



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario  
600-55 rue York  
Toronto (Ontario) M5J 1R7

January 27, 2021

**Sent by email**

Jason Ryan  
Vice-President of Pre-construction Services  
Capital Project Group  
Metrolinx  
Jason.Ryan@metrolinx.com

Dear Jason Ryan:

**SUBJECT: Notification Regarding Potential Designation of the Ontario Line Project as a Designated Project under the *Impact Assessment Act***

On January 19, 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the proposed Ontario Line Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The letter requesting designation (enclosed) and a description of the Project will be publicly available soon on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations>.

Under subsection 9(1) of IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The Minister may do this if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. In accordance with subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by April 19, 2021.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) will review information about the Project, any concerns expressed by the public and Indigenous groups, and expert advice from federal authorities and input from provincial ministries in order to inform the Minister on whether to designate the Project. If designated, to proceed with the Project Metrolinx would be required to submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency, thereby commencing the planning phase of IAA. In that case, the planning phase would include the Agency determining whether a federal impact assessment is required.

Additional information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

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In accordance with subsection 9(3) of IAA, and to inform its advice to the Minister, the Agency is requesting that you provide information you have about the Project, along with relevant documents. As soon as possible, please provide the latitude and longitude, using appropriate location points for the endpoints of the preferred route alignment. By **February 11, 2021**, please provide available information about the Project regarding potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, species at risk, federal land and lands outside of Canada, and Indigenous peoples (including, physical and cultural heritage; current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes; structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance; and health, social or economic conditions).

Please also include available information regarding adverse effects (changes to the environment or to health, social or economic conditions) that are directly linked or necessarily incidental to a federal authority's exercise of a power, performance of a duty or function, or provision of financial assistance, that would enable the carrying out of the Project, in whole or in part.

In particular, the Agency requests that you provide:

1. Information about key project activities, maps and layouts of the location of project components, land tenure, zoning, and estimated timelines for planning, construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment.
2. A list of all regulatory approvals (federal, provincial, municipal, other) and any federal financial assistance that would be required for the Project and the associated project components or activities.
3. a) For each licence, permit, authorization and approval that would be required for this project, please provide the following information:
  - i. Name of the licence, permit, authorization or approval, the associated legislative framework, and the responsible jurisdiction.
  - ii. Whether it would involve an assessment of any of the effects outlined in the paragraphs above, and if so, a general description of the assessment that you intend to undertake. Would conditions be set and if yes, what effects would those conditions address?
  - iii. Whether public and/or Indigenous consultation would be required and if yes, provide information on the approach you intend to take (if any steps have been taken, please provide a summary, including issues raised as well as your responses). If there is an issues resolution process associated with the consultation, please describe it.

- b) Confirm whether any licence, permit, authorization or approval listed above would contemplate the following matters and discuss, in general, the benchmarks or standards that you intend to meet (or would be expected to meet):
- i. Potential impacts to human health, particularly from changes in air quality, and noise and vibration levels, during project construction and operation
  - ii. Potential impacts to public safety and rail safety, particularly for nearby residential areas
  - iii. Potential impacts to aesthetics and local recreation
  - iv. Whether any matters in points i. to iii. above would result in permanent changes or cumulative effects, and if yes, how you intend to manage those impacts
4. For all federal licences, permits, authorizations, approvals, and/or financial assistance that may be provided for the Project, describe any anticipated adverse direct or incidental effects (including changes to health, social and economic conditions) that may occur as a result.
  5. What steps have you taken to consult with the public? What steps do you plan to undertake during all phases of the Project? Are you aware of public concerns in relation to this project? If yes, provide an overview of the issues, including those raised in the enclosed letter, and the way in which (in general terms) you intend to address these matters?
  6. What steps have you taken to consult with Indigenous groups? Which Indigenous groups have you consulted? What steps do you plan to undertake during all phases of the Project? Are you aware of general concerns from Indigenous groups in relation to this project? If yes, provide an overview of the key issues and the way in which (in general terms) you plan to address these matters?
  7. Do you have any other comments in relation to environmental effects or impacts to the public or Indigenous peoples and how you intend to address and manage those?
  8. Explain your views on whether the Project should be designated under IAA.

Your response is requested by **February 11, 2021**, and would enable the Agency to proceed forward with completing its analysis.

Metrolinx is strongly encouraged to contact the Agency in the next few days to discuss the information required and ensure that it can be provided within the indicated timeline.

In the coming days, a Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. Please use the *submit a comment* feature on the Project's Registry page to provide the Agency with information regarding this file. Letters can be uploaded using this feature. If you have difficulties with this feature, immediately contact Chiara Calabrese, Project Manager, at [chiara.calabrese@canada.ca](mailto:chiara.calabrese@canada.ca) or 416-476-8915.

**Important Note:** All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – will be considered public and may be released. Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that you believe should be protected from release to the public, please contact the Agency before submitting the information. Information marked as confidential will not be accepted without prior contact made with the Agency.

Further questions can be directed to Chiara Calabrese by email or telephone.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan  
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Designation request letter from Save Jimmie Simpson! and Lakeshore  
East Community Advisory Committee

cc: Carrie Sheaffer, Metrolinx, Senior manager, Environmental Program  
Josh Vandezande, Metrolinx, Senior Manager of Community Relations