
To:	Canadian National Railway Company (CN)	From:	Laura Marshall Andrew Taylor Stantec Consulting Ltd.
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**Reference: Canadian National Railway Company (CN)
2022 Follow-Up Monitoring Program Results:
Eastern Milksnake**

INTRODUCTION

Canadian National Railway Company (CN) retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) to conduct an Eastern Milksnake follow-up program (FUP) for the Milton Logistics Hub (the Project) in the Town of Milton, within the Regional Municipality of Halton (Halton Region), Ontario.

This report documents the implementation of the Eastern Milksnake component of the CN Milton Logistic Hub: Wildlife Management and Connectivity Plan” (WMCP) (Stantec 2022) for construction during the 2022 construction period.

Condition 8.28 of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change’s (2021) Decision Statement states that the Proponent, Canadian National Railway Company (CN), shall implement a FUP to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures as it pertains to the adverse environmental effects of the Milton Logistics Hub (the Project) on Eastern Milksnake, including mitigation measures implemented.

Furthermore, Condition 8.28.1 of the Decision Statement requires monitoring of sightings of Eastern Milksnake within the Project Development Area (PDA). Should monitoring demonstrates that modified or additional mitigation measures are required to mitigate adverse environmental effects to Eastern Milksnake attributable to the Project, Condition 8.28.2 requires development and implementation of said measures.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The WMCP was developed to ensure consistency and efficiencies in monitoring throughout the lifespan of the Project. With respect to construction monitoring relating to snakes, the WMCP outlines the FUP monitoring protocol for Eastern Milksnake during construction, as follows:

- Sightings of snakes in the PDA will be reported to the Environmental Monitor and the sighting will be recorded in daily reports. Specific protection measures will be implemented by the contractor at the direction of CN in consultation with a qualified ecologist.
- Inspection and maintenance of snake exclusion fencing on a weekly basis during construction.
- Development and implementation of modified or additional mitigation measures for snakes, if required to mitigate adverse environmental effects on Eastern Milksnake attributable to the Project.

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RESULTS

Two sightings of Eastern Milksnake within the PDA were reported in 2022. The first observation was made by the contractor in proximity to Indian Creek on May 26, 2022, and reported immediately to the Environmental Monitor. The snake was observed inside the exclusion fence, in proximity to an opening in the fencing which is required to accommodate the temporary bridge across Indian Creek. The Environmental Monitor relocated the snake to the opposite side of the exclusion fence, along the Indian Creek corridor. In response, regular (three times per week) monitoring for snakes was implemented in the area of the observation. Through the monitoring, a second observation was made on June 2, 2022, in the same general location as the first observation.

Both observations were of a mature snake (approximate 90cm in length), assumed to be the same individual. The Environmental Monitor relocated the snake again to the opposite side of the exclusion fence, along the Indian Creek corridor. There were no further observations of Eastern Milksnake within the PDA in 2022 and it was assumed the snake had moved along through the Indian Creek corridor away from the Project.

Both Eastern Milksnake observations were recorded in CN's internal reporting system and records were submitted to the Natural Heritage Information Centre.

Through the FUP monitoring conducted in 2022, there was no evidence of harm to Eastern Milksnake. As such, no modified or additional mitigation measures were recommended.

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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