

## Executive Summary

Hydro Ottawa recognizes the importance of a reliable supply of electricity to its customers, and routinely evaluates the reliability and capacity of the electricity distribution system. Hydro Ottawa has assessed the electrical supply needs in the west end of the City and, due to a significant load growth, has determined that there is a need to construct a new Municipal Transformer Station.

The proposed station will receive electrical energy from a 230 kV transmission line in the existing Hydro One Networks Inc. transmission corridor, and convert this energy to lower voltages so that it can be distributed through Hydro Ottawa's electrical systems to homes and businesses in the communities of Stittsville, Bridlewood and Fernbank. The new station is required by 2011 and will improve the reliability of supply to the area.

The project is subject to provincial Environmental Assessment Act approval, in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities. As a part of the Class Environmental Assessment process, Hydro Ottawa notified local residents and stakeholders through newspaper ads and direct mailings. Two public information sessions were also held on November 16, 2009 to provide details of the study and to receive input from interested parties on the proposed sites. The public comments that were received were incorporated into the analysis and become part of this Environmental Study Draft Report.

Four potential sites for the new substation were evaluated based on the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) environmental screening criteria, technical feasibility and economic considerations. It is the conclusion of this study that Site 4, located at 300/330 Michael Cowpland Drive is the best available location for the new substation within the study area.

This Environmental Screening Draft Report describes the technical and environmental studies undertaken on behalf of Hydro Ottawa for this project.