

Fish and fish habitat

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 fish and fish habitat assessment analyzed the potential effects of the proposed Project on creeks and tributaries in the Project Development Area (PDA) – the area that would be directly disturbed or occupied by the physical footprint of the Project – and Local Assessment Area (LAA) – the area in which the effects of the Project would occur. Three watercourses in the LAA were confirmed as providing fish habitat that supports a commercial, recreational, or Aboriginal fishery as defined under the federal *Fisheries Act*:

- The main branch of Indian Creek
- Tributary A to Indian Creek in the PDA
- Tributary C to Indian Creek in the PDA

The assessment considered the potential environmental effects of the Project on:

- Water quality
- Fish habitat
- Fish mobility, migration, and passage
- Fish mortality

Assessment findings

Based on background data and site-specific information collected during two different periods, in 2013 and 2015, it was determined that:

- Indian Creek in the LAA provides moderate quality habitat for fish.
- Tributary A, downstream of the existing CN tracks (including the on-line agricultural pond), provides low quality habitat for fish.
- Tributary A (at Britannia Road), Tributary B and other headwater features in the LAA are not part of and are not considered to be suitable fish habitat.
- There are no aquatic species at risk (SAR), or suitable habitat for aquatic SAR, known to occur in the LAA.

Activities associated with Project construction and operation have the potential to adversely affect fish and fish habitat, due to effects on riparian vegetation, watercourses, and water quality. These potential effects would be managed through the implementation of proposed mitigation measures. Implementation of the final offsetting plan authorized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), including enhancements to Tributary A and Indian Creek, will result in there being no significant residual effects.



Tributary A facing northwest, upstream of online pond



Proposed mitigation and offsetting measures

Proposed mitigation measures for the protection of fish and fish habitat include:

- Implementing an environmental protection plan to reduce the risk of impacts during construction and operation, as well as a spill response and contingency plan.
- Avoiding in-water work during sensitive fisheries timing windows.
- Conducting fish salvages with qualified aquatic biologists, where required.
- Realignment, naturalization, and enhancement of Indian Creek and Tributary A using natural design principles.
- Installing and monitoring sediment and erosion controls, during all phases of construction.
- Managing surface runoff and drainage with diversion ditches, culverts, and stormwater management ponds.
- Integrating oil-grit separators and shut-off valves in the design of the stormwater management system to reduce risk of accidental spills to the downstream environment.

A Habitat Offsetting Plan will be implemented in consultation with the DFO so that no serious harm to fish occurs due to the Project.

For more information about assessments related to fish and fish habitat, refer to Section 6.0 of the EIS, as well as Appendix E.4.

Monitoring

A monitoring program will be implemented to evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and to monitor the potential for physical changes to the environment. This will include monitoring water quality at Tributary A

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

Visit us online: cnmilton.ca

Email us: milton@cn.ca

Call us: 1.800.216.9466

Visit our Information Centre:

61 James Snow Parkway, Suite 202
Milton, ON L9E 0H1

Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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