the *Electricity Act* and the *Ontario Energy Board Act*. These works include assets that are at risk of failure or have already failed, and may or may not yet be out of service. Emergency works typically fall into one of three priority levels: "high risk" (replace or rectify within 30 days), "medium risk" (replace or rectify within 30 – 90 days), and "low risk" (replace or rectify within 90+ days).

Maintenance:
The regular, routine actions, taken to lessen or postpone the natural deterioration of an asset (or fixture and/or equipment) of Hydro One or an Affiliate. These actions, including upkeep (e.g., vegetation management), repair, replacement and/or upgrading, are intended to keep the asset from premature loss due to failure, decline, wear or change attributable to normal use or the effect of the natural environment.

Vegetation Management:
The physical operation of providing specific tree and brush clearances from electrical apparatus and their support structures using arboricultural techniques specific to the electrical utility industry (e.g., tree removal and pruning, herbicides, grubbing, manual and mechanical cutting etc.).

Throughout this document, terms included in this glossary will appear in italics.

1.0 Preamble

Pursuant to the *Electricity Act,* the basic mandate of Hydro One is to ensure a safe, reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity to the people of Ontario. Regular *maintenance* and periodic construction of Hydro One's distribution and transmission infrastructure spanning across Ontario is necessary in order to fulfill this mandate. Guidelines, such as those of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") standardize many Hydro One activities to achieve reliability requirements. Further, standards are imposed on Hydro One by the *Ontario Energy Board Act,* and various codes and licences issued by the Ontario Energy Board pursuant to that statute.

The purpose of the *Conservation Authorities Act* ("CA Act") is to provide for the "organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watershed in Ontario". The objects of Conservation Authorities (CAs) are to provide mandatory, municipal, and other programs and services in an area over which it has jurisdiction (ss. 20(1)). Mandatory CA programs and services are outlined in Ontario Regulation 686/21, and include programs and services related to: the risk of natural hazards, the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act*, as well as other programs or services prescribed by the regulations. Under O. Reg. 686/21, all CAs administer and enforce Parts VI and VII of the CA Act, including the review and issuance of permits for *regulated activities*.

In 2011, Hydro One and *Conservation Ontario* entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU detailed the protocols that would be followed between *CAs* and Hydro One when Hydro One work activities are planned or undertaken on lands regulated under the CA Act*,* as well as on *CA-owned lands*. Through the MOU, *Conservation Ontario* acknowledged and agreed at the time that, as a crown corporation, all of Hydro One's activities (i.e., construction, *maintenance* or emergency activities) were exempt from *CA* permitting requirements under the (then) Section 28 of the CA Act and the individual CA "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses" Regulations. In the absence of the formal permitting process, the 2011 MOU outlined the communication process to be followed between Hydro One and *CAs*, as well as Best Management Practices which could be implemented by Hydro One when carrying out construction and/or *maintenance* operations on *CA-owned lands*.

As of May 2017, Hydro One and the *Affiliates* no longer held status as crown corporations, and the previous exemption status from *CA* permitting requirements under the (then) Section 28 of the CA Act and the individual *CA* "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulations ceased to apply. The requirement for Hydro One and *Affiliates* to obtain *authorizations* for projects undertaken within *CA-owned lands* is not affected by the change in their status from being crown corporations.

Acknowledging this new requirement for Hydro One and the *Affiliates* to obtain *CA permits* under the (then) Section 28 of the CA Act for their works*,* and the history of positive working relationships, *Conservation Ontario* and Hydro One entered into a renewed MOU in 2021. This MOU enhances communication protocols and promotes the use of newly developed standard processes, including recommended streamlined processes for CA Act Section 28.1 *permits* and standard best practices for projects undertaken within *CA regulated areas* and *CA-owned lands*.

An update to the 2021 MOU was prepared in December, 2025 following conversation with CAs and Hydro One. The updated MOU addresses recent legislative and regulatory changes under the *CA Act*, refines select communication and compliance processes, and provides enhanced language to support joint restoration projects and partnerships between CAs and Hydro One.

Hydro One acknowledges that it and the *Affiliates* are subject to other provincial and federal legislation and are responsible for consulting with other relevant agencies, which may include *CAs*, as necessary to meet all legislative and regulatory requirements. Participation in this MOU does not relieve Hydro One and the *Affiliates* from the obligation of securing any other necessary approvals; however, where other legislation identifies the need for *authorizations* or *permits* by *CAs* as addressed in this MOU, it is recommended that the processes established in this MOU be utilized.

2.0 Purpose

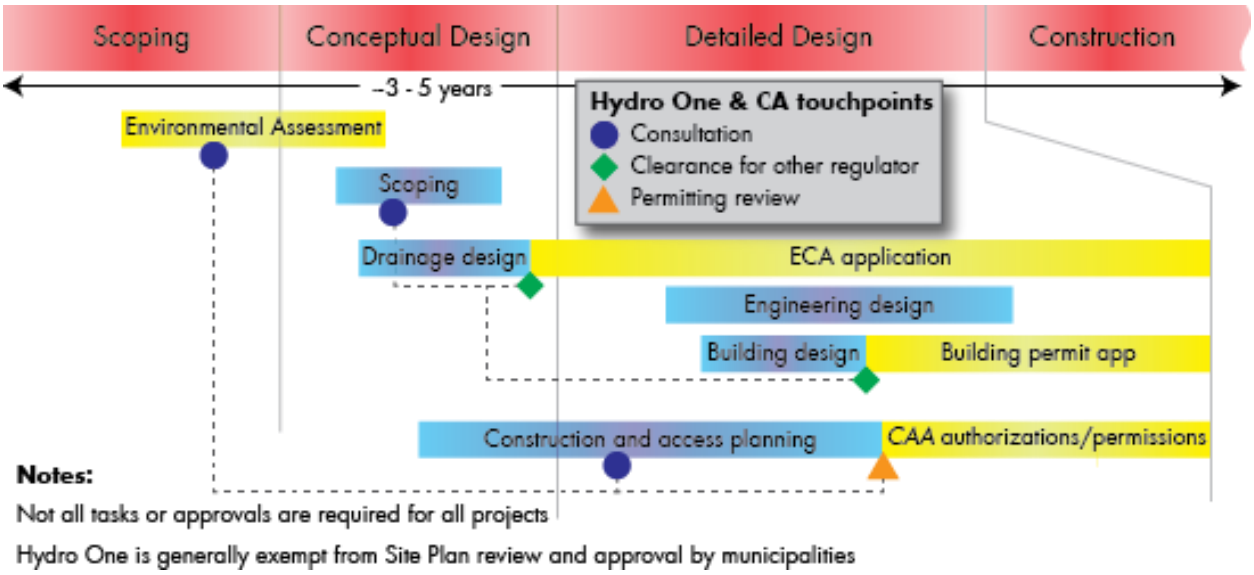
This MOU details the roles and responsibilities of Hydro One, the *Affiliates* and their respective contractors, and *CAs* for Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* works taking place in *CA-regulated areas* or *CA-owned lands*. Specifically, this MOU promotes the use of standard processes, including streamlined compliance approaches and standard best practices to be followed between *CAs* and Hydro One and the *Affiliates* for:

(a) Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* work activities on lands regulated under the CA Act (see Appendix One for further details);
(b) Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* work activities on *CA-owned lands* (see Section 7);
(c) Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* work activities on lands regulated under the CA Act as *emergency works* (see Section 8);
(d) *Ecological restoration* activities, including joint *ecological restoration* opportunities, undertaken by *CAs* and Hydro One and the *Affiliates* (see Section 10); and,
(e) Undertaking communications between the two agencies (see section 6).

Recommended streamlined compliance (permitting) protocols are included that outline standard application and communication processes, and applicable mitigation measures for Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* work activities taking place in *CA-regulated areas*. These protocols can be found in Appendix One.

Hydro One acknowledges that *CAs* may be agencies identified for consultation under various legislation (e.g., *Environmental Assessment Act, Environmental Protection Act, Clean Water Act,* etc.). Direct consultation with *CAs* for activities and approvals outside of this MOU remains the responsibility of Hydro One and is not part of this MOU. However, where consultation identifies the need for *authorizations* or *permits* by *CAs* as addressed in this MOU, it is recommended that the processes established in this MOU be utilized. An overview of the general interactions between Hydro One and its *Affiliates*, and *CAs* during a typical new construction project is presented in the figure below.

Figure 1: Overview of Interactions between Hydro One and CAs (New Construction Projects)



3.0 Guiding Principles

(a) The parties are committed to undertaking positive client service and will work together to fulfil their responsibilities under the *Electricity Act,* the *Ontario Energy Board Act,* and *Conservation Authorities Act,* respectively, without compromising the intent of those statutes.

