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FOR INQUIRIES: PLEASE QUOTE ITEM & REPORT NO.

June 18, 2004

Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
P.O. Box 147
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 6Z1

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. - 103

Dear Mr. Kelly:

RE: HYDRO ONE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

I am writing to advise you that Vaughan Council, at its meeting held on June 14, 2004, adopted the following resolution:

"That Hydro One be advised that the Council of the City of Vaughan is adamantly opposed to the possible routing option under consideration in the City of Vaughan, and requires that Hydro One discontinue any further consideration of the possible routing option in the City of Vaughan; and that the following actions be undertaken by Hydro One prior to its determination of a preferred alternative; namely

1. *That Hydro One undertake, as part of the Class Environmental Assessment Process, a fully documented identification and assessment of all possible routes and options for expanded power transmission capacity to northern York Region, including the use of other transmission corridors supplying northern York Region, the use of existing and proposed Ministry of Transportation corridors such as Highway's 404, 400 and future 427, pursuing new corridors on rural lands, and any other viable alternatives;*
2. *That Hydro One, in evaluating all alternatives, give greater consideration to environmental, social and economic impacts on existing urban areas and established residential communities, including schools adjacent to and in close proximity to the proposed transmission lines;*
3. *That Hydro One, in considering any alternatives within existing urban areas, undertake further detailed analysis relating to:*
 - a) *A full inventory and assessment of natural features and functions that would be potentially affected by construction activities and transmission corridor operations, and relationship to adjacent urban development;*

.../2

- b) An assessment of the impact of the proposal on the intended use of the Hydro One transmission corridor for a future trail system activity linkages within urban areas;*
- c) An assessment of the visual impact of the power transmission towers in an established urban environment, including an assessment of the potential economic impact on homeowners and the loss of enjoyment of residential yards that are in proximity to the hydro corridors;*
- d) Review, with Transport Canada, the compliance of tower transmission heights with respect to Transport Canada Airport zoning regulations ;*
- e) Provide information on the effects of electromagnetic fields on human health; disclose the relative EMF strength emanating from the proposed 230 kV line; undertake a health risk assessment of the proposal in relation to adjacent urban land uses, in particular residential uses, schools and parks; and, identify mitigating measures that would ensure that any proposed changes in transmission capacity will not increase the public's exposure to electromagnetic fields;*
- f) A comparative analysis of the different costs of the various alternatives, to ensure that, inter alia, the cost of the selected alternative is appropriate in light of rising hydro rates;*

And that the City Clerk forward a copy of this report, Council's resolution, and any and all public submissions received by the City of Vaughan, to Hydro One, and request that the City be added to the project's contact list;

And that the City Clerk forward a copy of Council's resolution and all public submissions received by the City of Vaughan, to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Energy, area MPPs Greg Sorbara and Mario Racco, the Ontario Energy Board, the Region of York, the York Region District School Board, and the York Catholic District School Board;

And that the York Region Medical Officer of Health be requested to comment on the health issues related to electromagnetic fields (EMFs);

And that Mayor Michael Di Biase meet with the President of Hydro One and the Minister of Energy;

And that staff report back on engaging consultant(s) to provide legal and technical expertise in support of the City's opposition to the routing option through Vaughan;

And that staff be authorized, in the event that Hydro One decides to proceed with Alternative 2 routing through Vaughan, to request a "bump up" to an individual Environmental Assessment;

And that a "warning" clause be included in all future subdivision agreements for new subdivisions that abut Hydro One corridors or facilities in the City of Vaughan."

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Attached for your information is **Item 35, Report No. 51** of the Committee of the Whole regarding the above-noted matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. D. Leach", written over the typed name and title.

J. D. Leach
City Clerk

Attachment:
Extract

JDL/as

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2004

Item 35, Report No. 51, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 14, 2004, as follows:

By approving the following resolution:

"That Hydro One be advised that the Council of the City of Vaughan is adamantly opposed to the possible routing option under consideration in the City of Vaughan, and requires that Hydro One discontinue any further consideration of the possible routing option in the City of Vaughan; and that the following actions be undertaken by Hydro One prior to its determination of a preferred alternative; namely

