

# Volume 4

Niagara  Region

South Niagara Falls Wastewater Solutions

## Public and Agency Consultation

## SOUTH NIAGARA FALLS WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS REPORT OUTLINE

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The Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the South Niagara Falls Wastewater Solutions (SNFWWS) Class Environmental Assessment (EA) is a comprehensive document that describes the planning, evaluation, and decision-making process for the recommended SNFWWS program components including the new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) site, plant outfall location, and associated sewer servicing strategy. The SNFWWS documentation is compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) and is being placed on public record for a 45-day review period.

The ESR is organized into four volumes:

### Volume 1 – Executive Summary

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Provides a brief overview of the SNFWWS program. It summarizes the information contained in Volumes 2, 3, and 4 including the problem and opportunity statement, purpose of the study, planning, policy and technical considerations, and description of the recommended SNFWWS program components.

### Volume 2 – Comprehensive Overview

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Provides the full planning and decision-making process for the SNFWWS program components. Presents the results through each Phase of the Class EA process including the site selection process for the new WWTP facility, the plant outfall receiving waterbody, the deep trunk sewer, Thorold South servicing strategies, costing review, and next steps for implementation.

### Volume 3 – Supporting Documents

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Includes a complete list of documents, including all supporting technical memoranda and discipline investigation reports that supported the evaluation of siting, outfall locations, sewer alignments, and design concepts including technical considerations, treatment technologies, and considerations for natural environment, cultural heritage, archaeological significance, agricultural considerations, risk management, and more.

### Volume 4 – Public and Agency Consultation

Contains all relevant documentation of the public consultation process including notices, comments and responses, and distributed information. Presentation material from all Public Information Centres (PICs) held during the process is included. Additional presentation materials and discussion information from workshops held with indigenous communities, approval agencies, and other stakeholders are also included.

This report is the complete **Volume 4 – Public and Agency Consultation** which is one of the four volumes that make up the complete South Niagara Falls Wastewater Solutions Environmental Study Report and should be read in conjunction with the other volumes.

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## 1.0 Consultation Introduction

This Volume provides a compilation of all the relevant documentation related to the public, Indigenous, agency, and stakeholder consultation. It also provides the background support for satisfying public consultation requirements under the approved Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class EA Process. The following sections summarize the key components of the consultation strategy with further records available in the supporting appendices.

### 1.1 Communications and Consultation Summary

Consultation is an integral component of the Class EA process, enabling the Region to inform the public about the study while eliciting input from interested and affected parties during the study process.

The primary goals of the public consultation process were to:

- Present clear and concise information to stakeholders at key stages of the study process,
- Solicit community, Indigenous, regulatory, and Regional staff input, and,
- Meet MEA Municipal Class EA consultation requirements.

To fulfill the consultation requirements of the MEA Municipal Class EA and enhance the overall Class EA process, the SNFWWS program was designed to:

- Build on past communication protocols and consultation plans from previous Class EA and municipal planning initiatives, to ensure consistency and continuity,
- Meet public and agency notification and **Schedule C** consultation requirements for Phases 1 to 5 of the MEA Municipal Class EA process,
- Ensure the public, Indigenous representatives, Regional and Municipal councillors, stakeholders, external agencies (including federal and provincial) and special interest groups had an opportunity to participate in the study process,
- Ensure that information was provided to interested and affected stakeholders early and often throughout the study process, and,
- Contact external agencies to obtain legislative or regulatory approvals, or to collect pertinent technical information.

The Communications and Consultation Plan was developed at the Class EA outset and updated throughout the Class EA process. A copy of the Communications and Consultation Plan is attached in Appendix V4.1. Documentation of the Class EA consultation and communication process is summarized in the following sections.

### 1.2 Contact List

A list of stakeholders, Indigenous communities, review agencies and other interested parties was developed at the outset of the study to encourage active participation. The contact list was regularly updated throughout the study as more individuals became aware of the study or provided feedback. Interested parties had the opportunity to be added to the contact list at any point during the study to receive public notices, newly available public information, and attend in-person or virtual public events.

The final study contact list is provided in Appendix V4.2.

## 2.0 Pre-Class Environmental Assessment Agency Consultation

Prior to the official SNFWWS Class EA study commencement, meetings were held with key agencies to confirm approach and request critical baseline information. These meetings focused on background data inventory with emphasis on local Ontario Power Generation (OPG) water operations in South Niagara Falls and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) plant outfall discharge requirements. The meetings also confirmed the general Class EA study objectives and identified milestone opportunities for involvement through the Class EA process.

Meetings were held with the following Agencies:

- Ontario Power Generation (OPG) – February 11, 2019
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) – February 13, 2019
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) – February 19, 2019
- A summary of each agency meeting is available in Appendix V4.3.

## 3.0 Notice of Commencement

The SNFWWS Class EA was formally initiated on April 4, 2019.

The Notice of Commencement was advertised as follows:

1. Niagara This Week (Zone 1 and Zone 2) – April 4 and April 11, 2019
2. Niagara Falls Review – April 6, 2019
3. Niagara Region website: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/south-niagara-falls-treatment-plant/default.aspx>

In addition, the MECP provided a list of appropriate Indigenous communities for the SNFWWS Class EA consultation program. The Region contacted Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI), Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations), and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) via phone ahead of mailing the notice to confirm addresses, interested parties, and provide a brief study overview.

Personalized letters were sent to each Indigenous, MECP, OPG and NPCA representatives. A copy of the notice, example personalized letter, and proof of advertisements are attached in Appendix V4.4.

## 4.0 Public Consultation

Public Information Centres (PICs) were held to elicit input at key milestones of the Class EA process. These milestones included introducing the study problem and opportunities, alternative site and servicing constraints and opportunities, and balanced evaluation concepts to address the comprehensive SNFWWS program components (including the WWTP site, plant outfall location, trunk sewer, and Thorold South servicing strategy).

The SNFWWS Class EA included four rounds of PICs. The final PIC presented the comprehensive SNFWWS program recommendations and preliminary design concepts. Representatives from Niagara Region and consultants from GM BluePlan Engineering, CIMA, and Redbrick Communications attended each PIC to present the latest information and answer study related questions.

Following each PIC, a summary report was developed to document the notified parties, presented material and format, record of attendee participation, documentation of public comments received, and responses provided.

The PIC Summary Reports are provided in Appendix V4.5.

### 4.1 Public Information Centre No. 1

PIC No. 1 was held during Phase 1 of the Municipal Class EA process. This event presented the SNFWWS problem and opportunity statement, defined the study area boundaries, provided an overview of study process and objectives, reviewed the existing sanitary system, and discussed next steps for study involvement.

The PIC No. 1 event was held in-person on May 28, 2019 at the Boys & Girls Club of Niagara with a total of 30 public attendees, counting those who signed in. A secondary virtual Facebook Live event was recorded on May 28, 2019 with a total of 1,586 views.

A follow-up Council session, which presented the same material, was held June 19, 2019 to further inform Local Council members. A total of 5 council representatives from the Niagara Region, City of Niagara Falls, City of Thorold, Town of Fort Erie, and City of St. Catharines were in attendance.

Details on the PIC No. 1 attendance, comments received, and material presented are provided in Appendix V4.5.1.

### 4.2 Public Information Centre No. 2

PIC No. 2 was held during Phase 2 of the Class EA process. This event was held as an additional consultation event to present the long list of potential WWTP sites, and the proposed detailed evaluation and weighted criteria to select the preliminary preferred solution for the SNFWWS project components.

The PIC No. 2 event was held in-person on November 20, 2019 at the MacBain Community Centre in the City of Niagara Falls. The event had a total of 29 public attendees. A secondary virtual Facebook Live event was recorded on November 20, 2019 with a total of 1,314 views.

Details on the PIC No. 2 attendance, comments received, and material presented are provided in Appendix V4.5.2.



### 4.3 Public Information Centre No. 3

PIC No. 3 was held during Phase 2 of the Class EA process. This event presented the stepped evaluation process undertaken for the alternative WWTP sites, outfall locations, and sewer servicing strategies. The preliminary preferred SNFWWS program solution, including the selected WWTP site and outfall location were presented. At PIC No. 3 conceptual sewer strategies for the trunk sewer and Thorold South were presented but preferred sewer routes were not selected.

PIC No. 3 was held in-person on March 11, 2020 at the MacBain Community Centre in the City of Niagara Falls. The event had a total of 62 public attendees. A secondary virtual Facebook Live event was recorded on March 11, 2020 with a total of 2,905 views.

Details on the PIC No. 3 attendance, comments received, and material presented are provided in Appendix V4.5.3.

