

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Introduction
December 15, 2017

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is the registration for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed 138 kV Transmission Line in the Moncton Industrial Park, in Moncton, New Brunswick, (the Project) being proposed by the New Brunswick Power Corporation (NB Power) (the proponent). The Project consists of the construction and operation of a new transmission line in Moncton, New Brunswick (Figure 1.1). This Project will be financed entirely by NB Power. No applications for grants or loans of capital funds from any other government agency will be submitted for this Project.

This document is submitted to the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government (NBDELG) as required under Section 5(2) of the *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 87-83 of the Clean Environment Act*, for approval of the Project.

1.1 ORGANIZATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

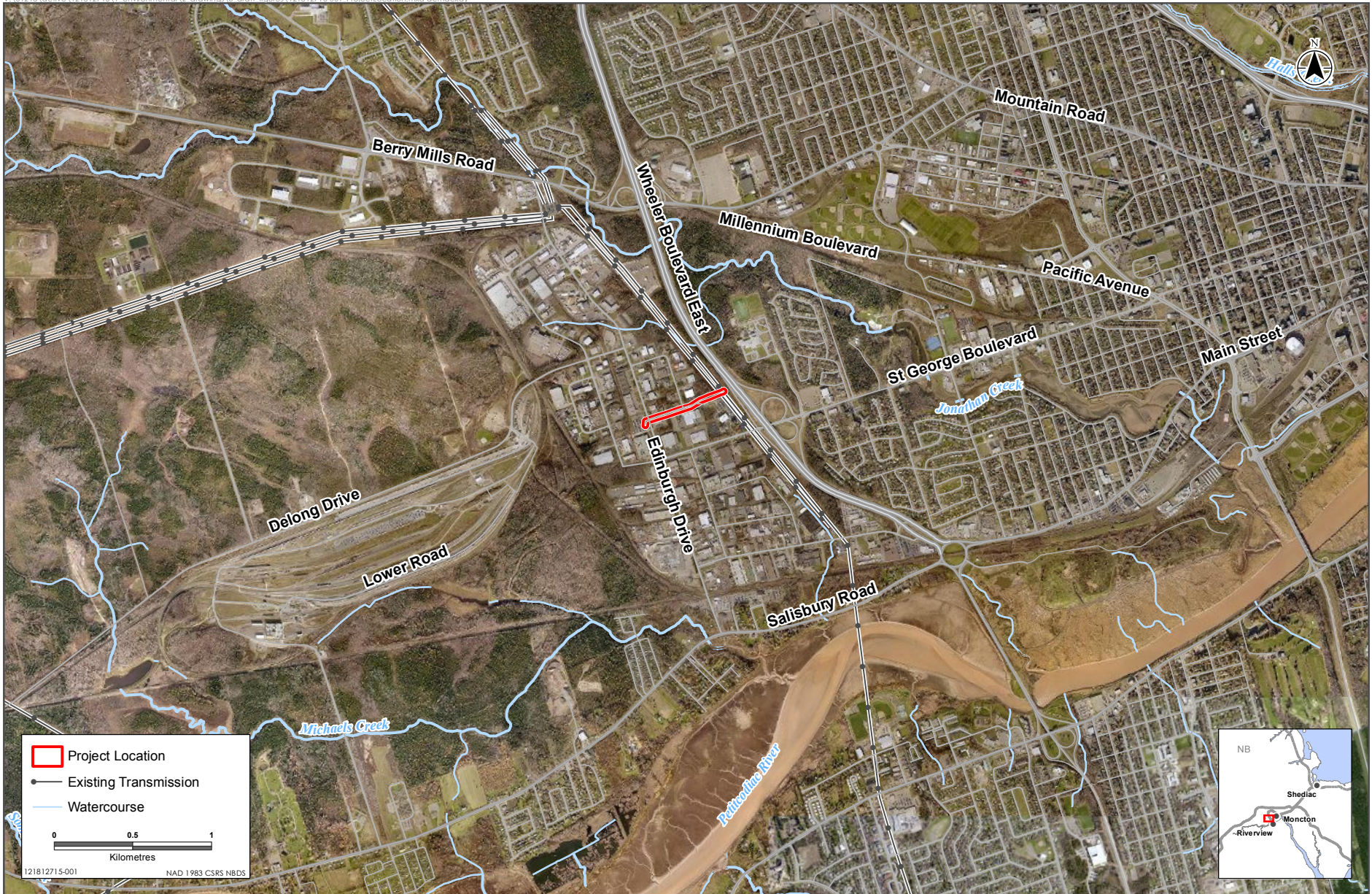
This document is organized into nine chapters, as follows.

