



TOWN OF  
**HALTON HILLS**  
*Working Together Working for You!*

Ref: 08-020

February 29, 2008

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor 2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2007-0050 - Request for Observer Status**

We received the Notice of Amended Application which indicates that we can request Observer Status on Hydro One Networks' section 92 Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement Application. A report was taken to Halton Hills Council on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to obtain confirmation to seek Observer Status and upon Council's direction we are now doing so.

We appreciate that we are beyond the 15 days specified in the notice but as we have been participating in this process since the beginning we are requesting that you allow us to continue our participation by granting us Observer Status regardless of the slight timing oversight. With Observer Status we can continue to receive information to assess this very important project to the Town of Halton Hills. We have included for your files a copy of the Planning Staff report presented to council and the subsequent council resolution. Should you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Bruce MacLean  
Director of Planning Development  
Ext. 2296

c. Glen MacDonald - Hydro One Networks Inc.  
Monica Wallenfalls - Regional Municipality of Halton  
Janet Amos, MCIP, RPP - Amos Environment + Planning  
Mayor Rick Bonnette - Town of Halton Hills  
Dennis Perlin, CAO - Town of Halton Hills

Encls. Report PD-2008-0014 & Council Resolution GC-2008-0065



## REPORT

**REPORT TO:** Mayor R. Bonnette and Members of Council

**REPORT FROM:** Bruce D. MacLean, Director of Planning & Development

**DATE:** February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**REPORT NO.:** PD-2008-0014

**RE:** Bruce-Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the monitoring report from Amos Environment + Planning dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 relating to the Bruce-Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the review and recommendations outlined in the monitoring report from Amos Environment + Planning dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 shown as attachment 1 to report PD-2008-0014.

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the following actions:

1. That the Region and the Town formalize the coordinated arrangements for the review of the terms of reference and monitoring of the EA process and that staff report back at a later date;
2. That Hydro One be requested to provide secondary level information to the Town and the Region relating to the local refinement evaluation process in order that the scope and accuracy of the information can be assessed by the Town and the Region.
3. That the Town staff write the Ontario Energy Board to seek observer status as part of the application for leave to construct, in concert with the Region representation, in order to ensure that the Town receives all information and can continue to monitor the process.

### BACKGROUND:

Amos Environment + Planning has been retained by the Town to monitor and report on the Bruce-Milton Transmission Reinforcement EA project. Council will recall that staff previously reported (PD-2007-0052 & PD-2007-0063) in July and September 2007 on

employing a consultant and evaluating the initial Terms of Reference. Town Council recommended that the west side of the Hydro Corridor in the Town be examined in comparison to the east side of the corridor in order to determine the best location with minimal impact. Also the consulting firm of Amos Environment + Planning was employed to continue to monitor the process.

Attached to this report (attachment #1) is a status report and suggested actions by Amos Environment + Planning relating to the release of a revised Terms of Reference involving local refinement routes, as well as an update of the process, since staff last reported in September 2007.

### **COMMENTS:**

Attachment #1 to this report is a report by Amos Environment + Planning the consultant retained by the Town to evaluate and monitoring the EA study associated with expanding the Bruce – Milton Hydro Corridor through the Town.

The Report by the consultant addresses revisions to the Terms of Reference which relate to local refinements that are being considered in some municipalities including the Town of Halton Hills. Specifically portions along the west side of the corridor are now being considered with a potential switchover point to the east side of the corridor occurring in the vicinity of Provincial Highway # 7. This potential revision to the terms of reference is consistent with an earlier submission made by the Town. The refined Terms of Reference were submitted to the Minister of the Environment for Approval and this is anticipated in March 2008. Staff has attached two maps that illustrate the areas being considered as part of Hydro One's refinement process. (see attachments)

Also the Town's consultant has been monitoring the process and indicated that Hydro One at a workshop on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 advised that the assessment work on the possibility of using the west side of the corridor was being advanced fairly quickly and was at present relying on secondary level information as no field work has been done at this stage.

The consultant advises that Halton Region which the Town has been partnering with has been granted intervenor status to the Ontario Energy Board Hearings on the Leave to Construct application, as the Region like the Town continues to track this process. The consultant is recommending that the Region and the Town continue to discuss a common approach between the two municipalities in light of our mutual interest in landowner rights, and natural environment protection and where possible enhancement.

