

July 26, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Kelly:

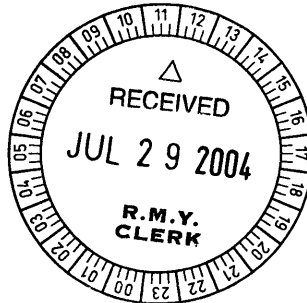
Thank you for your July 5, 2004, letter on behalf of the Region of York to the Minister of the Environment about Hydro One's proposed transmission project in York Region (Project). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister.

Projects of this type require approval under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. This approval is obtained by proponents through planning and implementing these projects in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities* (Class EA). The Class EA is a planning process approved by the Minister and Cabinet for transmission facilities projects.

The Class EA requires proponents to assess both alternative system options and alternative methods of carrying out the preferred system option in consultation with public and government agencies. Hydro One is also required to assess the potential environmental effects resulting from the Project and develop measures to mitigate those effects. The Class EA requires that an Environmental Study Report (ESR) be prepared, documenting the planning and development of the project and the public and agency consultation that was conducted. The ESR also provides a description of the proposed solution and the conceptual design for that solution.

Hydro One has advised this ministry that it is currently proceeding through the Class EA for this Project. Between April 28 and May 5, 2004, Hydro One held a number of public information centres for the Project, as one of its mandatory points of consultation, to solicit input regarding the planning and design of the Project. Further consultation with the public will be carried out as the planning of the Project proceeds.

As with all projects planned under the Class EA, a person or party with a concern should first bring the concern to the attention of the proponent as early as possible in the Class EA process. As the proponent, Hydro One should consult the person or party in an attempt to resolve the



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concern. This Branch has forwarded a copy of your letter to Ms. Carrie-Lyn Ognibene, Community Relations Officer at Hydro One. Hydro One is proceeding to take appropriate steps to try and resolve the concerns you have raised in your letter.

Hydro One has indicated that it anticipates issuing the Final Notice no earlier than September, 2004. The Final Notice will advise the public that the ESR for this Project has been prepared and will be available for public comment for a specified period, usually 30 days. A final opportunity to provide comments is given during this comment period. Further efforts to resolve concerns must be made by Hydro One at that point. Where concerns are not resolved through discussions with Hydro One, the person or party raising the concerns may make a written submission to the Minister of the Environment, asking that the Minister require the proponent to prepare an individual environmental assessment for the project. This is referred to by the Class EA as a bump-up request. A copy of the request must also be sent to Hydro One. This is required by the Class EA to be done during the 30-day comment period.

Please note that personal and other information in your letter such as name, address and telephone number and your concerns with this Project will form part of the public record on this matter. If you wish this information to be excluded from the public file, this Branch must be advised. Despite this, this information may still be obtained by members of the public if the ministry is required to disclose it under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If you have any questions regarding the Class EA process, you can contact this ministry's Central Regional Office at (416) 326-6700. The Central Regional Office is responsible for coordinating this ministry's activities as a technical review agency for projects proceeding through the Class EA process.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of this ministry.

Yours sincerely,



for James O'Mara
Director
Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch

c: Ms. Carrie-Lyn Ognibene, Community Relations Officer, Hydro One
Mr. Doug Magee, Team Leader, Hydro One