### 4.4 Public Information Centre No. 4

PIC No. 4 was held during Phase 3 of the Class EA process. This event presented the comprehensive SNFWWS program recommendations and preliminary preferred design concepts for the new WWTP site, outfall location, and supporting sewer alignments for the selected trunk sewer and Thorold South servicing strategy.

PIC No. 4 was held virtually (to comply with COVID-19 policies) from February 9 to 23, 2022. On February 9, 2022 a live virtual presentation was held via Zoom platform. The live event had a total of 64 public attendees. The recorded presentation was uploaded to the Region's YouTube account and received a total of 35 views. The presented material was available for comment through ESRI Story Maps from February 9 to February 23, 2022.

Details on the PIC No. 4 attendance, comments received, and material presented are provided in Appendix V4.5.4.

## 5.0 Municipal Consultation

### 5.1 Cities of Niagara Falls and Thorold

The location of the new south Niagara Falls WWTP site, plant outfall location, and new deep trunk sewer are within the City of Niagara Falls. The City of Niagara Falls had a unique interest in the overall SNFWWS servicing strategies, including impact to surrounding land uses and users, improvements to the existing linear works, and site planning and approvals. Effective consultation and communication with public and the surrounding community regarding the new WWTP and trunk sewer was critical for the Region and City of Niagara Falls.

The City of Thorold is anticipating significant growth in southern areas of the municipality. To relieve pressure on the existing sanitary system and support approved future growth, a Thorold South servicing strategy formed part of the SNFWWS Program with the introduction of a new Black Horse Sanitary Pumping Station (SPS) and sewer alignments to reach the new WWTP site. Meetings were held during critical study milestones to discuss preliminary results and receive agreement on preferred recommendations.

### 5.2 Council Involvement

Through each phase of the Class EA process, Regional and Local Councillors were notified with study updates including notice of award, commencement, PICs No. 1 to 4, committee updates, and completion.

For PICs No. 1 to 3, invitations were distributed to all Regional and Local Councillors for a separate drop-in session to ask questions in-person and receive the latest available presentation material and Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document.

Key Council consultation records are presented in Table 5-1 below. The related SNFWWS Council update presentations are attached in Appendix V4.6.

**Table 5-1. Council Consultation Records**

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of Council Consultation
02/19/2019	Class EA award notice.
04/04/2019	Notice of study commencement.
05/28/2019	PIC No. 1 event held.
06/19/2019	PIC No. 1 Council drop-in session.
11/20/2019	PIC No. 2 and Council drop-in session.
03/11/2020	PIC No. 3 and Council drop-in session.
09/03/2020	Council cost workshop: presentation material shared.
09/24/2020	Committee of the Whole presentation: wastewater program and cost estimate update (Phase 2 Class EA Process).
09/09/2021	Committee of the Whole presentation: wastewater program and cost estimate update (Phase 3 Class EA Process).
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual event and review materials shared.
07/28/2022	Notice of Completion with identified date for the 45-day public review period.

## 6.0 Class Environmental Assessment Consultation Records

Throughout the Class EA process, comments were received from individuals or groups on the study contact list such as Indigenous communities, review agencies, and other interested stakeholders. These comments were filed and addressed accordingly.

The SNFWWS Class EA consultation tracking table, including supporting study records are presented in Appendix V4.8. The sections below highlight key Indigenous and review agency consultation records.

### 6.1 Indigenous Consultation

Indigenous communities have unique understanding of the natural environment given their relationship with traditional lands, practices, and way of life. As such, they provide valuable information to help identify solutions and measures to mitigate impacts to natural and cultural resources.

At pre-Class EA commencement in February 2019, MECP identified appropriate Indigenous communities for the SNFWWS consultation program. The following Indigenous communities were consulted through the Class EA process:

- Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI),
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN), and,
- Six Nations of the Grand River (Six Nations).

Study area investigations including the Natural Environment Screening Report, Cultural Heritage Screening Report, and Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (AA) Screening were submitted to Indigenous communities during the Phase 2 Class EA Process.

Following the Phase 2 Class EA process, Stage 1 and 2 Terrestrial Archaeological investigations as well as Stage 1 Marine Archaeological investigations were undertaken. Indigenous consultation was completed via phone and/or email by the Region and Wood Environment (supporting archaeological consultants) ahead of site investigations.

The archaeological reports completed for all SNFWWS program components were submitted to each Indigenous community during the Phase 3 Class EA process. These reports identified study recommendations, next steps, and commitments to complete remaining archaeological investigations on the WWTP site and proposed sewer shaft construction locations.