- 1. That Hydro One undertake, as part of the Class Environmental Assessment Process, a fully documented identification and assessment of all possible routes and options for expanded power transmission capacity to northern York Region, including the use of other transmission corridors supplying northern York Region, the use of existing and proposed Ministry of Transportation corridors such as Highway's 404, 400 and future 427, pursuing new corridors on rural lands, and any other viable alternatives;***
- 2. That Hydro One, in evaluating all alternatives, give greater consideration to environmental, social and economic impacts on existing urban areas and established residential communities, including schools adjacent to and in close proximity to the proposed transmission lines;***
- 3. That Hydro One, in considering any alternatives within existing urban areas, undertake further detailed analysis relating to:***
 - a) A full inventory and assessment of natural features and functions that would be potentially affected by construction activities and transmission corridor operations, and relationship to adjacent urban development;***
 - b) An assessment of the impact of the proposal on the intended use of the Hydro One transmission corridor for a future trail system activity linkages within urban areas;***
 - c) An assessment of the visual impact of the power transmission towers in an established urban environment, including an assessment of the potential economic impact on homeowners and the loss of enjoyment of residential yards that are in proximity to the hydro corridors;***
 - d) Review, with Transport Canada, the compliance of tower transmission heights with respect to Transport Canada Airport zoning regulations ;***
 - e) Provide information on the effects of electromagnetic fields on human health; disclose the relative EMF strength emanating from the proposed 230 kV line; undertake a health risk assessment of the proposal in relation to adjacent urban land uses, in particular residential uses, schools and parks; and, identify mitigating measures that would ensure that any proposed changes in transmission capacity will not increase the public's exposure to electromagnetic fields;***
 - f) A comparative analysis of the different costs of the various alternatives, to ensure that, inter alia, the cost of the selected alternative is appropriate in light of rising hydro rates;***

And that the City Clerk forward a copy of this report, Council's resolution, and any and all public submissions received by the City of Vaughan, to Hydro One, and request that the City be added to the project's contact list;

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2004

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And that the City Clerk forward a copy of Council's resolution and all public submissions received by the City of Vaughan, to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Energy, area MPPs Greg Sorbara and Mario Racco, the Ontario Energy Board, the Region of York, the York Region District School Board, and the York Catholic District School Board;

And that the York Region Medical Officer of Health be requested to comment on the health issues related to electromagnetic fields (EMFs);

And that Mayor Michael Di Biase meet with the President of Hydro One and the Minister of Energy;

And that staff report back on engaging consultant(s) to provide legal and technical expertise in support of the City's opposition to the routing option through Vaughan;

And that staff be authorized, in the event that Hydro One decides to proceed with Alternative 2 routing through Vaughan, to request a "bump up" to an individual Environmental Assessment;

And that a "warning" clause be included in all future subdivision agreements for new subdivisions that abut Hydro One corridors or facilities in the City of Vaughan."

By receiving the report of Councillor Carella, dated June 7, 2004;

By receiving the additional report of Councillor Carella, dated June 14, 2004; and

By receiving the memorandum from the City Clerk, dated June 14, 2004.

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HYDRO ONE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

The Committee of the Whole recommends that this matter be referred to the Council meeting of June 14, 2004.

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends that the Council of the City of Vaughan inform Hydro One of its position in respect of this matter, as expressed in the following resolution:

WHEREAS Hydro One, a corporation subject to provincial regulation, seeks to increase the reliability of transmission supply to northern York Region; and

WHEREAS Hydro One is considering two alternatives in respect of this matter, the first being an increase in transmission capacity between its Parkway Transformer Station (in Markham) and its Armitage Transformer Station (in Newmarket); and the second being between its Clairville Transformer Station (in Vaughan) and its Armitage Transformer Station; and

WHEREAS public response to both alternatives has focused, *inter alia*, on the issue of the impact on human health of living in proximity to hydroelectric transmission lines—a question which may not be susceptible to a sufficient degree of scientific proof, one way or the other, that the matter will be deemed as settled in the near future;

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NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Vaughan urges Hydro One to adopt the first of the above-noted alternatives, as this alternative involves a substantially shorter distance and therefore cheaper final cost to all consumers of electricity.

Purpose

To indicate to all concerned parties the position of the City of Vaughan in respect of this matter

Background - Analysis and Options

Hydro One is seeking to improve the reliability of its transmission supply to northern York Region. To that end it is studying two alternatives. Alternative 1 contemplates an increase in transmission capacity along Hydro One's right-of-way from its Parkway Transformer Station (TS) in Markham to its Armitage TS in Newmarket. The second alternative would entail an increase in transmission capacity along the so-called Claireville TS-to-Minden TS corridor (which passes through the westerly portion of Vaughan) to a point in the northeast portion of King Township and thence to the Armitage facility.

Citizen groups in both Markham and Vaughan have been invited to comment on these alternatives, with the same sorts of concerns—mostly in respect of the possible effects of electromagnetic fields on the health of those residing near hydroelectric corridors—being expressed in both Markham and Vaughan. These concerns touch on matters which are highly controversial and subject to dispute (to some extent within the scientific community itself).

As it is highly unlikely that these concerns can or will be addressed and answered definitively in the immediate future, other considerations in respect to these two alternatives should be taken into account: specifically the wide difference in the cost of the two alternatives due to the difference in the distances to be covered.

With this in mind, the City of Vaughan recommends that Hydro One pursue the cheaper alternative, Alternative 1.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

N/A

Conclusion

As the same possible health concerns have been raised regarding the alternative routes being proposed for transmission capacity enhancement by Hydro One, this provincially-regulated utility should select the shorter and cheaper alternative when considering how best to increase the reliability of transmission supply to northern York Region.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella