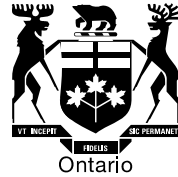


**Ontario Energy
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BY E-MAIL

September 18, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Application for Leave to Construct a Transmission Line
by Talbot Windfarm Limited Partnership
Board File No. EB-2009-0290**

Please find attached the Board Staff's Interrogatories with respect to the above proceeding.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Edik Zwarenstein
Project Advisor, Applications
Attachments

cc Applicant, Intervenor

Board Staff Interrogatories Leave to Construct Transmission Facilities for Talbot Windfarm LP EB-2009-0290

Interrogatory 1

Reference: Exhibit J/Tab 1/Page 1 and 2

Preamble:

A "Table of Required Permits" is provided in the reference tab.

Question/Request:

- a) Please provide an update of the table including all permits -and approvals- that will be required prior to commencement of the proposed project construction
- b) Indicate the current status and the timeline for obtaining each permit and approval.

Interrogatory 2

Reference: Exhibit B/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Page 1/Paragraph 3.(i)

Preamble: None

Question/Request:

What is a "HICO equivalent" transformer?

Interrogatory 3

Reference: Exhibit B/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Page 3/Paragraph 9

Preamble:

The paragraph indicates that "... an updated and joint SIA and Customer Impact Assessment application was submitted..." and that "a Part II SIA is expected to be issued ... in the fall of 2009 followed by the issuance of a Customer Impact Assessment by Hydro One".

Question/Request:

- a) Please provide an update on when these documents might be expected; and
- b) Please confirm that the only changes from the first application relate to the use of different turbines or alternatively, indicate what the additional changes were e.g. capacitor banks, voltage control etc., breaker fault level, transformer specifications etc

Interrogatory 4

Reference: Exhibit D/Tab 3/Schedule 1/Page 1

Preamble:

The first bullet indicates that design of “corner structures are likely to simply be reinforced single pole; detailed design will be completed upon finalization of geotechnical analysis and final engineering design.”

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 right-of-way which might affect construction;
- c) 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.

Interrogatory 5

Reference: Exhibit E/Tab 4/Schedule 1/Page 1/ second paragraph

Preamble:

In regard to motor operated disconnects (“MODs”) in the switching station, the paragraph indicates that “A second MOD may be installed at some time in the future, in order to facilitate an alternate connection to Hydro One’s W45LC to provide the IESO with more flexibility for managing system reliability” and that “The determination of whether and when the Talbot Windfarm Transmission Line will be connected to circuit W45LC instead of to circuit W44LC, will be made by the IESO.”

Question/Request:

Please indicate:

- a) Does this mean that the IESO will be making the decision as to whether the second MOD will be acquired or not? Or does it mean simply that the IESO will decide to deploy the second MOD to connect to the W45LC circuit?
- b) Will the second MOD be installed at the same time as the rest of the switching station equipment?
- c) What is the determinant of whether and when the second MOD will be acquired?
- d) What is the impact on reliability of supply of windfarm energy to the grid if there is only a connection to the W44LC circuit?

Interrogatory 6

Reference: Exhibit G/Tab 2/Schedule 1/Page 1

Preamble:

The references on this page for the exhibits for the various forms of lease appear to be wrong. The lease forms themselves do not have the exhibit reference number on them

Question/Request:

Please confirm that

- a) At lines 22 and 23 the version 1(a) and 1(b) forms are at exhibit G/Tab 2/schedule 4 (not 3); and
- b) At line 24 the version 2 form is at exhibit G/Tab 2/schedule 5 (not 4).

Interrogatory 7

Reference: Exhibit B/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Page 2/Paragraph 6
Exhibit G/Tab 2/Schedule 1/Page 1

Preamble:

The first referenced paragraph indicates that Talbot "... expects to execute the remaining two leases shortly." The second reference indicates that "terms of agreement have been agreed upon ... but the ... leases have not yet been executed."

Question/Request:

Please indicate if this has occurred and confirm that it is in accordance with the forms of leases in Exhibit G Tab 2 Schedules 3 and 4.

Interrogatory 8

Reference: Exhibit B/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Page 2/Paragraph 7
Exhibit G/Tab 3/Schedule 1/Page 1

Preamble:

The first referenced paragraph indicates that "Both of these agreements are expected to be executed shortly." The second reference indicates Talbot is "currently in the process of securing two additional easements/rights of entry..."

Question/Request:

Please indicate if this has occurred and confirm that it is in accordance with the forms of agreement in Exhibit G Tab 3 Schedule 3.

Interrogatory 9

Reference: Exhibit G/Tab 3/Schedule 2/Page 1

Preamble:

A variance is indicated for owner Van Leeuwen.

Question/Request:

Please indicate how agreement on pole placement has been or is expected to be reached.

Interrogatory 10

Reference: Exhibit G/Tab 5/Schedule 1/Page 1
Exhibit E/Tab 2/Schedule 1/Page 1

Preamble:

The first reference in the second paragraph indicates there will not be transmission towers within 45 metres of the Highway 401 right of way. In the second reference the application indicates that “the span length between each pole is expected to be approximately 100 metres”.

Question/Request:

- a) What will be the span between towers for the crossing of Highway 401?
- b) What are the standards that cover the spans of 100 metres?
- c) What are the tower design features and standards that cover this longer span?

Interrogatory 11

Reference: Exhibit B/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Page 3/Paragraph 12
Exhibit H/Tab 1/Schedule 1/Page 2/lines 21 and 22

Preamble:

In regard to the 37 requests to elevate the project to an individual environmental assessment, the paragraph indicates that “the MOE is in the process of reviewing these requests and decision in this regard is imminent.”

Question/Request:

- a) Please provide the results of the decision by the MOE.
- b) Are there any Federal environmental or other reports or licenses required?

Interrogatory 12

Reference: Exhibit H/Tab 1/Schedule 2/Environmental Review Report/ Environmental Impact Statement, section 5.7, pages 41 - 46

Preamble:

The referenced pages indicate aboriginal consultations which have taken place. Section 5.7.3 on page 46 indicates that “RES is committed to continuing to consult with Aboriginal communities who have asserted (they) have potentially affected interests.”

Material on the website does not appear on the record of the proceeding.

Question/Request:

- a) Please provide a status update on consultations with Aboriginal communities with regard to the following points:
 - i) Identify all of the Aboriginal communities that have been contacted in respect of this application.
 - ii) Indicate:
 - i) how the Aboriginal communities were identified;
 - ii) when contact was first initiated;
 - iii) the individuals within the Aboriginal community who were contacted, and their position in or representative role in the community;
 - 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 communities with respect to the project.
- b) Provide relevant information gathered from or about the Aboriginal community concerning 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 communities.
- d) Identify any specific issues or concerns that have been raised by Aboriginal communities 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 communities 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 communities 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 know Crown involvement in consultations with Aboriginal communities in respect of the applied-for project.

-End of document-