**Following the completion of the SNFWWS Class EA, it is important to that Indigenous communities noted above shall continue to be engaged should there be substantial changes to the project / process or if subsequent permits that may be of interest or concern to the communities take place.**

A record of field participation and consultation is available in Table 6-1. Supporting electronic records of Indigenous consultation are available in Appendix V4.8.

**Table 6-1. Indigenous Consultation Records**

<b>Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</b>	<b>Purpose of Indigenous Consultation</b>
03/06/2019	Region voicemail with Six Nations to introduce Class EA study.
03/06/2019	Region call with HDI and MCFN to introduce Class EA study.
03/14/2019	Region follow-up call with Six Nations to introduce Class EA study.
04/04/2019	Notice of study commencement.
05/08/2019	Region call to confirm MCFN contact ahead of PIC No. 1 notice.
05/08/2019	Region call to confirm HDI contact ahead of PIC No. 1 notice.
05/08/2019	Region voicemail with Six Nations ahead of PIC No. 1 notice.
05/09/2019	Notice of PIC No. 1.
11/11/2019	Notice of PIC No. 2 and submission of baseline natural environment, cultural heritage screening, and Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (AA) screening reports.
11/13/2019	Region call with HDI to confirm receipt of baseline reports.
11/13/2019	Region voicemail with Six Nations regarding submitted baseline reports.
12/19/2019	Region call with HDI and confirmed no outstanding concerns with baseline report findings.
12/19/2019	Region voicemail with MCFN regarding submitted baseline reports.
12/19/2019	Region voicemail with Six Nations regarding submitted baseline reports.
02/27/2020	Notice of PIC No. 3.
07/07/2020	Region provided an update to MCFN with request to confirm contacts ahead of scheduling Stage 1 and 2 AA site investigations.
07/07/2020	Region provided a project status update to HDI with request to confirm contacts ahead of scheduling Stage 1 and 2 AA site investigations.
07/07/2020	Region provided an update to Six Nations with request to confirm contacts ahead of scheduling Stage 1 and 2 AA site investigations.
08/28/2020	MCFN requested status of study investigations.
09/18/2020	Region confirmed with MCFN that there have been no completed archaeological site investigations. Investigations are being scheduled and invitation for participation will be submitted in the near future.
09/18/2020	Wood Environment (Archaeological consultant) provided MCFN an information sharing letter with details for upcoming Stage 1 and 2 AA WWTP site investigations.
09/18/2020	Wood Environment provided HDI an information sharing letter with details for upcoming Stage 1 and 2 AA WWTP site investigations.
09/18/2020	Wood Environment provided Six Nations an information sharing letter with details for upcoming Stage 1 and 2 AA WWTP site investigations.
09/20/2020	Six Nations acknowledged receipt of invitation and expressed interest to participate in upcoming site investigations.
09/24/2020	HDI acknowledged receipt of invitation and expressed interest to participate in upcoming site investigations.

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of Indigenous Consultation
09/30/2020	Wood Environment provided follow-up with MCFN for agreement to participate in upcoming site investigations.
11/13/2020	Wood Environment confirmed with MCFN that fields were ploughed and prepared for the upcoming site visit. Date was sent through for participation.
11/13/2020	Wood Environment confirmed with HDI that fields were ploughed and prepared for the upcoming site visit. Date was sent through for participation.
11/13/2020	Wood Environment confirmed with Six Nations that fields were ploughed and prepared for the upcoming site visit. Date was sent through for participation.
11/16/2020	MCFN acknowledged receipt of site visit details and would confirm if Indigenous monitor was available to attend.
11/17/2020	Wood Environment visited the site ahead of the scheduled meeting and determined conditions did not meet Ministry requirements. Notice of rescheduled site visit sent to MCFN.
11/17/2020	Wood Environment visited the site ahead of the scheduled meeting and determined conditions did not meet Ministry requirements. Notice of rescheduled site visit sent to HDI.
11/17/2020	Wood Environment visited the site ahead of the scheduled meeting and determined conditions did not meet Ministry requirements. Notice of rescheduled site visit sent to Six Nations.
11/24/2020	Six Nations Indigenous monitor on site for Stage 1 and 2 AA WWTP field investigations.
11/24/2020	HDI Indigenous monitor on site for Stage 1 and 2 AA WWTP field investigations.
11/24/2020	MCFN Indigenous monitor on site for Stage 1 and 2 AA WWTP field investigations.
12/10/2020	MCFN Indigenous monitor on site for additional Stage 2 WWTP field investigations.
7/23/2021	Six Nations Indigenous monitor on site for additional Stage 2 WWTP field investigations.
10/04/2021	Wood Environment submitted invitation for MCFN participation in additional Stage 2 AA WWTP site investigations.
10/04/2021	Wood Environment submitted invitation for HDI participation in additional Stage 2 AA WWTP site investigations.
10/04/2021	Wood Environment submitted invitation for Six Nations participation in additional Stage 2 AA WWTP site investigations.
10/07/2021	Wood Environment provided notice of cancellation to MCFN for additional Stage 2 fieldwork due to property access issue.
10/07/2021	Wood Environment provided notice of cancellation to HDI for additional Stage 2 fieldwork due to property access issue.