(b) Works will be planned to avoid, mitigate, or minimize impacts to the natural environment (in that order), including hazard features (to every extent possible) and will not result in increased risks to public health or safety. Where avoidance is not possible and features are degraded, damaged or destroyed, Hydro One will work collaboratively with the *CA* to address the impact(s).

(c) The parties agree to share information which would assist and expedite decision-making and communication, and contribute to best practices for Hydro One and *CAs*. Such information may include: property details for *CA-owned lands*; applicable and available geospatial data layers for *CA-regulated areas* and *CA-owned lands*; and information on policies and/or procedures which may influence the proposed works.

(d) CAs and Hydro One appreciate existing longstanding partnerships between the parties to advance joint restoration and natural area enhancement projects in watersheds across Ontario, and will seek opportunities outside of this MOU to collaborate on and advance such projects, where appropriate and applicable.

4.0 Background

Hydro One is Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution provider with approximately 1.4 million customers across Ontario. Its system accounts for approximately 98% of Ontario's transmission capacity with approximately 30,000 circuit kilometres of high-voltage transmission lines. Additionally, its distribution system is the largest in Ontario, consisting of 123,000 circuit kilometres of primarily low-voltage power lines. Pursuant to the *Electricity Act*,

and the *Ontario Energy Board Act,* Hydro One is required to ensure a safe, reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity to the people of Ontario. Construction and *maintenance* of its electricity system is necessary to fulfill this mandate. Hydro One makes every effort, during the course of all activities, to avoid harm to the natural environment.

Conservation Authorities undertake watershed-based programs that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario. There are 31 *CAs* operating in southern Ontario and five *CAs* in northern Ontario. *CAs* are responsible for administering and enforcing the *Conservation Authorities Act*, as well as Ontario Regulation 41/24 "Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits"*. CAs* have responsibilities to regulate the following development, alteration and interference activities, otherwise referred to as *regulated activities* in this MOU:

- Activities to straighten, change, divert or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or to change or interfere in any way with a wetland.
- Development activities in or adjacent to hazardous lands, wetlands, river or stream valleys, areas adjacent or close to the shoreline of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System or an inland lake, and other areas in which development should be prohibited or regulated, as may be determined by the regulations (*see definitions of "regulated activities" and "regulated areas" for further details).*

CAs are the second largest landowner in Ontario. *CAs* carry out various land management activities that protect, enhance and restore natural lands contained within conservation areas. Conservation areas are managed in accordance with the CA's "Conservation Area Strategy, management plans (as applicable), the best available natural heritage information for the area, and/or in accordance with their Board-approved policies.

Hydro One is supportive of the *CA* mandate in general and when undertaking the above-mentioned activities. Hydro One works in cooperation with *CAs* and has for many years.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

(a) Hydro One agrees to:

i. Identify and provide *CAs* and CO with key Hydro One contacts on an annual basis to ensure effective communication between both parties.

ii. Obtain *permits* from the appropriate local *CA(s)* for planned *maintenance* and construction activities (*"regulated activities")* that may take place within *CA-regulated areas* (irrespective of property ownership) early in the planning process.

iii. Obtain *authorization* from the appropriate local *CA(s)* for all *maintenance* and construction activities that may take place within *CA-owned lands* early in the planning process.

iv. Engage with *CAs* early in the planning process (where possible) for capital projects, as well as any known additional *maintenance* or construction activities to be undertaken in *CA-regulated areas* or *CA-owned lands*, and keep the *CA(s)* apprised of changes, including any new proposed works.

    i. Where planned works may traverse multiple *CA* watershed boundaries, Hydro One should endeavour to schedule a meeting with all affected *CAs* to discuss consistent compliance and communication protocols.

v. Inform the appropriate local *CA(s)* of emergency *maintenance* and/or construction activities that may take place within *CA-regulated areas* or *CA-owned lands*, consistent with the protocols identified in Section 8 of this MOU.
vi. Undertake approved works in accordance with the general and activity-specific mitigation measures outlined in Appendix One, unless otherwise approved by the appropriate local *CA(s).*
vii. Ensure that staff and contractors are knowledgeable of the terms and conditions of this MOU, including the attached recommended compliance protocols for Hydro One activities in *CA-regulated areas.*
viii. Participate in an annual review of this MOU and attached recommended compliance protocols and assist *Conservation Ontario* with the revision process, as required.

(b) Conservation Authorities agree to:
i. Identify and provide Hydro One with key *CA* contacts on an annual basis to ensure effective communication between the parties.
ii. Share available and applicable geospatial data to assist Hydro One with pre-screening for proposed works (e.g., regulation limit mapping layers and conservation lands layers). *CAs* may choose to enter into data-sharing agreements prior to providing Hydro One with available data. Hydro One recognizes that *CAs* may charge a fee for data sharing.
iii. Participate in early engagement with Hydro One on planned capital projects, as well as known additional *maintenance* and construction activities. This may include identifying potential concerns with proposed works and providing initial feedback on compliance approaches for the proposed works.
iv. Provide timely review and feedback on *conservation authority permit* applications submitted by Hydro One pursuant to Section 28.1 of the CA Act, consistent with the *CA's* board-approved policies. Details on the recommended procedures related to these reviews can be found in Appendix One.
v. Provide timely review and feedback on *conservation authority authorizations* for Hydro One work activities on *CA-owned lands* which are outside *CA-regulated areas*, consistent with the *CA's* board-approved policies.

(c) Conservation Ontario agrees to:
i. Ensure that *CA* staff are knowledgeable of the terms and conditions of this MOU, including the recommended compliance protocols for Hydro One work activities in *CA-regulated areas* outlined in Appendix One.
ii. Coordinate, compile and communicate information, questions and concerns from either individual *CAs* or Hydro One to the other party, where appropriate.
iii. Undertake an annual review of this MOU and attached compliance protocols and oversee the revision process, as required.

6.0 Communication Between Parties

All parties identified in this MOU commit to timely, clear, and open communication to ensure that project needs can be met within the desired timeframes, and that Hydro One and CAs can fulfil their responsibilities under the *Electricity Act,* the *Ontario Energy Board Act* and *Conservation Authorities Act* respectively, without compromising the intent of those statutes.

Early and regular communication allows for adequate time for both Hydro One and individual *CAs* to review and provide feedback on planned capital projects, as well as additional maintenance and construction works in areas regulated under the *CA Act*. Should the individual *CA(s)* identify concerns with a project, the *CA(s)* shall notify Hydro One as soon as possible.

In addition to these general principles for communication between the parties, detailed communication protocols for a number of Hydro One activities are documented in this MOU, as well as additional recommended communication and compliance protocols outlined in Appendix One. For communications protocols related to Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* works on *CA-owned lands*, see Section 7.0. For communications protocols related to Emergency and Priority Works undertaken by Hydro One and the *Affiliates*, see Section 8.0.

7.0 Works Within Conservation Authority-Owned Lands

The following section summarizes the protocols to be followed by Hydro One, the *Affiliates* and their respective contractors when works are to be undertaken on *CA-owned lands*.

All parties acknowledge that Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* transmission and distribution staff are granted powers of entry under s. 40 of the *Electricity Act* to lands where their transmission or distribution systems are located. The *Electricity Act* identifies requirements for their staff when utilizing these powers of entry, including providing reasonable notice to the occupier of the property, restoring the property to its original conditions insofar as is practicable, and providing *compensation* for damages caused by the entry. As a best practice, Hydro One will endeavour to provide reasonable notice to *CAs* for *emergency works* on their properties, when the *CA* is either the occupier or the owner of the property where access is required. For all other works planned within *CA-owned lands*, Hydro One will endeavour to consult early in the planning process with the affected *CA(s)* to allow sufficient time for information requirements and timing considerations to be reviewed.

Hydro One recognizes that *CA-owned lands* may be located within or outside of *CA-regulated areas*. Where works are to be undertaken on *CA-owned lands*, Hydro One acknowledges that it will need to follow the protocols outlined in this section, as well as obtain *CA permits* for *regulated activities* per subsection 28.1(2) of the CA Act. Recommended protocols for obtaining *permits* for works in *CA-regulated areas* can be found in Appendix One or by following the established processes of the applicable *CA(s)*. The parties recognize that *CAs* as landowners do not relinquish any property rights through the application of this section. In addition to the requirements related to powers of entry under the *Electricity Act*, Hydro One commits to the following protocols to be followed when staff and contractors plan to undertake work on *CA-owned lands*:

(a) Hydro One will obtain advanced *authorization* to undertake works from the *CA* as per each *CA's* protocols and will discuss the details, which may include: identifying preferred access routes and conditions of such access prior to commencement of work (details on vehicles and/or equipment accessing the property), proposed start and end dates of works, confirmation of certificate of insurance naming the *CA* as also insured, archaeological requirements and restoration plans. This will apply to both direct access to CA-owned property (via public roads) and indirect access across CA-owned property to Hydro One rights-of-way (ROWs).
(b) Prior to commencing works on the property, the *CA* contact will provide Hydro One with

authorization to undertake the works, site specific information and/or property use requirements in writing. Where closure of footpaths / trails may be required, Hydro One will work with the *CA* to ensure appropriate public notice and trail closure details are provided.

(c) Per Section 9.0 of this MOU, Hydro One acknowledges that *CAs* may charge a fee for *authorizations* on *CA-owned lands*.

Further details regarding protocols for access to *CA-owned lands* in emergency and priority situations are set out in Section 8.0 of this MOU.

8.0 Emergency and Priority Works

The parties acknowledge that there are emergency situations that require Hydro One and the *Affiliates* to undertake immediate action to mitigate damages and/or repair infrastructure in order for Hydro One to meet its requirements in the *Electricity Act and* the *Ontario Energy Board Act* to provide safe and reliable power. This MOU does not provide the ability to alter the requirement for Hydro One to obtain a *permit* to engage in *regulated activities* under the CA Act related to *emergency works*, nor does it prevent Hydro One from fulfilling its requirements under the *Electricity Act* and the *Ontario Energy Board Act*.

Emergency works include any activity that requires prompt coordination of resources to address an immediate threat to public safety or the environment. This also includes limiting damage to property, equipment and the environment during and after an event, or imminent event, outside the scope of normal operations.

Priority works are typically identified through routine infrastructure inspections. Addressing these repairs is a priority for Hydro One, but this priority level generally does not include works which address immediate threats to public safety or the environment.

Table 1: Summary of Hydro One Priority Level Rankings (Emergency and Priority Works)

Priority Level	Description	Hydro One responsibilities for works in CA regulated areas
High Risk (Emergency) Replace or rectify within 30 days	Infrastructure has failed already or can imminently fail. Emergency response required.	• *Emergency works* executed under *Electricity Act* and the *Ontario Energy Board Act.* • Provide notice of works to the applicable *CA(s)* as soon as reasonably possible • Provide description of works, additional information, applicable fees to CA to review works to ensure compliance with CA permitting requirements under the CA Act and O. Reg. 41/24.
Medium Risk (Emergency) Replace or rectify within 30 – 90 days	Infrastructure identified during routine inspections as requiring replacement as soon as reasonably possible.	• Provide notice of necessary works to appropriate *CA(s)* in advance of works taking place. • Provide all necessary information and applicable fees to *CA(s)* to allow *CA*

		to review works and issue *permit* under section 28.1 of the CA Act (where timelines allow). • For expedited works to address immediate or escalating threats, provide notice and description of works, additional information and applicable fees to review works to ensure compliance with CA permitting requirements under the CA Act and O. Reg. 41/24.
Low Risk (Non-Emergency, Priority) Replace or rectify within 90+ days	Non-critical component repairs that are identified and are considered low priority.	• Provide notice of necessary works to appropriate *CA(s)* in advance of works taking place. • Provide all necessary information and applicable fees to *CA(s)* to allow *CA* to review works and issue written *permits* under section 28.1 of the CA Act.

The following summarizes the protocols agreed to between *CAs* and Hydro One when *emergency works* are required:

8.1 Emergency and Priority Works within CA-Regulated Areas:

Note: These protocols further apply to CA-owned lands, where the area of the CA-owned land is a regulated area.

1. When ***emergency works*** are required within *CA-regulated areas*, Hydro One will discuss the details of the necessary works with the applicable *CA(s).* Hydro One will endeavour to contact the applicable *CA(s)* as soon as reasonably possible. It is recognized that works in the "high risk" level will require prompt coordination of resources, which may result in the *CA* becoming notified after the onset of the work.
2. For "high risk" ***emergency works***, Hydro One will endeavour to notify the appropriate *CA(s)* at the earliest opportunity to discuss the works that will be or have taken place, and provide any information to the *CA(s)* to ensure compliance with CA permitting requirements under the CA Act and O. Reg. 41/24 can be achieved.
3. Where the *emergency works* align with one or more of the activities covered by "Standard Compliance Requirements" (see Appendix One), Hydro One will endeavour to undertake the works in compliance with all activity-specific and general mitigation measures listed for the activity(ies).
4. For "medium risk" ***emergency works***, Hydro One will endeavour to notify the appropriate *CA(s)* of the necessary works prior to construction or *maintenance* activities taking place. In notifying the *CA*, Hydro One will provide the *CA(s)* with all available information, that may include a summary and location of the proposed works, detailed site maps, description of mitigation measures to be implemented, and any applicable fees. *CA* staff will work with Hydro One to issue *permits* for the works (if necessary) in accordance with the timelines identified in Table 1. Where the timeline for these works requires prompt coordination of resources to address an immediate or escalating threat, Hydro One will discuss any works undertaken with

the appropriate *CA(s)*, and provide information to the *CA(s)* to ensure compliance with CA permitting requirements under the CA Act and O. Reg. 41/24.

5. For "low risk" **priority** works, Hydro One will notify the appropriate *CA(s)* of the necessary works prior to construction or *maintenance* activities taking place. In notifying the *CA*, Hydro One will provide the *CA(s)* with all necessary information, that may include a summary and location of the proposed works, detailed site maps, description of mitigation measures to be implemented, and any applicable fees. *CA* staff will work with Hydro One and the *Affiliates* to issue *permits* for the works (if necessary) in accordance with the timelines identified in Table 1.
6. ROW restoration requirements, if necessary, and if permissible under *maintenance* standards, will be discussed. For instance, temporary emergency or priority works (e.g., watercourse crossing culverts, access roads) would typically be removed after work is completed. However, these works may be left in place with the agreement of the *CA(s),* any affected property owners and any other approval agency(ies). Where development will remain, it should be designed and constructed based on *CA* policies. Additional studies or technical information may be required by the *CA(s)* to ensure the development will not cause negative impacts.
7. Any ROW restoration work will be carried out in accordance with a written record of concurrence between Hydro One and the CA. See section 10.0 of this document for more details.

8.2 Emergency and Priority Works within CA-Owned Lands (Outside of Regulated Areas):

It is recognized that *CAs* as landowners do not relinquish any property rights through the application of this section. As discussed in Section 7.0 of this MOU, all parties acknowledge that Hydro One transmission and distribution staff are granted powers of entry under s. 40 of the *Electricity Act* to lands where their transmission or distribution systems are located. The *Electricity Act* identifies requirements for Hydro One and the *Affiliates'* staff when utilizing these powers of entry, including providing reasonable notice to the occupier of the property, restoring the property to original conditions insofar as is practicable, and providing *compensation* for any damages caused by the entry. As a best practice, Hydro One will endeavour to provide reasonable notice to *CAs* for emergency and priority works on their properties, and to accommodate site-specific information and/or property use requirements, such as archaeological requirements, when the *CA* is either the occupier or the owner of the property where access is required. While it is understood that some high risk *emergency works* will require prompt coordination of resources to address an immediate threat to public safety or the environment, Hydro One will endeavor to obtain advanced *authorization* from the applicable *CA(s)* to undertake the works, where time allows.

9.0 Fees

Hydro One acknowledges that there will be fees associated with permit applications for works undertaken in *CA-regulated areas*. General information regarding application fees for such works can be accessed by contacting the *CA*. Information on *CA* fees can be obtained through direct inquiry with the *CA,* or reviewing individual *CA* fee policies and schedules.

For activities on *CA-owned lands*, it is recognized that there may be circumstances where a fee or security will be required (e.g., fees to access *CA-owned lands*, fees for archaeological investigations); this will be negotiated between Hydro One and the individual *CA*, unless otherwise set out within the current *CA* fee schedule or policy.

10.0 Restoration Works or Compensation

During project-specific discussions about *permits* and/or *authorizations*, Hydro One and the individual *CA(s)* will discuss site restoration options for works in *CA regulated areas* and *CA-owned lands*. Depending on the works undertaken, a range of potential restoration options may be considered, including seeding to stabilize bare/exposed soils, planting of native woody vegetation, repurposing of temporary access roads (e.g., for use as trails), etc. Through discussions regarding restoration works, Hydro One and the *CA* will give consideration for applicable planting seasons and timing windows (e.g., for stream restorations works). Schedules/timelines for completing these works will be discussed between both parties.

It is understood that restoration may be restricted along corridors to ensure compliance with NERC reliability standards and Ontario Energy Board standards and that there may be instances where full restoration works may not be feasible. For example, in some situations, due to clearance restrictions, only ground cover restoration is permitted (i.e., no shrubs or trees). As a best practice, any areas of disturbed or base soil should be seeded with native, non-invasive herbaceous material while the ground is moist and conditions are appropriate for germination.

Where agreed to by both parties, where full restoration works may not be feasible by Hydro One following works on *CA-owned lands*, *CAs* may request *compensation* in lieu of site restoration (e.g., where *CAs* are planning alternative uses for the impacted sites, including future trail development, new facilities, etc.).

