

Ministry of the Environment

Environmental Assessment and
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December 8, 2008

Mr. Denis Kelly
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



ENV1283MC-2008-4422

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. -

PO7

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your November 21, 2008 letter to the Minister of the Environment regarding York Region's Planning and Economic Development Committee's recommendations relating the proposed sites for the Northern York Region Procurement. Thank you also for copying Minister Gerretsen on Clause No. 4 in Report No. 10 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee. I am pleased to reply on behalf of the Minister.

First, let me assure you that the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and this government are committed to ensuring that there is a healthy environment for all Ontarians. Our role is to ensure the environment is protected in the planning, development and operation of electricity projects through requirements under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA), the *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) and the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) where applicable.

As you may already know, the Notices of Completion have been issued for five of the proposed natural gas fired generating sites for the Northern York Procurement including, Sithe Global Canadian Power's (Sithe Global) Sleuse Road site, Pristine Power Inc.'s (Pristine Power) York Energy Centre site, and Northland Power Inc.'s (Northland Power) East Gwillumbury site, Pitway site, and Miller Road site.

It is to my understanding that at York Region's request, Sithe Global, Pristine Power and Northland Power granted York Region reviewers an extension for the public and agency



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comment period. I am also aware that Sithe Global's comment period for York Region will now end on December 18, 2008, Pristine Power's on December 19, 2008, and Northland Power's on January 2, 2009. I would recommend that you contact the proponents to raise your concerns and/or recommendations you may have regarding their proposed project(s) at this point so that the proponents may have the opportunity to address them during the Environmental Screening Process.

If during this 30-day review period, there are still outstanding concerns regarding a project that cannot be resolved with the proponent, the concerned party can write to my position (Director of the MOE's Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EAAB)) to request that the proponent of the project be required to conduct an individual Environmental Assessment. The elevation request process is described in section B.4.1 of the "Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects". The guide can be found on the MOE's web site at: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4021e.pdf>. Where elevation requests are received, a proponent cannot proceed with implementation of the project until a final decision has been made on the elevation request(s).

If you have further questions regarding the Environmental Assessment process, please contact Ms. Narren Santos, Program Support Officer, EAAB, at 416-314-8442 or by e-mail at narren.santos@ontario.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Agatha Garcia-Wright

Director

Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch