

Notice of Study Completion

Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for Development of a New Rest Centre on Highway 11 in the vicinity of Opatatika/Kapuskasing, Ontario (GWP 5133-22-00)

THE PROJECT

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) retained the services of Egis to carry out the Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for the development of a new rest centre located on Highway 11 in the vicinity of Opatatika/Kapuskasing, Ontario.

Following a detailed evaluation of alternatives, **Alternative 7 – Crown Land/Municipality of Opatatika Land** was identified at the preferred location, as shown in the figure.

This location was selected as it avoids impacts to private property while offering the best exposure to the travelling public and proximity to preferred landmarks. This location results in minimal natural environment impacts with favourable topography and access to hydro, telecommunications, and municipal services. Additional details regarding the evaluation and selection of the preferred alternative are provided in the Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) referenced below.

The proposed rest centre will operate 24 hours per day, year-round, and will provide potable water and heated washroom facilities for the travelling public. The facility will also include parking and outdoor amenities to support both passenger and commercial vehicle users. A detailed description of proposed amenities and site features is provided in the TESR.

THE PROCESS

The Preliminary Design was conducted in accordance with the approved planning process for Group "B" projects under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways (2024).

The Preliminary Design is now complete, and a Transportation Environmental Study Report (TESR) has been prepared and made available for public review. The TESR documents the existing conditions, consultation undertaken, evaluation of alternatives, selection of the preferred alternative, and environmental considerations, including proposed mitigation measures and future commitments.

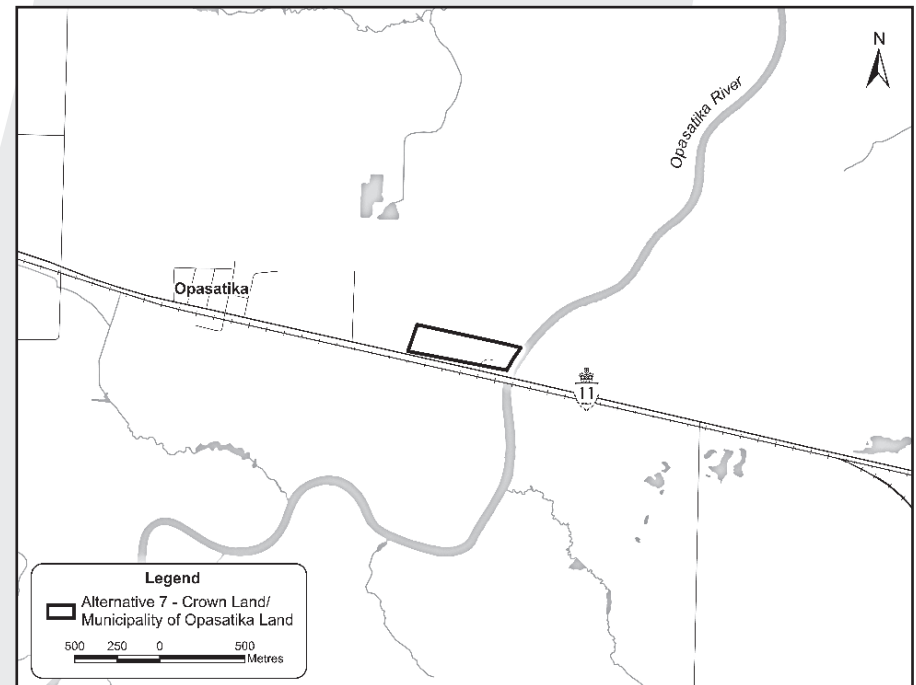
This notice is to inform stakeholders that the TESR will be available for a 30-day public review period from **March 5, 2026, to April 4, 2026**, on the project website: www.NorthernHighwayRestAreas.com. If concerns are raised during this time that cannot be resolved, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks may become involved to review the issue before the Class EA process is considered complete and the project proceeds to Detail Design and construction.

COMMENTS

All comments received during the review period will be considered by the project team following the close of the comment period. Responses will be provided upon request. Comments can be submitted through the project website or directed to the contacts listed below.

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Lindsay Keats, P.Eng.
Project Manager
Ministry of Transportation Ontario
Operations North/Operations Division
447 McKeown Avenue
North Bay, ON P1B 9S9
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northernhighwayrestareas.canada@egis-group.com



If you would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact a member of the project team or submit a request through the project website.

Individuals may request that the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) issue a Section 16 Order on the grounds that the order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights. Requests not made on these specific grounds will not be considered. If a Section 16 Order request is submitted, the project cannot proceed until the MECP has made a decision. Requests must include: the requestor's full name and contact information; the project name; the proponent's name; the type of order being requested; detailed reasons explaining how the order may address adverse impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights; information on any efforts made to resolve concerns directly with the proponent; and any other supporting information.

The request should be sent in writing or by e-mail to the Ministry of Transportation Project Manager listed above and to:

**Minister of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
e-mail: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

AND

**Director, Environmental
Assessment Branch**
Ministry of Environment, Conservation
and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
e-mail: EABDirector@ontario.ca

Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments become part of the public record. If you have accessibility requirements in order to be able to participate in this study, please contact one of the project team members listed above.