It is noted that, while this MOU does not address unique or project-specific restoration works, such as joint restoration projects or natural area enhancement, nothing in this MOU precludes individual *CAs* and Hydro One and the *Affiliates* from entering into agreements to complete such projects (see Section 3.0 Guiding Principles). Where such works are proposed and agreed to by both parties, Hydro One and individual *CAs* will develop project-specific details.

11.0 Legal Liability

(a) This MOU is an expression of the mutual intentions of the parties and is not legally binding or enforceable.
(b) Nothing in this MOU precludes Hydro One and the *Affiliates* and individual *CAs* from entering into additional agreements (e.g., service level agreements) for services provided to either agency. Additional agreements are outside the scope of this MOU and are to be negotiated and managed between the individual *CA* and Hydro One.
(c) Both parties agree and acknowledge that any enforcement action under the *Conservation Authorities Act* is at the sole discretion of the *CA*.
(d) Nothing in this MOU removes the requirement for Hydro One to obtain and follow *permits* for *regulated activities* under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Hydro One acknowledges its responsibility to obtain *permits* for *regulated activities* as identified in

sections 28 and 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

(e) If there are any conflicts or inconsistencies between this MOU and any obligations under any applicable provincial or federal legislation, or associated regulations, including but not limited to the *Electricity Act,* the *Ontario Energy Board Act,* and the *Conservation Authorities Act,* the obligations under the legislation and applicable regulations shall prevail.

12.0 Term of the MOU

This MOU will be in force from the date of the later signature hereunder and will remain in effect until cancelled by either Party.

The parties agree to review and amend this MOU as required (e.g. due to regulatory changes, etc.) by mutual written agreement. *Conservation Ontario* will further undertake an annual review of this MOU and attached protocol, focusing on comments and/or concerns submitted by individual *CAs* or Hydro One each year. This MOU may be cancelled unilaterally by Hydro One or by *Conservation Ontario* by providing six months' written notice of the intention to cancel to the other Party, or by mutual agreement with any agreed period of notice.

13.0 Signatories

The Parties hereto have signed the Agreement, in counterparts, on the dates indicated below:

HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.

January 21, 2026

_____ _____

Name: Date
Title:

CONSERVATION ONTARIO

Angela M. Coleman signed electronically February 4, 2026 at 4:01 p.m.

_____ _____

Name: Angela Coleman Date
Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix One

Protocol for Obtaining Permits under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for Common Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities

Originally endorsed (Conservation Ontario Council): June 21, 2021
Originally endorsed (Hydro One Networks Incorporated): June, 2021

Table of Contents

Definitions

Access Road:
A road pre-existing or built to obtain access to a Hydro One asset for the purpose of construction, operation and/or maintenance.

Affiliates:
Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP and Hydro One Telecom Inc.

Conservation Authority Regulated Activities ("Regulated Activities")
Otherwise referred to as "prohibited activities", from the *Conservation Authorities Act*, subsection 28(1):

1. Activities to straighten, change, divert or interfere in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or to change or interfere in any way with a wetland.
2. Development activities in areas that are within the authority's jurisdiction and take place in *regulated areas*.

Conservation Authority Regulated Area(s) ("Regulated Areas"):
From the *Conservation Authorities Act,* subsection 28 (1):

Areas that are within the area of jurisdiction of a Conservation Authority and are:

a) hazardous lands;
b) wetlands;
c) river or stream valleys;
d) areas that are adjacent or close to the shoreline of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System or to an inland lake and that may be affected by flooding, erosion or dynamic beach hazards; or,
e) other areas in which development should be prohibited or regulated, as may be determined by the regulations

Development Activities:
From Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits:

a) the construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind,
b) any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure,
c) site grading, or
d) the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere;

Distribution:
Distribution of electric power utilizing distribution infrastructure where the nominal operating voltage is equal to or less than 115 kV.

Hazardous Land:
From Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits:

Land that could be unsafe for development because of naturally occurring processes associated with flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock.

Mitigation:
Avoiding, eliminating or reducing to an acceptable level the potential effects of a project. It can also include rehabilitation, restoration, or enhancement where feasible, and the means by which projects can be modified to minimize or eliminate potential negative effects.

Right-of-Way (ROW):
A strip of land over which an Ontario Energy Board-licensed transmitter or distributor has occupational rights to occupy and use for the purposes of an electricity transmission line or lines as defined by the *Ontario Energy Board Act*. Synonymous with "Transmission Corridor" or "Distribution Corridor".

Transmission:
Transmission of electric power utilizing transmission infrastructure where the nominal operating voltage is equal to or greater than 115 kV or equal to or less than 500 kV.

Watercourse:
From Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits:

A defined channel, having a bed and banks or sides, in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs.

Wetland:
From Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits:

Land that,

a) is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water or has a water table close to or at its surface,
b) directly contributes to the hydrological function of a watershed through connection with a surface watercourse,
c) has hydric soils, the formation of which has been caused by the presence of abundant water, and
d) has vegetation dominated by hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants, the dominance of which has been favoured by the presence of abundant water,

Subsection 1(2) of O. Reg. 41/24 specifies that the definition of *wetland* does not include periodically soaked or wet land that is used for agricultural purposes and no longer exhibits a *wetland* characteristic referred to in clause (c) or (d).

Throughout this document, terms included in this glossary will appear in italics.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CA	Conservation Authority	ROW	Right-of-Way
CA Act	*Conservation Authorities Act*	SBP	Standard Best Practices
ESC	Erosion and Sediment Control	SCR	Standard Compliance Requirements
Hydro One	Hydro One Networks Inc.		

Preface

This document has been prepared by Conservation Ontario and Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") as part of an update to the previous 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Conservation Ontario and Hydro One. The updated MOU (amended 2025) has been prepared to reflect that, as of May 2017, Hydro One no longer holds status as a crown corporation and is thereby subject to permitting requirements under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* ("CA Act") and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.

This document outlines recommended procedures for Hydro One and the *Affiliates*, including any of their respective contractors, and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities ("CAs") for Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* works taking place in *regulated areas* as documented under subsection 28(1) of the CA Act and further defined in O. Reg. 41/24. The Protocol acknowledges the requirements for the parties to fulfill their responsibilities under the *Electricity Act, Ontario Energy Board Act,* and *Conservation Authorities Act,* respectively, without compromising the intent of those statutes, when Hydro One works are planned or undertaken within CA-*regulated areas*. The following Protocol is intended to outline recommended notification, communication, and compliance requirements, as well as best management practices which may be used by Hydro One with CAs.

1.0 Introduction

Pursuant to the *Electricity Act*, the basic mandate of Hydro One is to ensure a safe, reliable and cost-effective supply of electricity to the people of Ontario. Regular maintenance and periodic construction of Hydro One's and the *Affiliates' distribution* and *transmission* infrastructure is necessary to fulfill this mandate. Given that this infrastructure may be located in lands regulated by Conservation Authorities ("CAs") under the CA Act, permits must be sought from the local CAs to undertake *regulated activities* in these *regulated areas*.

Hydro One makes every effort during the course of maintenance and construction activities to avoid any impact to the natural environment. It should be recognized that Hydro One *ROWs*, unlike other linear infrastructure, have been able to preserve and sustain most ecological features and functions of the landscape. A consequence of this positive characteristic of the infrastructure is that crews must traverse natural areas to access Hydro One infrastructure.

Part VI of the CA Act outlines prohibited activities associated with natural hazard features in a Conservation Authority jurisdiction that may not proceed without a permit from the local CA. These prohibited activities are otherwise referred to as *regulated activities* in this document. A CA may grant a permit to undertake one or more *regulated activities,* if, in the opinion of the Authority:

1. *The activity is not likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock; and*
2. *The activity is unlikely to create conditions or circumstance that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health and safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.*

Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* infrastructure, (e.g., *distribution* or *transmission* lines and stations, *ROWs*, *access roads*) may be located in *regulated areas* as defined under the CA Act and O. Reg. 41/24 and, as such, construction and maintenance activities associated with this infrastructure may be regulated by CAs.

Comprehensive details of the *Electricity Act,* the *Ontario Energy Board Act,* and the *Conservation Authorities Act* are available online through e-Laws (www.e-laws.gov.on.ca).

This protocol has been developed to provide clear and consistent compliance approaches for Hydro One when completing works within CA-*regulated areas*. Hydro One and Conservation Ontario are supportive of the recommended streamlined compliance approaches for lower-risk maintenance and construction activities. CAs are encouraged to utilize the streamlined approaches presented in this Protocol to provide consistency in CA permitting requirements under Part VI of the CA Act, while ensuring that CAs' legislative and regulatory responsibilities are fulfilled. This Protocol is intended to continue to support and enhance the positive working relationship between Hydro One and Ontario's CAs.

2.0 Purpose and Scope

This Protocol addresses anticipated maintenance and construction activities that may be undertaken by Hydro One and its *Affiliates*, or their respective contractors, for work within CA *regulated areas*. Table 1 identifies these activities and the recommended approaches for

compliance with Part VI of the CA Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24. These compliance approaches include:

1. CA Permit (using Regular Approach)
2. CA Permit (using Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs))
3. Application of Standard Best Practices (SBPs)

It should be noted that not all scenarios are captured within this document. **Each set of works will need to be reviewed by the CA to confirm what compliance approach is applicable**. CAs will determine the appropriate compliance approach for projects based on a number of factors, including: the level of risk associated with the hazard feature, project complexity, duration, etc. Consultation with the CA will be required to determine the appropriate compliance approach. Details on the recommended compliance approaches are discussed further in Section 3.

Good communication among all parties remains fundamental for the compliance approaches to be effective. Hydro One and CAs should be in regular communication to understand one another's interests and be aware of changes and developments (including changes to individual CA policies which may impact Hydro One's interests). As discussed in Section 5 of the Conservation Ontario-Hydro One MOU (amended 2025), Hydro One and CAs should maintain early and regular communications to understand planned works within each individual CA's jurisdiction, providing an opportunity to discuss compliance requirements and approaches to address any potential concerns before they may become escalated.

3.0 Compliance Approaches

Under this Protocol, a written permit under Section 28.1 of the CA Act can be achieved either by adhering to Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs) issued by a CA or through the regular process of obtaining a CA Act Section 28.1 permit. Both approaches represent a form of written permit under Section 28.1 of the CA Act from the issuing CA. Table 1 at the end of this section provides an overview of the recommended compliance approaches for Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* maintenance and construction activities. This table is not exhaustive, and CAs may identify additional projects that may require CA permits through a review of project-specific details.

This section further provides an overview of Standard Best Practices (SBPs) to be followed by Hydro One, **further to CA confirmation**, for activities that are low-risk maintenance and construction activities and/or typically do not have associated regulatory impacts under Section 28.1 of the CA Act.

The following sections provide details on how and when these compliance approaches may be applied.

3.1 CA Permit (using Regular Approach)

Certain activities or regulated features within CA-*regulated areas* have a higher level of associated risk. Therefore, proponents may be required to obtain permit(s) under Section 28.1 of the CA Act (through regular channels) to ensure that these activities do not further exacerbate risks associated with these hazard features.

For projects required to obtain permits under Section 28.1 of the CA Act through the regular approach, Hydro One will follow the established procedures of the local CA(s). Refer to Table 1 for more details.

3.2 CA Permit (using Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs))

Recognizing that many of Hydro One's and the *Affiliates'* construction and maintenance activities are routine in nature and occur regularly across the Province, this Protocol includes a set of Standard Compliance Requirements (SCRs) that could be used locally by CAs as a form of CA Section 28.1 permits for certain Hydro One undertakings. For greater clarity, Hydro One would apply to the CA for a permit to undertake a project by using the SCR Application Form, and the CA would review the application to determine whether the proposed works meet the SCRs.

Forms are provided for each activity covered by the SCR approach (Section 6), containing both activity-specific and general *mitigation* requirements that must be maintained on a broad range of Hydro One maintenance and construction projects. Exceptions from the *mitigation* requirements should occur only in situations that demand the immediate actions of Hydro One (e.g., emergency works). CAs are encouraged to utilize the SCRs developed for specific Hydro One construction and/or maintenance activities to provide a streamlined process towards obtaining a CA Act Section 28.1 permit, where appropriate.

Table 1 outlines the Hydro One construction and maintenance activities for which SCR forms are available for use by CAs to issue as a form of permit to undertake a *regulated activity* under Section 28.1 of the CA Act. Refer to Table 1 for more details.

It is noted that through an individual CA review of proposed Hydro One works, the CA may need to apply conditions on approval of an activity consistent with their Board-approved policies, in addition to the activity-specific *mitigation* measures outlined in this Protocol. In these situations, it is recognized that the SCR may not adequately address the concerns of the CA and the CA should, as a result, inform Hydro One that the specific activity will need to proceed with the regular approach for obtaining a permit under Section 28.1 of the CA Act.

3.3 Application of Standard Best Practices (SBPs)

This Protocol identifies activities that are low-risk maintenance and construction activities and/or typically do not have associated regulatory impacts under Section 28.1 of the CA Act. These activities are summarized in Table 1.

Following CA determination that Standard Best Practices (SBPs) apply to the work, Hydro One will not be required to obtain a permit from the local CA(s) in order to undertake these activities in those instances. These activities may still occur within *regulated areas*, however, the CA will confirm use of the SBPs when there are no regulatory impacts associated with these activities, and they may not constitute a *regulated activity*.

When applicable, communication protocols outlined in sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the attached MOU should be followed to enable Hydro One and the applicable CA(s) to discuss the project and verify that CA permits or authorizations are not required. For example, while forestry maintenance activities within existing corridors and access routes may not generally require

permits under Section 28.1 of the CA Act, activities associated with the undertaking, such as access requirements for heavy machinery, modifications to existing grades or slopes, etc., may require CA permits to facilitate the works. Communication protocols and procedures for this category of activities are outlined in section 6.1 of this Protocol. Hydro One should endeavour to follow the SBPs identified in Section 6.1 of this Protocol as a matter of good practice while undertaking these works.

3.4 Summary of Compliance Approaches

Section 6 of this document outlines the SCRs and SBPs for the Hydro One and *Affiliates* maintenance and construction activities covered under this Protocol. In total, seven activities are recommended for the SCR approach, and seven activities are recommended for the application of SBPs. Table 1 (below) provides an overview of these activities and their recommended compliance approach. For clarity, Table 1 further outlines a number of common Hydro One maintenance and construction activities where the recommended compliance approach is for Hydro One to obtain a permit under Section 28.1 of the CA Act, following the established procedures of the local CA.

Table 1: Recommended Compliance Approaches for Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities

Hydro One Activity	**Recommended Compliance Approach: CA Permit (using Regular Approach)**	**Recommended Compliance Approach: CA Permit (using Standard Compliance Requirements)**	**Recommended Compliance Approach: Application of Standard Best Practices**
Emergency Works (within CA-*regulated areas* or within CA-owned lands)	Follow procedures outlined in Section 8.0 of the MOU.		
Transmission line works requiring below-grade disturbance/excavation	✓		
Submarine electrical works	✓		
New or extended footprint for *transmission* corridor or station (includes all activities such as forestry, construction, etc.)	✓		
Modification or installation of station drainage/storm water management works	✓		
New permanent access route or watercourse / wetland crossing installation	✓		
Repair or remediate slope stability and erosion hazard impacting Hydro One Infrastructure	✓		
Installation and removal of temporary *watercourse* crossing below high water mark	✓		

Hydro One Activity	Recommended Compliance Approach: CA Permit (using Regular Approach)	Recommended Compliance Approach: CA Permit (using Standard Compliance Requirements)	Recommended Compliance Approach: Application of Standard Best Practices
Exposure, cleaning, and coating of below-grade foundations		✓	
All individual *transmission* pole works (excluding new *transmission* lines)		✓	
Individual distribution pole works within limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes)		✓	
Station below-grade works, excluding drainage/storm water management works		✓	
Maintenance of existing access route through limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes)		✓	
Installation and removal of temporary access route, including temporary *watercourse* crossing above high water mark and/or outside of floodplain		✓	
Geotechnical and/or intrusive archaeological investigations, within limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes) (applies to lines and stations)		✓	
Removal of beaver dam or other, similar obstructions			✓
Geotechnical and/or intrusive archaeological investigations, beyond limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes) (applies to lines and stations)			✓
Individual distribution pole works beyond the limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes)			✓
Forestry maintenance activities in existing corridors or access routes, within limits of wetland, watercourse or valleys (steep slopes)			✓
Maintenance of existing access routes beyond limits of *wetland* or *watercourse*			✓
Above-grade infrastructure works (applies to existing lines and stations)			✓
Herbicide application			✓

4.0 Procedures

Timely, clear and open communication between all parties is a best practice. Hydro One and the CAs will engage in early and ongoing communications, where possible, to allow adequate time for both Hydro One and individual CA(s) to discuss the necessary approach for compliance.

An overview of the compliance process as per this Protocol is summarized in Figure 1.

Section 4.1 of this Protocol outlines the general steps to be taken when it is determined that a SCR approach is appropriate for Hydro One maintenance or construction activities in CA-*regulated areas*. The steps to be undertaken when SBPs apply for work that do not require permits under Section 28.1 of the CA Act are outlined in Section 4.2. For projects that are required to obtain permits under Section 28.1 of the CA Act through the regular approach, Hydro One will follow the established procedures of the local CA(s). Where maintenance or construction activities are planned to be undertaken on CA-owned lands, Hydro One acknowledges the need to obtain authorization from the appropriate CA in addition to required permits. See section 7.0 of the MOU (*Works Within Conservation Authority-Owned Lands)* for further details.

