

OEB Staff Interrogatories

Leave to Construct Application for Lower Mattagami Reinforcement Project (File No. EB-2009-0078)

- 1) **Reference:** Exhibit A, Tab 2, Schedule 1, page 2, line 7

Preamble: The application indicates that the proposed addition which is the subject of this application is to be financially supported by Ontario Power Generation ("OPG") by means of a capital contribution consistent with the Transmission System Code. Since OPG generating stations using this line are non-prescribed assets, OPG should likely not receive compensation for this contribution in the form of rates for any of their regulated assets.

Question/request:

- a) Please provide quotes and proposals made to OPG in support of this project;
- b) Please indicate, perhaps by reference to OPG, if Hydro One is aware that OPG is not intending to seek compensation in any rates applications for its capital contribution to the current project.
- c) Indicate the nature, extent and timing of the capital contribution and milestones required to be met;
- d) Provide details and documentation of any commitments that have been made by OPG to Hydro One;
- e) Describe and provide any contracts or agreements between Hydro One and OPG in regard to this project.
- f) Is Hydro One doing the construction of this reinforcement for OPG as a result of a competition? If so, provide details.

- 2) **Reference:** Exhibit A, Tab 2, Page 2, paragraph 4, line 4

Preamble: "It is Hydro One's understanding that OPG will file a Leave to Construct Application with the Ontario Energy Board for this project at a later date." This refers to the construction of a line which is not part of the current application.

Question/Request:

- a) Have there been any developments since the application was submitted which provide further details of the mentioned OPG project and its effect on the current application?
- b) Is there any interdependence between the current proposed Hydro One project and the mentioned OPG project(s)?
- c) If the OPG project is not granted a Leave to Construct, or if OPG decides not to proceed with their project, will the current project proceed?

- 3) **Reference:** Exhibit B, Tab 2, Page 1.

Preamble: Board staff understands that Hydro One frequently makes use of contractors for building of Line Facilities.

Question/Request:

- a) Will contractors or temporary employees or regular employees be used for the facilities required by the present application?

- b) If yes, would they be contracted on the basis of competitive bids?
 - c) What capabilities are required of contractors? Please provide this information with respect to:
 - i) Project management
 - ii) Design
 - iii) Construction
 - iv) Operation and maintenance
 - v) Examples of similar projects that have been undertaken
- 4) **Reference:** Exhibit B, Tab 4, Page 1
Preamble:
Question/Request:
Please indicate, for the labour portion of the project, the extent to which expenses to be incurred would be
- a) Paid to contractor firms
 - b) Hydro One's own permanent labour force
 - c) Hydro One's temporary or agency employees
- 5) **Reference:** 1) Exhibit A, Tab 2, Schedule 1, Page 2, paragraph 5
2) Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 3 (SIA document)
Preamble: The IESO has provided a version 1.0 (unsigned) SIA document and it is indicated that a revised version is expected.
Question/Request:
- a) Please provide a finalized signed SIA document or an indication of when it is expected to be received;
 - b) For each of the requirements of the "IESO for connection for Hydro One" (ref 2 at page 3) please indicate the steps to be undertaken to fulfil the requirement.
 - c) For each of the items in b) please indicate whether it is included in the scope of the current application, and who pays for it.
- 6) **Reference:** Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 7.
Preamble: Public Information documents in Attachment B of the reference reflect that 10 towers of 12 would be modified. However in the letters to First Nations in Attachment F and elsewhere in the application Hydro One speaks of 11 out of 13 towers being modified.
Question/Request:
- a) Why is there a difference in the two attachments?
 - b) What is the correct Scope of Work?
- 7) **Reference:** 1) Exhibit A, tab 2, page 3, paragraph 10
2) Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 4 (CIA document)
Preamble: Hydro One has provided an unsigned CIA document which is indicated as "final".
Question/Request:
- a) Please provide a signed final CIA document or an indication of when it is to

be available.

- b) For the outages that will be required (ref 2, page 10) please indicate if consultation has occurred with First Nations groups.

- 8) **Reference:** 1) Exhibit A, tab 2, page 3, paragraph 8.
2) Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 8, page 1.

Preamble: The Reference indicates that an environmental screening was to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment in April 2009.

Question/Request: Please:

- a) Provide a copy of the report referred to; and
- b) Provide an update on the current status and schedule of the environmental review processes.
- c) Are there any Federal environmental or other reports or licenses required?

- 9) **Reference:** Exhibit B, Tab 6, Page 2

Preamble: Compliance with Industry Standards and Codes

Question/Request:

- a) Please indicate the relevant standards for design and construction of the transmission facilities.
- b) Please indicate the voltage and nature of any other existing facilities in the Hydro One right-of-way which might affect construction;
- c) Please indicate installation procedure for the additional 230kV line in relation to continuing operation of the existing facilities in the right-of-way.
- d) Please indicate design and construction standards and procedures, relating to high voltage and other electromagnetic effects, which will protect pre-existing facilities and personnel from direct and induced currents and voltages. Include in your discussion corrosion protection, cable location identification, and grounding for safety and "tingle" or "stray" voltage.

- 10) **Reference:** Exhibit A, Tab 3, Schedule 1, Page 2, line 22.

Preamble: It is mentioned that the second circuit is being installed on existing structures and is designed in accordance with good utility practice and the Transmission Service Code.

Question/Request:

- a) Please indicate whether the addition of the second line on existing towers increases susceptibility to the loss of two lines and if so, how this additional susceptibility is offset by the availability of dual paths.
- b) Please indicate if redesigned towers will meet standards and implemented practices achieved elsewhere in the province for ability to withstand events such as the ice storm and similar events.

- 11) **Reference:** Exhibit A, Tab 3, Schedule 1, Page 3, line 20

Preamble: Some aspects of the scheduling may have changed since the application was made.

Question/Request:

- a) Please provide a schedule update if required by circumstances.

- b) Are there any special reasons why this project requires a Leave to Construct almost three years in advance of construction commencement.

12) **Reference:** None

Preamble: A complete list is required of permits and approvals which are necessary for commencement of the transmission line project (including transformer stations and customer switching stations).

Question/Request:

- a) Please identify all permits and approvals that will be required prior to commencement of the proposed project construction;
- b) Indicate the current status and the time-line for obtaining each permit and approval.

- 13) **Reference**
- 1) Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 9
 - 2) Métis Nation of Ontario, Traditional Harvesting Territories (attachment to application for intervenor status).
 - 3) Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 7

Preamble: An update is requested for the status of land and land rights acquisition. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is an intervenor in the proceeding and has provided information (ref 2) which indicates that the project falls within their harvest areas. In reference 3) it is indicated that Hydro One is “working closely with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and understands that its consultation process for the lower Mattagami River Project has included information...”

Question/Request:

- a) Please provide an update on the title search regarding mining locations claims along the proposed transmission line route (reference 1, page 1, first bullet);
- b) Please inform the Board of how the MNO information might affect the proceeding. In the next question (13 below), please include consideration of Traditional Harvesting Territory.
- c) What is the basis of the “understanding” that OPG is including information from this project in its consultations?

- 14) **References:**
- 1) Exhibit A, Tab 2, Schedule 1, page 3. Paragraph 9;
 - 2) Exhibit B, Tab 6, Schedule 7, Attachment F

Preamble: It is mentioned at reference 1) that Hydro One has notified stakeholders and local First nations and Métis communities of the project and in reference 2) letters are provided indicating contact with First Nations communities within the study area.

Question/Request: Please provide a status update on consultations with First Nations communities with regard to the following points:

- i) Identify all of the Aboriginal groups that have been contacted in respect of this application.
- ii) Indicate:
 - i) how the Aboriginal groups were identified;
 - ii) when contact was first initiated;
 - iii) the individuals within the Aboriginal group who were contacted, and their position in or representative role for the group;
 - iv) a listing, including the dates, of any phone calls, meetings and other means that may have been used to provide information about the project and hear any interests or concerns of Aboriginal groups with respect to the project.
- b) Provide relevant information gathered from or about the Aboriginals as to their treaty rights, or any filed and outstanding claims or litigation concerning their treaty rights or treaty land entitlement or aboriginal title or rights, which may potentially be impacted by the project.
- c) Provide any relevant written documentation regarding consultations, such as notes or minutes that may have been taken at meetings or from phone calls, or letters received from, or sent to, Aboriginal groups.
- d) Identify any specific issues or concerns that have been raised by Aboriginal groups in respect of the project and, where applicable, how those issues or concerns will be mitigated or accommodated.
- e) Explain whether any of the concerns raised by Aboriginal groups with respect to the applied-for project have been discussed with any government department or agencies, and if so, identify when contacts were made and who was contacted.
- f) If any of the Aboriginal groups who were contacted either support the application or have no objection to the project proceeding, identify those groups and provide any available written documentation of their position. Also, indicate if their positions are final or preliminary or conditional in nature.
- g) Provide details of any known Crown involvement in consultations with Aboriginal groups in respect of the applied-for project.

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