

Species at risk

The **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** provides comprehensive documentation of the extensive technical work undertaken by CN to assess the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of the Milton Logistics Hub, consistent with the EIS Guidelines issued by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA). The full EIS (submitted December 7, 2015) is available on the public registry at ceaa.gc.ca, Reference Number: 80100 (Doc. #57).

About the assessment

The following surveys were completed to support the assessment of existing wildlife conditions in the Local Assessment Area (LAA) – the area in which the effects of the Project would occur – and Project Development Area (PDA) – the area that would be directly disturbed or occupied by the physical footprint of the Project – as well as the assessment of potential effects:

- Ecological Land Classification and spring/summer botanical surveys
- Amphibian call surveys
- Salamander egg surveys
- Bat habitat assessments and acoustic surveys
- Snake habitat assessments and area searches
- Turtle overwintering and nesting surveys
- Breeding bird surveys

The assessment included determining the presence of, and potential effects of the proposed Project on, species at risk (SAR).

Assessment findings

The following SAR, listed either federally – by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) or pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)* – or provincially – pursuant to the *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* – and/or habitats supporting such SAR, were observed in the LAA and/or PDA.

- Species designated as endangered under the *SARA* and *ESA*, observed in the LAA and PDA:
 - » Little Brown Myotis bat
- Small bird species designated as threatened by COSEWIC and under the *ESA*, observed in the LAA and PDA:
 - » Bobolink
 - » Eastern Meadowlark
 - » Barn Swallow
- Species designated as special concern under *SARA* and *ESA*, observed in the LAA and PDA:
 - » Snapping Turtle
- Species designated as special concern under the *ESA* and by COSEWIC, observed in the LAA and PDA:
 - » Eastern Wood-Pewee

Critical habitat for Western Chorus Frog (as defined in the species' federal recovery strategy) was identified within the LAA, though the species was not observed during field surveys. Critical habitat was identified in a forest and wetland complex at the south end of the LAA, which would not be disturbed by the Project. Changes in residences during site preparation will be offset by habitat creation. With this, and the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, the Project is not expected to cause measurable effects to the local and provincial SAR populations.



Proposed mitigation measures

Proposed measures to mitigate adverse effects to SAR, including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Barn Swallow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Snapping Turtle, Western Chorus Frog, and Eastern Milksnake, include:

- Providing employees with sensitivity education for on-site wildlife encounters.
- Scheduling vegetation clearing outside of SAR breeding seasons.
- Installing fencing near sensitive areas to ensure avoidance during construction, and building permanent exclusionary fencing around sensitive habitat.
- Conducting turtle/amphibian rescues prior to any in-water work.
- Implementing speed limits on internal roads.
- Avoiding unnecessary clearing of vegetation around the terminal, access roads, and rail, wherever practical.
- Creating, securing, and managing off-site grassland habitat to support SAR species such as Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark.
- Implementing turtle habitat enhancements in Indian Creek and on-site ponds.
- Retaining natural vegetation along the boundaries of the Project where possible.
- Shielding outdoor lights to minimize light spillage beyond the required areas.

For more information about assessments related to species at risk, refer to Section 6.0 of the EIS, as well as Appendix E.16.

Monitoring

CN is working with a non-profit organization to identify opportunities for the creation, securement and long-term management of grassland habitat. Follow-up and monitoring programs will be undertaken to verify the accuracy of predicted effects and to determine the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures. Adaptive management will be used to identify and implement any additional mitigation measures, as required, to address unforeseen adverse effects identified through monitoring.

About CN's Milton Logistics Hub

CN is proposing to build and operate a new intermodal hub on CN-owned land, east of Tremaine Road and south of Britannia Road in Milton, Ontario. The Project is proposed to accommodate the growing demand for infrastructure to handle the increasing flow of goods in and out of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Canada's largest population area and the fastest-growing region in the country. The Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment by an independent joint review panel, under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*. CN is committed to ongoing engagement with Aboriginal communities, local governments and local communities to continue to find ways to mitigate potential effects and to enhance potential benefits locally. More information is available at cnmilton.ca.

For more information

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