4.1 Procedures when Standard Compliance Requirements Apply

1. Hydro One will engage with CAs early in the planning process (where possible) for capital projects, as well as maintenance and construction activities planned to be undertaken in a CA's jurisdiction. Where appropriate, a meeting to discuss any known planned or upcoming projects will be held between Hydro One and the local CA.
2. CA staff will review, screen and provide initial feedback on planned or upcoming works, when notified by Hydro One. This may include: identifying where planned activities are within CA-*regulated areas*; identifying concerns with any of the proposed projects; providing initial feedback on the appropriate compliance approach for individual projects; and providing any additional recommendations such as pre-consultation for specific projects that may be complex in nature.
3. For all activities, Hydro One will endeavour to provide the individual CA(s) with as much notice as possible. This will allow CAs to screen the proposed activities and determine the appropriate compliance requirements.
4. Where applicable, Hydro One will engage in pre-consultation with the individual CA(s) to further discuss the proposed undertaking(s), necessary approval processes, review and approval timelines, and complete application requirements (more details below).
5. Where a CA has determined that the desired approach for compliance is to utilize SCRs, Hydro One will prepare and submit a completed SCR Application Form, appropriate drawings/maps, fee(s) and any other necessary information to the individual CA(s).
6. Upon receipt of a completed SCR Application Form, the CA will review the application to ensure all necessary information has been included. Within 21 days (unless otherwise stated in the CA's Board-approved policies), the CA will notify Hydro One that the application is deemed complete and the CA review of the proposed works will commence.
7. Should the proposed works be able to proceed with a permit granted from the local CA, the CA will send a signed copy of the SCR form back to Hydro One within 30 days (unless otherwise stated in the CA's Board-approved policies), following the confirmation of a complete application. By signing the SCR form, the CA is providing a written permit under section 28.1 of the CA Act, and acknowledges its awareness of the works taking

place. SCR forms shall be signed by a CA staff member with the delegated authority to issue a permit under section 28.1 of the CA Act.

8. Upon receipt of the signed SCR form, Hydro One will be able to begin undertaking the proposed works in accordance with the general and activity-specific *mitigation* measures for the specified activity. Hydro One acknowledges that the CA may monitor activities for adherence to the SCRs at their discretion. Where monitoring activities such as site visits may be required, Hydro One and associated contractors will ensure CA staff are provided with all necessary personal protective equipment specifications which may be required for entry into some work sites. CA staff are responsible for ensuring that they are in compliance with these specifications prior to entering the site. In the event of non-adherence by Hydro One to the general and activity-specific *mitigation* measures, CAs may follow their Authority's compliance procedures and, if necessary, enter into legal proceedings.

4.2 Procedures when Standard Best Practices Apply

1. Hydro One will engage with CAs early in the planning process (where possible) for capital projects, as well as maintenance and construction activities planned to be undertaken in a CA's jurisdiction. Where appropriate, a meeting to discuss any known planned or upcoming projects will be held between Hydro One and the local CA.
2. CA staff will review, screen and provide initial feedback on the planned or upcoming works, when notified by Hydro One. This may include: identifying where planned activities are within CA-*regulated areas*, identifying concerns with any of the proposed projects, providing initial feedback on the appropriate compliance approach for individual projects, and providing any additional recommendations such as pre-consultation for specific projects which may be complex in nature.
3. For all activities, Hydro One will endeavour to provide the individual CA(s) with as much notice of the proposed activities as possible. This will allow CAs to screen the proposed activities to ensure that no additional compliance requirements will apply and that activities may proceed using the SBPs.
4. Where the CA determines that no permit is required and use of SBPs is appropriate, the CA will notify Hydro One and Hydro One may proceed with the works, following any SBPs that apply. It is acknowledged that CAs may charge a fee to recover costs associated with the review of such works (e.g., clearance fees).

4.3 Site Visits

Where a CA determines that a site visit is necessary to determine the appropriate approach for compliance, Hydro One personnel and CA representative(s) will endeavour to conduct joint site visits. It is recognized that CA staff may not always be permitted to enter into a Hydro One work site without being accompanied by appropriate Hydro One personnel. As previously stated, where site visits may be required, Hydro One and its contractors will ensure that CA staff are provided with all necessary personal protective equipment specifications which may be required for entry into some work sites. CA staff are responsible for ensuring they are in compliance with these specifications prior to entering the site. If a site visit is not possible, the CA should work with Hydro One to acquire the necessary information about the project.

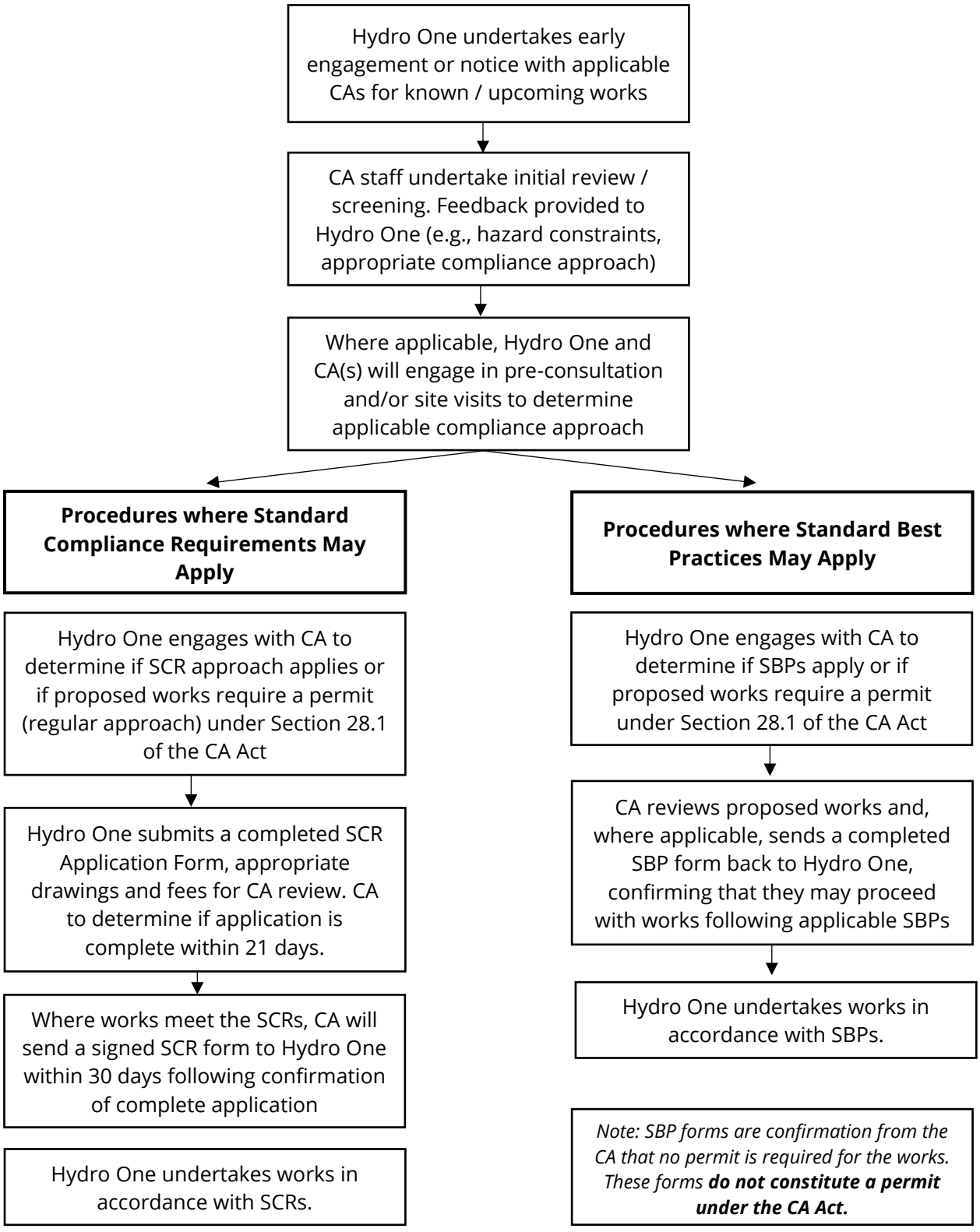
4.4 Pre-Consultation

For complex undertakings, such as those which should proceed with the regular process for obtaining CA permits under Section 28.1 of the CA Act, pre-consultation between Hydro One and the applicable CA(s) is a best practice.

Pre-consultation provides an opportunity for the CA and the applicant to discuss the proposed works; to confirm complete application requirements for CA review; to proactively discuss any fundamental issues that might prevent approval; and to outline the CA review and approval process, including anticipated timelines to process the application. Pre-consultation meetings offer an opportunity to discuss complex undertakings and provide applicants with a clear route towards the submission requirements for a project.

Pre-consultation meetings may take place in-person, or through electronic means (e.g., videoconferencing/teleconferencing).

Figure 1: Summary of Procedures for Use of Standard Compliance Requirements and Standard Best Practices



5.0 Issue/Dispute Resolution

Generally, the protocols and procedures outlined in this document provide a number of touchpoints between Hydro One personnel and CA staff to ensure that permit applications (either through the SCR or regular approach) can be designed to meet CA Board-approved policies, allowing Hydro One personnel to proceed with proposed works. Should issues arise between the two parties, there are several remedies built into the CA Act and CA policies and procedures. These include:

Administrative Review:

If Hydro One is not satisfied with the CA decision on whether an application for a permit is deemed complete (either through the SCR or regular approach), or if Hydro One has not received notice of a CA decision on whether an application for a permit is deemed complete within 21 days, the applicant can request an administrative review (see section 8 of O. Reg. 41/24). This review will be limited to a complete application policy review and will not include review of the technical merits of the application.

Section 28.1 Hearing Process:

There may be some instances where CA staff may attach conditions to a permit, or recommend refusal of a permit application should the proposal not meet the tests of the CA Act, details under O. Reg. 41/24, or the CA Board-approved policies. In such cases, Hydro One has the opportunity to request a hearing before the Authority (Board), or delegate body.

If the application is refused by the Authority, Hydro One will be notified of the reasons for refusal in writing. Within 90 days of the notification, the applicant may appeal the Authority's decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal (or its successor), which may then dismiss the appeal or grant a permit following a hearing. The legislation provides an additional appeal avenue, where the applicant may request a review of the decision by the Minister within 15 days following receipt of the Authority's decision to refuse an application or attach conditions to a permit (following a hearing before the Authority or delegate body). Additional details on these processes can be found in Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* or by contacting the local CA.

Cancellation of Permit:

The Authority may cancel a permit if it is of the opinion that the conditions of the permit have not been met, or circumstances that are prescribed by the regulation exist. In such cases, Hydro One has the opportunity to request a hearing before the Authority (Board), or delegate body.

In order to prevent situations where a CA may recommend refusal of a permit application or cancellation of an existing permit, Hydro One is encouraged to undertake early and ongoing engagement with CAs, including providing early notice of works within CA watershed jurisdictions. Early conversations and refinement of project proposals will allow Hydro One to refine internal workplans to ensure projects may proceed as desired. Further, for complex projects, Hydro One personnel are encouraged to engage in pre-consultation meetings with the applicable CA(s) to proactively discuss project and site-specific considerations and work towards developing a clear understanding of CA requirements for approval of the proposed works.

6.0 Standard Compliance Requirements and Standard Best Practices for Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities

6.1 Standard Compliance Requirement Forms

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

A. Exposure, cleaning, and coating of below-grade foundations

Description of Typical Works

A common Hydro One maintenance activity on steel structure foundations which includes minor excavation around the footings of structures followed by cleaning of steel and coating with anti-corrosion paint.

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Consider the use of wooden construction matting or swamp mats to minimize site disturbance by equipment.
- Minimize work footprint in the *regulated areas* including along channel and bank slopes. Ensure strict adherence to infrastructure locations confirmed with the CA.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Use spill protection practices during coating (i.e., use of tarps, secondary containment).

Where works are taking place in wetlands or watercourses:

- Use only clear stone or blasted rock (i.e., minimal fines) below the high water mark.
- Minimize water level fluctuations upstream and downstream by slowly augmenting water levels, when applicable.
- Perform the work in no/low flow conditions to minimize sediment and debris movement and erosion. Avoid work after recent precipitation or snowmelt.

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.

- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

B. All individual *transmission* pole works (excluding new *Transmission* Lines)

Description of Typical Works

A common Hydro One program involving the removal and replacement of individual pole structures for all *transmission* poles (i.e., "like-for-like" footprint replacement using wood or composite poles. These activities are very localized with small project footprints due to the use of individual poles (instead of steel structures, i.e. "lattice").

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Work should be limited to the original footprint of the structure.
- Consider the use of wooden construction matting or swamp mats to minimize site disturbance by equipment.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Any area of excavation should be isolated from the feature.

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____
Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

C. Individual *distribution* pole works within limits of a *wetland*, *watercourse* or valley (steep slopes)

Description of Typical Works

A common Hydro One program involving the removal and replacement of individual pole structures for *distribution* poles (i.e., "like-for-like" footprint replacement using wood or composite poles). These work activities are very localized, with small project footprints.

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Work should be limited to the original footprint of the structure.
- Consider the use of wooden construction matting or swamp mats to minimize site disturbance by equipment.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Any area of excavation should be isolated from the feature.

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____
Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

D. Station below-grade works, excluding drainage/storm water management works

Description of Typical Works

Works related to infrastructure below-grade (foundations, footings, drainage works, fences, firewalls, etc.) that require below-grade disturbance within the existing limits of a station only (does NOT apply to other Hydro One infrastructure).

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Ensure strict adherence to infrastructure locations confirmed by the CA.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the

responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____
Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

E. Maintenance of existing access route through limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes)

Description of Typical Works

Maintenance of an existing corridor or access route, within the same footprint, through *regulated areas* where a *wetland*, *watercourse* or valley (steep slope) is present. Specific maintenance activities may include the addition of aggregate, debris removal, installing beaver baffles and culvert replacement. In most cases, excavation and any soil disturbance is not required.

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Maintain the *access road* footprint within the *regulated area* including channel and bank slopes. Efforts should be made to ensure minimal impact to *wetlands*, *watercourse* channels and bank slopes.
- Grade changes to an existing road required due to sinking/slumping must be limited to the original grade to avoid impacts to flooding.
- Placement of any material cannot result in pooling or change in flow direction.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Use only clear stone or blasted rock (i.e., minimal fines) below the high water mark.
- Avoid performing work when flow conditions are elevated due to recent rainfall to minimize sediment and debris movement and erosion. Whenever possible, works should be undertaken during dry weather and under low flow conditions, with works scheduled to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods
- If work is required to facilitate culvert replacement in dry conditions, a dam and pumping plan must be submitted and followed.
- Culverts are to be embedded at least 10% of the culvert's diameter. Culvert must remain the same size.
- Minimize water level fluctuations / flooding upstream and downstream by slowly augmenting water levels (drawing the water down slowly), when applicable. An appropriate depth and flow should be maintained (to be confirmed by the CA).

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.

- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

F. Installation and removal of temporary access route, including temporary *watercourse* crossing, above high water mark and/or outside of floodplain

Description of Typical Works

Temporary installation and use of construction aids primarily intended to facilitate access across or through *wetlands* or *watercourses*. This may include the use of aggregates, geotextile, timber mats, swamp mats and clear-span bridges.

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Ensure that the exact location for installation of the temporary *access road* is confirmed with the CA staff. Exact locations will be marked in the field.
- Where possible, design and plan installation and removal to avoid or minimize below-grade impacts, including excavation and disturbance to soil and vegetation.
- Minimize footprint of the temporary *access road* within CA-*regulated areas*. Efforts should be made to ensure minimal impact to *wetlands*, *watercourse* channels and bank slopes.
- Use only clear stone or blasted rock (i.e., minimal fines) below the high water mark and/or within the floodplain.
- Avoid performing work when flow conditions are elevated due to recent rainfall to minimize sediment and debris movement and erosion. Whenever possible, works should be undertaken during dry weather and under low flow conditions, with works scheduled to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods
- Temporary access routes are intended to be in place for the duration of the maintenance or construction works only. Hydro One will confirm the proposed duration for temporary access routes with the CA.
- When removing the *access roads*, stabilize the area to limit sedimentation. This could include the seeding of native, non-invasive materials.

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.

- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

G. Geotechnical and/or intrusive archaeological investigations, within limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes) (applies to lines and stations)

Description of Typical Works

In preparation for large construction projects, intrusive geotechnical or archeological (Stage 2 and beyond) investigations may be required to obtain data on the geotechnical conditions of a site. These investigations require the disturbance of soils and other substrate below-grade. This work is generally conducted by external consultants with expertise in the subject area and are monitored by Hydro One.

Activity-Specific Mitigation Requirements

- Works should not result in a change of grade at the site area.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Whenever possible, proponents should endeavour to complete this work during dry weather. Works should be scheduled to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods that may result in high flow volumes and/or increased erosion and sedimentation.
- Cuttings and drilling fluid from any drilling operations should be contained and removed offsite.

General Mitigation Requirements

General *mitigation* requirements are standards that must be maintained on all Hydro One infrastructure construction and maintenance projects utilizing the SCR approach.

- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized.
- Undertake works in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Perform work in appropriate flow conditions to minimize debris movement and erosion.
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works.

Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

The _____ Conservation Authority grants a permit under Section 28.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for work to be conducted at the location list below in accordance with the notification form, provided maintenance and construction activities are in compliance with the requirements set out above. This permit does not relieve Hydro One of the responsibility to obtain any other approvals which may be required from municipal, provincial or federal authorities.

File Number: _____

Period of Validity: _____ to _____

Site Location: _____ | Location Map Attached (Y / N)

Signature of Conservation Authority Official:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

6.2 Application of Standard Best Practices

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

A. Removal of beaver dams or other, similar obstructions

Description of Typical Works
Removal of log jams, garbage, beaver dams or other similar obstructions within the *wetland* or *watercourse* where there is imminent risk to existing infrastructure.
Standard Best Practices
▪ Brush or debris is placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or channel. ▪ Minimize flooding upstream and downstream by drawing the water down slowly. An appropriate depth and flow should be maintained. Where a series of dams or similar obstructions are to be removed, works should proceed from downstream to upstream in order to avoid flooding impacts. ▪ Avoid performing work when flow conditions are elevated due to recent rainfall to minimize sediment and debris movement and erosion. Whenever possible, works should be undertaken during dry weather and under low flow conditions, with works scheduled to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods ▪ Where machinery will be used for debris removal, proponents will operate machinery in a manner than minimizes disturbance to the banks of the *watercourse* or *wetland*. ▪ Where Hydro One will need to pump and discharge water to undertake these activities, Hydro One will indicate where the water will be pumped and discharged, and take steps to avoid erosion and sedimentation issues. ▪ Wherever possible, utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites. ▪ Choose appropriate conditions and equipment to minimize site disturbance (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats). ▪ Limit soil movement and erosion/sedimentation; use appropriate control measures before work begins and inspect and maintain those measures regularly until all disturbed areas are stabilized. ▪ Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and similar grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority. ▪ Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30-metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water. ▪ All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA. ▪ Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading in the vicinity of the steep slopes/banks needs to be minimized, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks to be avoided.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

B. Geotechnical and/or intrusive archaeological investigations, beyond limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes) (applies to lines and stations)

Description of Typical Works

In preparation for large construction projects, intrusive geotechnical or archeological (Stage 2 and beyond) investigations may be required to obtain data on the geotechnical conditions of a site. These investigations require the disturbance of soils and other substrate below-grade. This work is generally conducted by external consultants with expertise in the subject area and are monitored by Hydro One.

Standard Best Practices

- Works should not result in a change of grade at the site area.
- Works should be undertaken in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Whenever possible, proponents should endeavour to complete this work during dry weather. Works should be scheduled to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods that may result in high flow volumes and/or increased erosion and sedimentation.
- Minimize disturbance to the proposed work area by utilizing existing trails, *access roads* and access points.
- Choose conditions and equipment appropriate to minimize site disturbance by equipment, particularly in proximity to the top and toe of hazardous slopes.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30 metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Cuttings and drilling fluid from any drilling operations should be contained and removed offsite.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

C. Individual *distribution* pole works beyond the limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes) (applies to lines and stations)

Description of Typical Works

A common Hydro One program involving the removal and replacement of individual pole structures for all *distribution* poles located beyond the limits of a *wetland*, *watercourse*, or valley (steep slopes) (i.e., "like-for-like" footprint replacement using wood or composite poles). The activities are very localized with small project footprints due to the use of individual poles (instead of steel structures, i.e. "lattice").

Standard Best Practices

- Work should be limited to the original footprint of the structure.
- Consider the use of wooden construction matting or swamp mats to minimize site disturbance by equipment.
- All excavated material must be placed beyond the limits of the *regulated area*. If not practical or feasible, excavated material should be independently surrounded by proper sediment and erosion controls.
- Works should be undertaken in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Any area of excavation should be isolated from the feature.
- Minimize disturbance to the proposed work area by utilizing existing trails, *access roads* and access points.
- Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Choose conditions and equipment appropriate to minimize site disturbance by equipment (e.g., frozen or dry soil conditions or the use of load distributing machines or mats).
- Restore the disturbed site to stable conditions and grades and remediate any areas impacted by the works. Any necessary remediation works will be discussed and planned with the individual conservation authority.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30 metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

D. Forestry maintenance activities in existing corridors or access routes, within limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valleys (steep slopes)

Description of Typical Works

Selective trimming of trees and other vegetation (e.g., "danger trees") that are within the required clearance and/or have the potential to grow within the required clearance for Hydro One lines and structures, within CA-*regulated areas* in existing Hydro One corridors or access routes. This may be required for *right-of-way* maintenance and site accessibility. Soil disturbance is not part of the approved works.

Standard Best Practices

- Remove vegetation selectively; compatible vegetation should be preserved where possible (e.g., does not include clear cutting within regulated features).
- Root removal and soil disturbance is not part of proposed works.
- Where vegetation removal is required on bank slopes, to preserve slope stability, the vegetative root structure will be preserved. Brushing the bank slope will not disturb soil or remove the roots of any trees or shrubs.
- Choose conditions and equipment appropriate to minimize site disturbance by equipment. Hydro One will confirm how the forestry maintenance will take place (e.g., maintenance by hand, heavy machinery, etc.).
- Works should be undertaken in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Utilize existing trails, roads or access points to minimize disturbance when accessing the site. Where available, Hydro One should endeavour to utilize existing easements or *right-of-ways* to access sites.
- Whenever possible, proponents should endeavour to complete this work during dry weather or frozen conditions. Works should be scheduled to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods that may result in high flow volumes and/or increased erosion and sedimentation.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30 metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.
- Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works. Earthworks and grading are not part of the proposed works, and all activities with potential adverse impact to the slopes/banks will be avoided.
- Any associated restoration or remediation works (if applicable) will be discussed with the CA.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

E. Maintenance of existing access routes beyond limits of *wetland*, *watercourse* or valley (steep slopes)

Description of Typical Works

Maintenance activities associated with existing *access roads* within conservation authority *regulated areas* outside of hazard features but within *regulated area* (i.e., regulatory allowance).

Maintenance activities do not include extending or widening the *access road*, raising or lowering the grade, or changing the bedding material used.

Specific maintenance activities may include the addition of aggregate, debris removal, installing end protection, installing beaver baffles and culvert replacement. In most cases, excavation and any soil disturbance is not required.

Standard Best Practices

- Choose conditions and equipment appropriate to minimize site disturbance by equipment
- Works should be undertaken in such a way as to minimize the entry of brush, debris, sediment or other deleterious substances into a *watercourse* or *wetland*. Brush or debris should be placed in a location where it cannot re-enter or block the *wetland* or *watercourse*.
- Perform work in appropriate conditions (e.g., dry weather) to minimize debris movement and erosion
- Limit soil movement and erosion; use control measures if necessary prior to commencing works.
- Site access requirements must be shared with the CA prior to commencing works to confirm works will have no regulatory impacts.
- Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30 metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water.
- All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

F. Above-grade infrastructure works (applies to existing lines and stations)

Description of Typical Works
Works related to infrastructure above-grade (conductor, skywire, insulator, hardware, steel-replacement, tower coating, etc.) that does not require any below-grade disturbance. Applicable to activities in stations or along lines.
Standard Best Practices
▪ Choose conditions and equipment appropriate to minimize site disturbance by equipment, particularly in proximity to the top and toe of hazardous slopes. ▪ Minimize footprint to the *regulated areas* including channel and bank slopes. ▪ Avoid performing work when flow conditions are elevated due to seasonality or recent rainfall to minimize sediment and debris movement and erosion. ▪ Site access requirements must be shared and approved by CA prior to commencing works. ▪ Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30 metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water. ▪ All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA. ▪ Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____

STANDARD BEST PRACTICES

Hydro One Maintenance and Construction Activities Undertaken in Regulated Areas under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

G. Herbicide Application

Description of Typical Works
Herbicide application by a qualified professional
Standard Best Practices
▪ Application of herbicide is not permitted within *wetlands* or near *watercourses* ▪ To minimize spread of herbicide, proponents should endeavour to schedule this work to avoid wet, windy or rainy periods. ▪ Any source protection requirements should be confirmed with the local source protection authority ▪ Vehicular refueling and maintenance will be conducted a minimum of 30 metres from any *wetlands*, *watercourses*, or bodies of water. ▪ All access to the work site shall be from either side of the *watercourse*. Equipment and vehicles are not permitted to cross through the *watercourse* unless otherwise approved by the CA. ▪ Where steep slopes exist, the adequate setback from the toe or top of slope must be maintained to ensure that the slopes are not destabilized as a result of the proposed works.

Further to the information provided, _____ Conservation Authority staff have determined that the application of the above Standard Best Practices is appropriate for the proposed works, and no further permit is required.

This notice does not constitute a permit under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, nor does it preclude you from obtaining permits for future works.

Signature of Conservation Authority Staff:

_____ _____

Name Signature

Date: _____