- Chapter 1 provides introductory information regarding the Project, including Project scope, information on the proponent, the purpose of the Project, and the regulatory framework that is anticipated to apply to the Project.
- Chapter 2 provides a detailed description of the Project as it is currently conceived. This description includes information on: Project location; siting considerations; Project components and infrastructure; how construction, operation, and decommissioning and abandonment of the Project will be achieved; mitigation by design of the Project; and the anticipated Project workforce and schedule.
- Chapter 3 provides an overview of the environmental setting of the Project.
- Chapter 4 provides a description of the methods used to assess potential interactions between the Project and valued components (VCs)
- Chapter 5 contains details of the potential interactions between the Project and VCs, including a description of existing conditions, potential Project-environment interactions, and mitigation for those interactions.
- Chapter 6 outlines public involvement activities conducted and planned for the Project.
- Chapter 7 describes the Aboriginal engagement activities conducted to date and planned for the Project.
- Chapter 8 includes closing remarks and a statement of limitations about the document.
- Chapter 9 lists the references cited in this work.

Appendices follow with supporting information.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE
MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK**

Introduction
December 15, 2017



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, November 8th, 2016. Base data provided by Service New Brunswick.

Project Location



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK,
MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK**

Introduction
December 15, 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Introduction
December 15, 2017

1.2 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

NB Power is proposing to construct and operate a new 557 m, 138 kV transmission line (1246) in the Moncton Industrial Park, in the City of Moncton, New Brunswick (Figure 1.1). The new transmission line will tap into an existing 138 kV transmission line (1124), which currently has a 70 m-wide right-of-way (RoW). The proponent will acquire a 30 m-wide easement on any privately-owned lands, but the Project will primarily run along the southern edge of Arsenault Court within the existing Moncton municipal easement. The new transmission line will provide electricity to the OrganiGram Inc. facility located on Edinburgh Drive.

The Project as currently conceived would include the following major components and infrastructure:

- A 557 m-long, 30 m-wide RoW for linear infrastructure
- A 557 m-long, 138 kV transmission line including steel dual circuit and deadend structures, and wooden single pole and three pole deadend structures
- Conductors (i.e., wires) and insulators

1.3 PROPONENT INFORMATION

On October 1, 2013, following the proclamation of New Brunswick's new *Electricity Act*, the former NB Power Group of Companies along with the former New Brunswick System Operator were amalgamated into a single Crown corporation called the New Brunswick Power Corporation (abbreviated NB Power). NB Power's responsibilities include the operation and maintenance of the high voltage electricity transmission system in New Brunswick.

As such, the proponent for the proposed undertaking is as follows:

Name of Proponent	New Brunswick Power Corporation (NB Power)
President & Chief Executive Officer	Mr. Gaëtan Thomas
Mailing Address of Proponent	P.O. Box 2000, 515 King Street Fredericton, NB E3B 4X1
Contact Person for this EIA Registration	Ms. Andrea McGathey, M.Eng. Environmental Technical Specialist, NB Power 515 King Street P.O. Box 2000, Stn. A Fredericton, NB E3B 4X1
Telephone Number of Contact Person	(506) 458-5003
Fax Number	(506) 458-4000
Electronic Mail Address	AMcGathey@nbpower.com
Website	www.nbpower.com

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Introduction
December 15, 2017

1.4 PURPOSE/RATIONALE/NEED FOR THE UNDERTAKING

The existing 69 kV distribution lines within the Moncton Industrial Park are not sufficient to meet the electricity required for OrganiGram Inc. to achieve its business growth potential. This Project will allow NB Power to meet the needs of its customer (OrganiGram Inc.) by providing transmission infrastructure with the capacity to handle a load of up to 30 MW.

1.5 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This section provides an overview of the anticipated major regulatory processes that could be applicable to the Project, including federal and provincial environmental assessment requirements and the roles of regulatory authorities.

1.5.1 Provincial

1.5.1.1 New Brunswick Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation

The New Brunswick *Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 87-83* under the *Clean Environment Act* (EIA Regulation) governs the EIA process in the province. The EIA Regulation requires that all undertakings listed in "Schedule A" of the Regulation (including their proposed construction, operation, modification, extension, abandonment, demolition or rehabilitation) require registration and a "Determination Review" led by NBDELG to review the Project's information and potential environmental effects. At the conclusion of the Determination Review, the NBDELG's technical review committee (TRC) will recommend to the New Brunswick Minister of Environment and Local Government as to whether a proposed undertaking can proceed, with or without conditions, or whether it requires a more formal Environmental Impact Assessment (referred to as a "Comprehensive Review").

The Project is an undertaking under the EIA Regulation, according to item (d) of Schedule A of the regulation, as follows:

"(d) all electrical transmission lines exceeding sixty-nine thousand volts in capacity or five kilometres in length."

Based on the Project as currently conceived, a 138 kV transmission line, a formal registration of the Project is therefore required under Section 5(1) of the EIA Regulation and will undergo, at minimum, a Determination Review, coordinated by NBDELG.

