

Hydro One Networks Inc.
7th Floor, South Tower
483 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P5
www.HydroOne.com

Tel: (416) 345-5393
Fax: (416) 345-6833
Joanne.Richardson@HydroOne.com



Joanne Richardson
Director – Major Projects and Partnerships
Regulatory Affairs

BY COURIER

November 27, 2018

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
Suite 2700, 2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

EB-2017-0364 – Hydro One Networks Inc.’s Section 92 – Lake Superior Link

I have received a copy of the letter sent to you from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg – Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation (PRFN) yesterday. To understand the background of this letter, I am forwarding you a copy of Ms. Goulais’ correspondence sent to PRFN and all other Indigenous communities impacted by this Project, on November 21, 2018, which this letter is responding to.

An electronic copy of this has been filed through the Ontario Energy Board’s Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JOANNE RICHARDSON

Joanne Richardson

Enc.

Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P5
Christine.Goulais@HydroOne.com

Tel. No. 1-416-345-4390



Christine Goulais
Senior Manager, Indigenous Relations

November 21, 2018

Chief Duncan Michano
Ojibways of Pic River First Nation
78 Pic River Road, PO Box 193
Pic River First Nation, ON P0T 1R0

RE: Hydro One's Lake Superior Link Project –Declaration Order

Dear Chief Michano,

As mentioned in previous conversations, Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) has initiated an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) for its proposed Lake Superior Link Project (the Project) and submitted its draft Terms of Reference to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on September 7, 2018.

This letter is to inform you that, if granted leave to construct from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), Hydro One also intends to apply to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks for a Declaration Order under Section 3.2 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). A Declaration Order is, essentially, an exemption from the EA Act which, if granted, would enable Hydro One to initiate the Lake Superior Link Project in a more timely manner than the Individual Environmental Assessment approval process.

It is important to note that our application for a Declaration Order is not intended in any way to avoid Hydro One's responsibility to adequately consult with Indigenous Communities, nor is it intended to reduce the number of studies to demonstrate that any potential adverse effects associated with the Lake Superior Link Project have been adequately addressed.

Hydro One has every intention of documenting the assessment work completed and continuing its Consultation regarding the Lake Superior Link Project as part of its Declaration Order request, as described in further detail below. We are contacting you now to initiate our Consultation with communities on Hydro One's intent to apply for a Declaration Order.

To ensure that an appropriate level of baseline studies have been conducted Hydro One will consider:

- (i) pre-existing environmental studies completed by others;
- (ii) studies Hydro One has undertaken to date; and
- (iii) studies Hydro One is committed to undertaking before beginning construction.

Together, the aforementioned work will help evaluate the extent of impacts on the natural and socio-economic environment in relation to the changes by Hydro One to the proposed route for the expansion of the East West Tie (EWT) Transmission Project. In adopting the EWT EA, Hydro One will assume all relevant conditions of the EA approval, mitigation measures, construction plans, and commitments developed in consultation with Indigenous communities, government agencies, stakeholders and the public.

To apply for the Declaration Order, Hydro One is preparing a Declaration Order Report (DOR). The DOR is intended to compile the environmental studies, effects evaluation and consultation conducted on the Project up to the time of submission of the Declaration Order request and to list commitments made. The DOR will also provide the rationale for why a Declaration Order is appropriate for the Lake Superior Link Project. This DOR will ultimately be reviewed by the Minister, who will make a decision on whether to issue the Declaration Order.

The Individual Environmental Assessment process will continue in parallel with the Declaration Order option. This is necessary to ensure that the Lake Superior Link Project and its associated benefits can commence at the earliest time possible.

By way of this letter, Hydro One is seeking feedback on how your community would like to learn more about the Declaration Order and be involved in the process to develop the DOR. Recognizing that this letter cannot provide sufficient information, in the coming weeks, Hydro One staff will be reaching out to you to arrange a time for a teleconference to discuss further the Declaration Order, the planned process including schedule, the development of the DOR and how you would like to be consulted and involved.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tausha Esquega at Tausha.Esquega@HydroOne.com or 1-807-346-3830 with your questions.

Sincerely,



Christine Goulais

cc: Brittany Moses, Environmental Coordinator
Jaunita Starr, Director of Sustainable Development