

Mer-Bleue Municipal Transformer Station

Community Information Session 2

May 21, 2025



Welcome to our community information session

- Energy partners
- How electricity is delivered to your community
- Community benefits
- What's being proposed
- Where - Project area map
- Environmental Assessment process and study findings
- Next steps
- Anticipated project schedule
- Your input is important to us / Thank you



Hydro Ottawa

Builds, owns, operates and maintains the distribution of electricity facilities to more than 364,000 homes and businesses in Ottawa and Casselman.



Independent Electricity System Operator

Operates the provincial electricity system, and is responsible for planning to ensure electricity needs are met both now and in the future.



Hydro One Networks Inc.

Builds, owns, operates and maintains the electricity transmission and distribution facilities across Ontario.



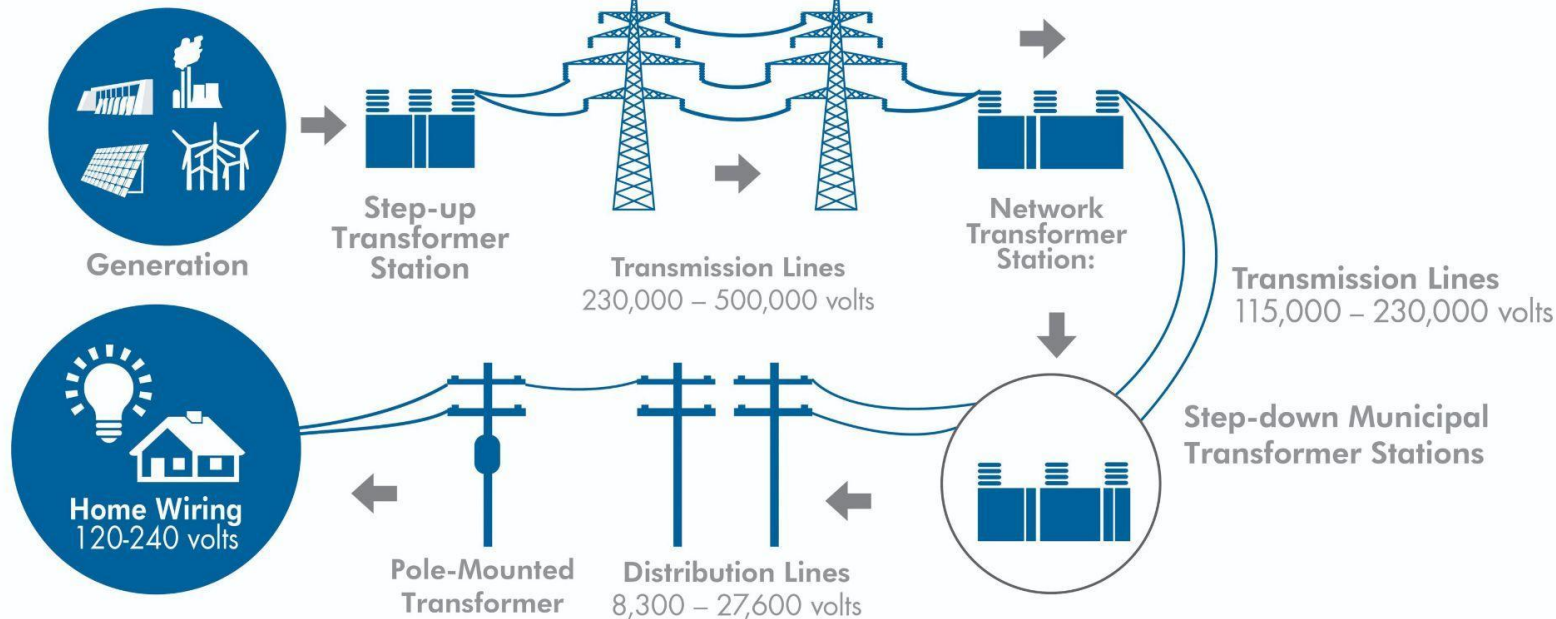
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The legislative authority responsible for environmental assessments in the province of Ontario.

Electricity

ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION AND PRIVATE
GENERATION COMPANIES

HYDRO ONE



Community benefits

- The Mer-Bleue Municipal Transformer Station (MTS) project is part of Hydro Ottawa's future planning to modernize our grid, ensure a clean and reliable electricity supply, and meet the projected growth in electricity demand for new and existing customers in the east.
- By investing in new technology for the electricity grid, customers will be further protected from prolonged outages caused by extreme weather-related events.
- In response to population growth and the electrification of heating and transportation in our community, Hydro Ottawa is embarking on the largest grid investment program in its history in order to support our customers as they transition to an increasingly electrified way of life.
- A reliable source of electricity is essential to supporting community growth - powering homes, schools, businesses, and transportation.