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of Indigenous Consultation
10/07/2021	Wood Environment provided notice of cancellation to Six Nations for additional Stage 2 fieldwork due to property access issue.
11/08/2021	Wood Environment submitted invitation for MCFN participation in Stage 2 AA field investigations for Thorold South (new Black Horse SPS site).
11/08/2021	Wood Environment submitted invitation for HDI participation in Stage 2 AA field investigations for Thorold South (new Black Horse SPS site).
11/08/2021	Wood Environment submitted invitation for Six Nations participation in Stage 2 AA field investigations for Thorold South (new Black Horse SPS site).
11/11/2021	MCFN Indigenous monitor on site for Stage 2 AA investigations on the new Black Horse SPS site.
11/11/2021	Six Nations Indigenous monitor on site for Stage 2 AA investigations on the new Black Horse SPS site.
11/12/2021	MCFN Indigenous monitor on site for day two of Stage 2 AA investigations on the new Black Horse SPS site.
11/12/2021	Six Nations Indigenous monitor on site for day two of Stage 2 AA investigations on the new Black Horse SPS site.
11/12/2021	HDI Indigenous monitor on site for day two of Stage 2 AA investigations on the new Black Horse SPS site.
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual presentation and material review invite.
03/01/2022	Wood Environment submitted all draft Stage 1 and 2 AA reports for the respective WWTP site, marine (Chippawa Creek), trunk sewer, and Thorold South investigations for MCFN review.
03/01/2022	Wood Environment submitted all draft Stage 1 and 2 AA reports for the respective WWTP site, marine (Chippawa Creek), trunk sewer, and Thorold South investigations for HDI review.
03/01/2022	Wood Environment submitted all draft Stage 1 and 2 AA reports for the respective WWTP site, marine (Chippawa Creek), trunk sewer, and Thorold South investigations for Six Nations review.
03/03/2022	MCFN confirmed receipt of reports and identified a 4-week review period.
03/09/2022	Six Nations acknowledged receipt of Wood Environment email but could not access reports. Requested individual reports be sent through electronically due to the large file size.
03/09/2022	Wood Environment submitted individual Stage 1 and 2 AA report links for Six Nations review.
03/09/2022	Six Nations confirmed receipt and download of all Stage 1 and 2 AA reports.
03/22/2022	MCFN completed review of Stage 1 and 2 AA reports and submitted comments to Wood Environment and the Region.
03/22/2022	Wood Environment resubmitted all draft Stage 1 and 2 AA reports for the respective WWTP site, marine (Chippawa Creek), trunk sewer, and Thorold South investigations for HDI review.

<b>Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</b>	<b>Purpose of Indigenous Consultation</b>
03/29/2022	Region requested Six Nations review status on the Stage 1 and 2 AA reports.
03/29/2022	Six Nations confirmed with the Region that most Stage 1 and 2 AA have been reviewed without concern. Anticipated to complete review shortly.
03/29/2022	Region contacted HDI regarding review of draft reports submitted on March 22, 2022.
03/29/2022	Wood Environment resubmitted all draft Stage 1 and 2 AA reports for the respective WWTP site, marine (Chippawa Creek), trunk sewer, and Thorold South investigations for HDI review (through new email address provided by HDI).
03/31/2022	Six Nations completed review of Stage 1 and 2 AA reports and submitted comments to Wood Environment and the Region.
07/21/2022	Region provided project status update to MCFN, Six Nations and HDI regarding upcoming Notice of Completion with the identified dates for the 45-day public review period via e-mail.
07/26/2022	Six Nations confirmed receipt of notice of study completion and specified a contact to receive future Class EA notifications.
07/28/2022	Hard-copy of the Notice of Completion mailed to MCFN, Six Nations and HDI with identified dates for the 45-day public review period via mail.

