

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

Environmental Assessment and
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October 31, 2018

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
Suite 2701
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify a number of points raised in Hydro One's October 29, 2018 letter to the Ontario Energy Board regarding the Wawa Transformer Station Expansion Class Environmental Assessment.

Hydro One undertook a screening under the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities. The Class Environmental Assessment is a proponent-driven process. Hydro One is responsible for identifying and defining the undertaking, and completing the necessary studies and consultation requirements. Projects in the Class Environmental Assessment are approved under the Environmental Assessment Act, provided they are carried out in accordance with the commitments made in the "parent" Class Environmental Assessment document and subject to any Part II Order requests that may be received.

The ministry received a Part II Order request on July 25, 2018 from Michipicoten First Nation asking, among other things, that Hydro One be required to complete a Class Environment Assessment for the proposed project. The ministry requested further project information from Hydro One in July 2018. Discussions with Hydro One and Michipicoten First Nation continued over the summer and early fall of 2018. In September 2018, the ministry requested project documentation to assess whether Hydro One met the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment, including their screening document. Hydro One provided this information to the ministry in October 2018. The ministry reviewed the project documentation and determined that the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities were not met, and that the screening option is not the appropriate level of assessment for the project.

For the screening process to apply, the project may not be "*part or a precondition to a larger and more environmental significant project.*" As the Wawa Transformer station is part of the larger East West Tie Transmission project, the screening process cannot be

used. The link to the larger project was identified in Hydro One's environmental assessment work and their notices to the public.

The ministry met with Hydro One on October 26, 2018 to discuss their environmental assessment work and the Part II Order request submitted by Michipicoten First Nation. At this meeting, the ministry relayed its opinion to Hydro One that a Class Environmental Assessment (not a screening) for the Wawa Transformer Station Expansion is required for the project.

The ministry advised Hydro One that it would not have to restart its process, but that it would have to complete the appropriate work for this project. This would include another public meeting. It is hoped that completion of the Class Environmental Assessment will help address the Michipicoten First Nation's concerns with the project. Hydro One indicated that many of the outstanding requirements have already been completed but not documented. Given this, the ministry does not anticipate that the additional work for this project would be similar to completing a new Class Environmental Assessment. The ministry anticipates that the Class Environmental Assessment requirements can be completed in less than six months.

If you have any questions with respect to the Part II Order process, please contact me at 416-314-7967 or at Annamaria.Cross@ontario.ca

Sincerely



Annamaria Cross
Acting Director
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: L. Murray
Z. Crnojacki
Chief Tangine, Michipicoten First Nation
All Parties