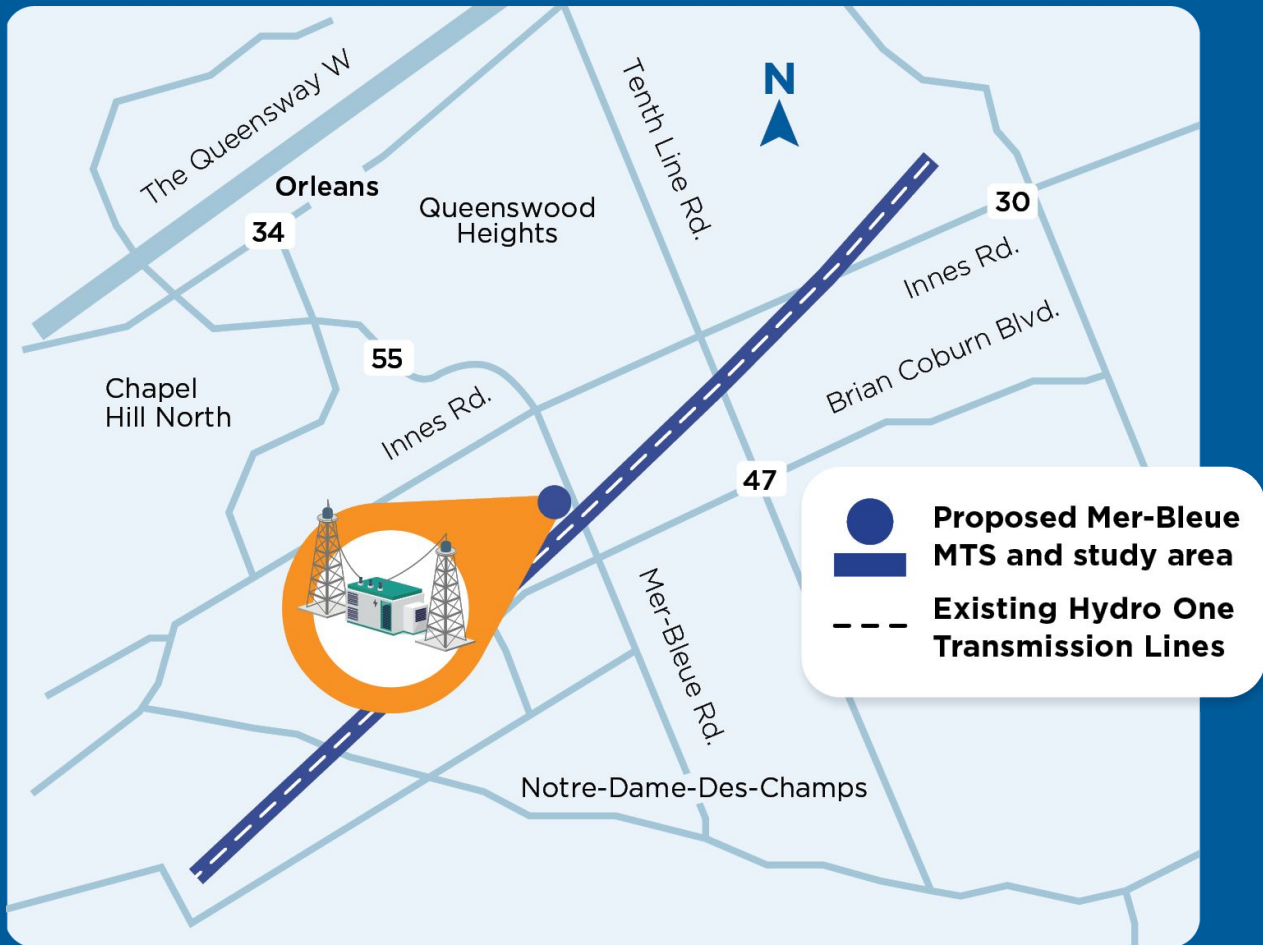
What's being proposed

What

What's being proposed

- To meet future electricity needs responsibly, this project proposes:
 - to construct a new 27.6kV municipal transformer station (MTS) on the west side of Mer-Bleue Road, located 300 metres north west of the intersection at Brian Coburn Boulevard; and
 - to connect the new power station to Hydro One's existing 230kV transmission line, located south of the proposed station.
- As part of our sustainability commitments, Hydro Ottawa intends to develop Mer-Bleue as a low-carbon substation.
- We are currently undertaking a full project review of the station's construction, including an innovative design, procurement and construction techniques that include using lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) materials, and equipment that will address embodied carbon associated with the construction and operation of the substation.

Where



Environmental Assessment

This class environmental assessment sets out a planning process for specific minor transmission line and transmission station projects. Potential effects of the project will be examined through a number of detailed studies, taking into consideration factors relating to:

- The natural and socio-economic environments;
- cultural/heritage resources;
- recreational resources;
- existing and planned land uses;
- visual landscapes;
- technical/cost considerations; and
- the concerns and interests of local business and residential property owners, Indigenous communities, government agencies and other interested parties.

Environmental Assessment *Cont'd*

A number of natural environment field studies will be undertaken in the project area as part of the Class EA process. This will include:

- Species at Risk (SAR) surveys, as required by government agencies;
- ecological land classification;
- botanical and tree surveys;
- aquatic habitat assessments;
- incidental wildlife observations; and,
- potential significant wildlife habitat mapping.

Where effects on the natural environment cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed.

Environmental Study Report findings

The archeological assessment was entrusted to a licensed archaeologist, who produced a due diligence report to confirm that the results from the two previous archaeological assessments (Stage 1 and 2) could be used to validate that no further archeological assessment is required for the property.

The following summary outlines the notable findings.

- No further archeological work is needed for the proposed substation parcel as there was not enough material in the vicinity of the proposed site.
- No archeological resources of cultural heritage value or interest were discovered on the proposed site.

Environmental Study Report findings *Cont'd*

The project site was assessed by a professional biologist and an environmentalist. The following summary outlines the notable findings.

Results:

- No Species at Risk (SAR) birds were detected from the November 1, 2024, survey.
- The desktop screening exercise identified three mammalian endangered SAR (Eastern Small-footed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, and Tri-Colored Bat) with a moderate potential to occur within the project area. Also, four species of special concern (American Bumble Bee, Monarch Butterfly, Yellow-banded Bumble Bee, and Eastern Wood-Pewee) were identified as having a moderate potential to occur within the project area.
- The site is not classified as a significant woodland.
- No significant animal movement corridors exist on the project site.

Environmental Study Report findings *Cont'd*

The project site was assessed by a professional biologist and an environmentalist. The following summary outlines the notable findings.

Results:

- Butternut trees were not observed on the project site.
- The surveys did not reveal the presence of reptiles or suitable turtle habitats.
- There are no areas of Natural Significance (ANSI) within the study area according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Natural Heritage.
- The proposed construction activity at the substation site has low potential to impact or alter the hydrogeological characteristics and function (groundwater and surface water interactions) of the natural environment in the area.

What happens next

Following this community information session, the project team will:

- Consider all feedback received from stakeholders and respond to inquiries in a timely manner.
- Complete the Environmental Study Report (ESR)
 - The ESR is part of the Class EA process;
 - Address and/or document any outstanding concerns; and
 - Issue the final ESR following the review period and incorporate feedback received from stakeholders.
- Prepare for permitting and approvals.
- Host a pre-construction community information session.

Mer-Bleue Municipal Transformer Station

Anticipated Project Schedule

March 2020	The need for a new station is identified in the twenty-year Integrated Regional Resource Plan by Hydro Ottawa, Hydro One and the Independent Electricity System Operator. (IESO)
April 2023	Orléans area planning study performed by the IESO.
January 2024	Development work begins, including planning, pre-construction studies and identifying possible site locations for the new station.
September 2024 - March 2025	Environmental Assessment.
July 2025	Pre-construction planning.
August 2025	Third series of community information sessions (pre-construction).
September 2025	Anticipated start of construction.
April 2027	Target in-service date for new facility.

Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities Schedule		
December 2024		Notice of commencement of Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA).
January 2025		First series of community information sessions.
May 2025		Notice of completion of draft Environmental Study Report (ESR).
May 2025		Second series of community information sessions.
June 2025		Public review and comment period for draft Environmental Study Report.
July 2025		Submit final Environmental Study Report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Thank you

Your input is important to us

Thank you for joining us at our community information session.

We will continue to provide early, ongoing and respectful communications about the project and our plans.

Your feedback during the consultation process will be used to refine our project implementation plans and determine appropriate ways to minimize and mitigate impacts, where feasible.

We are committed to working together to achieve a successful outcome for the community.



Join our project mailing list:
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Visit our website for updates:
hydroottawa.com/merbleue