## 6.2 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) was consulted at the study outset and throughout the Class EA process. MECP consultation was focused on achieving Schedule C Municipal Class EA requirements and ensuring recommended outfall criteria met Ministry standards.

Key MECP consultation records are presented in Table 6-2 below. The related SNFWWS emails and presentation material are attached in Appendix V4.8.

**Table 6-2. MECP Consultation Records**

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of MECP Consultation
02/19/2019	Pre-Class EA introduction meeting to confirm Assimilative Capacity Study (ACS) [water modelling] approach for outfall.
02/20/2019	MECP provided a list of Indigenous communities for Class EA consultation.
04/04/2019	Notice of Commencement and Project Information Form submitted to MECP.
05/09/2019	Notice of PIC No. 1.
05/15/2019	MECP Representative requested PIC No.1 materials when available.
05/17/2019	ACS Modelling Approach Memorandum (Memo) submitted to MECP.
05/21/2019	MECP requested hard copies of the ACS Modelling Approach Memo.
05/30/2019	Requested PIC No. 1 materials submitted to MECP.
08/23/2019	MECP provided letter following review of the ACS Modelling Approach Memo.
11/11/2019	Notice of PIC No. 2.
11/21/2019	ACS Screening Report submitted to MECP.
12/05/2019	Agency Update Meeting with focus on ACS.
02/03/2020	MECP provided response following review of the ACS Screening Report.
02/27/2020	Notice of PIC No. 3.
02/28/2020	GM BluePlan submitted Class EA status update to MECP.
03/04/2020	MECP responded to GM BluePlan to acknowledge anticipated timelines.
05/22/2020	Detailed ACS Report submitted to MECP.
07/30/2020	MECP provided agreeance on Detailed ACS Report. Comments were provided to the Project Team to include in the final copy of the report.
12/01/2020	MECP provided additional contact to receive future Class EA notifications.
01/19/2021	Agency Update Meeting with focus on design concept opportunities.
03/19/2021	MECP provided named replacement for the EA Coordinator role.
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual presentation and material review invite.
07/21/2022	GM BluePlan submitted Class EA status update with notification of ESR documentation and filing dates to MECP.



Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of MECP Consultation
07/28/2022	Notice of Completion submitted with identified dates for the 45-day public review period.
09/07/2022	MECP requesting an extension of the 45-day public review period deadline to provide comments.
09/27/2022	GM BluePlan corresponded via phone and confirmed via email with MECP agreeing on additional review period for MECP to provide comments until October, 21, 2022.
10/21/2022	MECP provided comments regarding the Notice of Completion and Environmental Study Report.
11/30/2022	GM BluePlan responded to and addressed comments received by the MECP.

### 6.3 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

The local conservation authority within the study area included Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA). Early consultation was completed to review available data, receive input on additional studies, and introduce concepts to establish alternatives and assess potential environmental impacts through site visits. Potential environmental impacts, mitigation measured and permitting requirements are included in the ESR for NPCA review.

Key NPCA consultation records are presented in Table 6-3 below. The related SNFWWS emails and presentation material are attached in Appendix V4.8.

**Table 6-3. NPCA Consultation Records**

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of NPCA Consultation
02/13/2019	Pre-Class EA consultation meeting with focus on local water operations.
04/04/2019	Notice of commencement.
05/09/2019	Notice of PIC No. 1.
11/11/2019	Notice of PIC No. 2.
11/21/2019	ACS Screening Report and agency update meeting materials submitted.
12/05/2019	Agency Update Meeting with focus on ACS.
02/27/2020	Notice of PIC No. 3.
10/27/2020	Region requested WWTP site visit to validate environmental features.
11/06/2020	Region requested WWTP site visit (new NPCA contact).
11/09/2020	Region provided follow-up call to confirm upcoming WWTP site visit.
11/12/2020	WWTP site visit held with NPCA.
11/24/2020	Region requested Project Update Meeting.
01/19/2021	Agency Update Meeting with focus on design concept opportunities.
01/26/2021	NPCA provided 2020 water quality data.
02/25/2021	GM BluePlan submitted servicing alternatives for initial NPCA feedback.
03/10/2021	NPCA acknowledged receipt of information request.
03/11/2021	NPCA noted significant environmental impacts with the open cut servicing alternative through wetland features. NPCA requested meeting to discuss.
03/16/2021	GM BluePlan provided meeting agenda and presentation.
03/17/2021	Meeting held to discuss Thorold servicing alternatives.
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual presentation and material review invite.
07/28/2022	Notice of Completion submitted with identified dates for the 45-day public review period.

## 6.4 Ontario Power Generation

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has water operations within the study area. This operating waterbody is referred to as the Hydro Electric Power Canal (HEPC). Due to the HEPC proximity to potential wastewater treatment plant sites and this being a potential source for plant discharge location, OPG was consulted directly through the Class EA process. This consultation ensured potential impacts to operations and maintenance were mitigated appropriately.

Key OPG consultation records are presented in Table 6-4 below. The related SNFWWS emails and presentation material are attached in Appendix V4.8.

**Table 6-4. OPG Consultation Records**

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of OPG Consultation
02/11/2019	Pre-Class EA consultation meeting.
04/04/2019	Notice of commencement.
5/9/2019	Notice of PIC No. 1.
09/20/2019	Call to discuss information request for the HEPC.
11/11/2019	Notice of PIC No. 2.
11/20/2019	Requested copy of PIC No. 2 material through GM BluePlan. Acknowledged anticipated treated effluent criteria. Expressed concern for construction timing with anticipated OPG canal work.
11/21/2019	ACS Screening Report and agency update meeting materials submitted.
12/05/2019	Agency Update Meeting with focus on ACS.
01/27/2020	Project Update Meeting.
02/27/2020	Notice of PIC No. 3.
08/20/2020	Received OPG notice of deferred HEPC maintenance work. OPG requested to continue providing project status updates.
11/24/2020	Region requested Project Update Meeting.
01/19/2021	Agency Update Meeting with focus on design concept opportunities.
02/18/2021	GMBP provided update on preferred trunk sewer design concepts.
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual presentation and material review invite.
07/28/2022	Notice of Completion submitted with identified dates for the 45-day public review period.

## 6.5 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

The SNFWWS program completed Stage 1 and 2 Terrestrial Archaeological Assessment (AA) investigations, Stage 1 Marine AA investigations, and Cultural Heritage Assessments. The Class EA archaeological consultants, Golder Associates and Wood Environment, consulted the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), formerly referred to as Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) at the time the study commenced, with the submission of draft reports for Ministry review and acceptance. These reports identified study recommendations and next steps to complete remaining archaeological investigations on the WWTP site and proposed sewer shaft construction locations.

Key MHSTCI consultation records are presented in Table 6-5 below. The related SNFWWS emails and presentation material are attached in Appendix V4.8.

**Table 6-5. MHSTCI Consultation Records**

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of MHSTCI Consultation
04/04/2019	Notice of commencement.
05/09/2019	Notice of PIC No. 1.
11/11/2019	Notice of PIC No. 2.
02/27/2020	Notice of PIC No. 3.
05/13/2020	Golder Associates submitted the Stage 1 AA WWTP site to MHSTCI.
07/27/2020	MHSTCI letter received to acknowledge Stage 1 AA WWTP site review. Revisions requested on the submitted Stage 1 AA report.
05/27/2021	MHSTCI provided formal acceptance of Stage 1 AA WWTP site report. Report was entered into the Ministry registry.
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual presentation and material review invite.
04/22/2022	Wood Environment submission of Stage 1 and AA as well as Cultural Heritage Assessment Reports.
05/03/2022	MHSTCI provided record of the Stage 1 AA (Marine) being entered into the Ministry Register.
05/10/2022	MHSTCI provided records of all Cultural Heritage Assessment Reports being entered into the Ministry Register.
05/17/2022	Wood Environment confirmed MHSTCI acceptance of the Stage 1 AA for the Thorold South Servicing Strategy.
06/29/2022	Wood Environment confirmed MHSTCI acceptance of the Stage 2 AA for the new Black Horse SPS site to support the Thorold South Servicing Strategy.
07/26/2022	Wood Environment submitted Stage 1 AA and Stage 1-2 AA for the WWTP site to MTCS following new requirements.
07/28/2022	Notice of Completion submitted with identified dates for the 45-day public review period.
08/28/2022	Wood Environment confirmed MTCS acceptance of the Stage 1 AA for WWTP site.

**Contact Date  
(MM/DD/YYYY)**

**Purpose of MHSTCI Consultation**

09/01/2022	Wood Environment confirmed MTCS acceptance of the Stage 1-2 AA for WWTP site.
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## 6.6 Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNRF) were sent notification during key Class EA milestones. It is anticipated that MNDMNRF will be involved in the wetland review process during detailed design. The Class EA consultation supported early discussions with defined roles for design involvement.

Key MNDMNRF consultation records are presented in Table 6-6 below. The related SNFWWS emails and presentation material are attached in Appendix V4.8.

**Table 6-6. MNDMNRF Consultation Records**

Contact Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Purpose of MNDMNRF Consultation
04/04/2019	Notice of commencement.
04/16/2019	MNDMNRF requested to remain on the study contact list and to receive information as needed. Additional contact provided for study involvement.
05/09/2019	Notice of PIC No. 1.
11/11/2019	Notice of PIC No. 2.
02/27/2020	Notice of PIC No. 3.
11/10/2020	Region request for site visit on preferred WWTP site to validate environmental features with Golder Associates, MNDMNRF and NPCA.
11/24/2020	Region request for participation in Agency Update Meeting.
02/03/2021	GM BluePlan circulated Agency Update Meeting minutes for review (MNDMNRF was unable to attend).
04/21/2021	Class EA Project Overview Meeting.
02/09/2022	PIC No. 4 virtual presentation and material review invite.
07/28/2022	Notice of Completion submitted with identified dates for the 45-day public review period.
08/23/2022	MNDMNRF confirmed receipt of notice of study completion and provided a summary of permits/approvals that are required for various project components at the detailed design stage.

## 6.7 Other Consultation

To support the WWTP site, plant outfall and sewer alignment recommendations, consultation through the Class EA process confirmed potential conflicts and/or considerations with stakeholders including railways, major highways, utilities, and more features within the study area.

This consultation was incorporated into the evaluation process and supported the design concepts to avoid or minimize impacts to these features. The consultation records are available in Appendix V4.8.

Key groups consulted include:

- Ministry of Transportation (MTO): Proximity to trunk sewer and Thorold South servicing strategy.
- Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI): Identified two MOI properties within the study area.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO): Identified formal Request for Review submission needed during the detailed design process.
- Canadian Pacific Railway (CP): Railway crossing identified for the new trunk sewer (Montrose Road). Consultation and/or approvals required during detailed design.
- Canadian National Railway (CN): Railway crossing identified for the Thorold South servicing strategy. Consultation and/or approvals required during detailed design.

## 6.8 Property Owners

Under the SNFWWS Class EA, a site was selected for the new WWTP. Prior to selecting the preferred site, a long list of ten sites were evaluated. Property owners and/or representatives for each property were notified and consulted. During the Phase 2 Class EA site evaluation process, the list was shorted to four alternative WWTP sites. Meetings were held with all short-listed property owners to provide a project overview and identify potential constraints and/or opportunities with each site.

Once the preferred WWTP site was selected, the property owners (6811 Reixinger Road and 7047 Reixinger Road) entered site access agreements. Property owners were notified of all planned site investigations that were being completed by the Region and/or study consultants.

Properties within 5 kilometres of the preferred WWTP site and 1 kilometre from the preferred new Black Horse SPS site (701 Allanburg, Thorold, Ontario) were invited to participate in PIC No. 4. This mailout included all properties along preferred servicing routes for the trunk sewer and Thorold South servicing.

## 7.0 Notice of Completion

Upon completion of the Class EA process, a notice of completion is issued. For SNFWWS, the notice of completion was advertised in local newspapers including Niagara This Week, Niagara Falls Review and Thorold Today, distributed to the study contact list, mailed via Canada Post to all properties within 5 kilometres of the new WWTP site and 1 kilometre of the new Black Horse SPS site, as well as published via the Region's study website.

The purpose of this notice was to announce the study is complete and formally initiate the study's 45-day public review period to comment on the final Class EA Environmental Study Report.

Due to the filing period during the COVID-19 pandemic, electronic copies of the Environmental Study Report were encouraged for review on the Region's project website. Hard copies will be made available to parties with expressed limitations to access the material online, however no requests for hardcopies were received.

The notice of completion was first published on **July 28, 2022, and again on August 11, 2022**. A copy of the distributed notice is provided in Appendix V4.7.

## 8.0 Review Period Consultation

During the public review period, comments received were documented in the filed copy of the Environmental Study Report. This section, as well as supporting Appendix V4.9, have been updated following the 45-day public review period to include all comments received and / or note any revisions made to Volumes 1 to 4 of the South Niagara Falls Wastewater Solutions Environmental Study Report.