1.5.1.2 New Brunswick Species at Risk Act

Schedule A of the *New Brunswick Species at Risk Act* (NB SARA) lists species in New Brunswick that are classified as being *extirpated*, *endangered*, *threatened*, or of *special concern*. The NB SARA,

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Introduction
December 15, 2017

by way of Section 28(2), prohibits the killing, harming harassing or taking of any species listed in Schedule A.

The Project will require a desktop review to determine the presence of any NB SARA Schedule A listed species, including their residences or critical habitat. In the event such species are found, the Project will implement measures to comply with the NB SARA.

1.5.1.3 Other Potential Provincial Permit Requirements

Table 1.1 contains a representative list of other provincial permits, approvals, and authorizations that may or may not be applicable to the Project. Note this is not necessarily an all-inclusive list.

Table 1.1 Other Potential Provincial Permit Requirements

Project Component	Permit, Approval or Authorization	Issuing Provincial Agency
Right-of-Way (RoW)	Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Permit - <i>Clean Water Act</i>	New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government
	Highway Usage Permit- <i>NB Highway Corporation Act</i>	New Brunswick Highway Corporation
	Access Permit	New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
	Work Permit	New Brunswick Department of Energy and Resource Development
	Crown lands – License of Occupation	New Brunswick Department of Energy and Resource Development

1.5.2 Federal

This section provides a brief description of the anticipated federal environmental assessment, approval and permitting processes that may apply to the Project.

1.5.2.1 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012

The requirements for federal Environmental Assessment (EA) are defined by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012)*. CEAA 2012 only applies to "Designated Projects," which are physical activities listed under the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* under CEAA 2010.

The *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* identify 48 "Physical Activities" that constitute Designated Projects requiring environmental assessment under CEAA 2012. Item 39 of the Schedule to the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* includes:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Introduction
December 15, 2017

“39. The construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a new electrical transmission line with a voltage of 345 kV or more that requires a total of 75 km or more of new right of way.

Since neither the voltage nor length of the new transmission line exceed these thresholds, the Project is not a Designated Project under *CEAA 2012*. Further, as no aspect of the Project will be built on federally regulated land, it is not expected that the components of the proposed Project will require an environmental assessment under *CEAA 2012, Section 67*.

1.5.2.2 Species at Risk Act

The *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, by way of Schedule 1, lists species in Canada that are classified as being *extirpated, endangered, threatened, or of special concern*. The more than 300 wild plant and animal species listed in Schedule 1 are afforded special measures to protect them and assist in their recovery. These special measures include, amongst other things, prohibitions against:

- The killing, harming, or harassment of these species
- The damage or destruction of their residences
- The destruction of any part of their critical habitat

The Project will require a desktop review to determine the presence of any SARA Schedule 1 listed species, including their residences or critical habitat. In the event such species are found or likely, the Project will implement measures to comply with the SARA.

1.5.2.3 Fisheries Act

The *Fisheries Act*, by way of Section 35(1), defines the provisions by which commercial, recreational or Aboriginal (CRA) fisheries are protected. The mitigation measures applied to the Project's activities will comply with the *Fisheries Act* to prevent the “serious harm to fish”, including fish habitats, and to fish that support a CRA fishery. Authorization must be provided under Section 35(2) for activities that cause serious harm to fish that support a CRA fishery, including appropriate fish habitat offsetting. A preliminary review of available information indicated that the nearest watercourses is approximately 300 m from the Project; however, in the event that fish or fish habitats that support a CRA fishery are identified within the Project RoW, the Project will implement measures to comply with the *Fisheries Act*.

1.5.2.4 Migratory Birds Convention Act

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA)*, by way of *Migratory Birds Regulations* and *Migratory Birds Sanctuary Regulations*, defines the provisions by which an estimated 450 native species of migratory birds (including their nests and eggs) are protected in Canada. In the event that activities interact with migratory birds in a manner that could contravene MBCA regulations, the Project will implement measures to comply with the MBCA.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REGISTRATION FOR 138 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE MONCTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

Introduction
December 15, 2017

1.6 PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

The proposed Moncton Industrial Park transmission line will be located on a mix of Provincial Crown (e.g. roads) and privately owned land. Specifically, the proposed transmission line RoW will affect 11 parcels of land, including eight private landowners, two parcels of Provincial Crown land (Driscoll Crescent and Arsenault Court), and 1 municipal area (RoW of the existing transmission Line 1124). NB Power will negotiate options for easements with the private landowners.

1.7 PROJECT-RELATED DOCUMENTS

This EIA registration includes other relevant documents as Appendices A to D of this document, as follows:

- Additional information requirements for an EIA Registration, as outlined in the 2012 NBDELG document entitled "A Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment in New Brunswick", attached as Appendix A
- Environmental attributes of the RoW, attached as Appendix B
- Desktop data acquired for the terrestrial environment valued component (VC), attached as Appendix C
- Letters provided to First Nations leaders and organizations to inform them of the Project are attached as Appendix D

Other than this EIA registration document and the appended information, there are no additional Project-related documents that are publicly accessible.