The consultant on page 6 of their report provides five recommendations on follow up actions. This includes continual monitoring of the process jointly by the Town and the Region, requesting up to date information and resources to evaluate the best solution, the Town seeking observer status at the Ontario Energy Board hearing in order to

ensure that we receive all relevant information from OEB, and formalizing further a joint arrangement between the Town, the Region and the Town of Milton for the joint review of the terms of reference and the EA process.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This matter does not relate directly to the Strategic Plan and the detailed actions contained therein.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no impact on the operating and capital budgets as a result of the recommendations of this report.

**COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:**

This report will require further communication with the Region of Halton, Hydro One, the Ontario Energy Board, and Town residents and associations such as Powerline Connections.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

This report involves participation by the Town in an EA Study review process, the purposes of which is to assess the environment impacts that may occur as a result of the expansion of an existing hydro transmission corridor that runs in a north south direction through the Town.

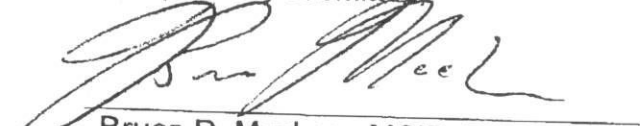
**CONSULTATION:**

The preparation of this report has resulted in consultation between the CAO, the Town's consultant, the Region of Halton and Hydro One.

**CONCLUSION:**

The consulting firm of Amos Environment + Planning has provided the Town with a monitoring report relating to the Bruce – Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project, and specifically revisions to the EA terms of reference that address a local refinement process. As well the Consultant has provided the Town with suggested actions that are tied to formalizing arrangements with the Town and Region of Halton and the continued efforts of both municipalities to ensure that landowner's rights and the natural environment is protected and where possible enhanced. The report also recommends that the Town seek observer status at OEB hearings to ensure that the Town is provided with ongoing and updated information.. Recommendations have been provided in the report for Council's consideration.

Respectfully submitted



Bruce D. MacLean MCIP, RPP  
Director of Planning & Development



Dennis Y. Perlin  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Attachment #1 to PD-2008-0014

Amos

Environment + Planning

February 15, 2008

Mr. Bruce MacLean, MCIP, RPP,  
Director of Planning  
Town of Halton Hills  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Halton Hills ON L7G 5G2

Dear Mr. MacLean

Re: Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project  
Comments on the Route Refinement Meeting with Hydro One

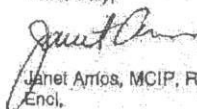
I am pleased to provide comments on the Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project with regard to the revised Terms of Reference and the recent route refinement meeting held in Orangeville on January 29, 2008.

Since my last report to you, Hydro One has formally revised their Terms of Reference and submitted them to the Ministry of the Environment for their review. Secondly, as part of my assignment for the Town of Halton Hills I attended this recent meeting on behalf of the Town to listen and ask questions. At that meeting were numerous other municipal representatives from the other areas of route refinement. From the Halton Hills area, the CVC (Liam Marray), NEC (Neil Hester) and Halton Region (Jason Scott) attended. As requested, I am providing the attached report addressing the terms and the meeting.

This report is organized into four sections: Revised Terms of Reference; Hydro One Potential Route Refinements Agencies/Municipal workshop, Coordination with Halton Region and Follow up actions for Town of Halton Hills.

Should you require additional information, please contact me directly.

Yours truly,



Janet Amos, MCIP, RPP  
Encl.

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Phone: 705-764-0580 Fax: 705-764-1514 Email: amos@primus.ca



## **TOWN OF HALTON HILLS – UPDATE ON BRUCE TO MILTON TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT**

### **1. Terms of Reference – Revised by Hydro One December 2007**

#### Background

Hydro One issued Terms of Reference for the Bruce to Milton EA project in compliance with the Environmental Assessment Act in August 2007. These Terms of Reference were the subject of public and agency consultation. In response to comments received the Terms of Reference were revised and re-submitted in November. The most up-to-date version of the Terms of Reference was submitted to the Minister of the Environment for review and approval in December 2007. A copy of the Terms of Reference, December 2007 is available in the Halton Hills Council Lounge or on the Hydro One website at:

[http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/community/projects/transmission/bruce\\_to\\_milton/default.asp](http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/community/projects/transmission/bruce_to_milton/default.asp)

The main revisions to the Terms of Reference were the introduction of three local refinement routes – one of which is in Halton Hills and runs parallel with the existing Hydro One corridor from the Milton Transformer Substation to approximately Highway 7. See attached Hydro One maps from the advertisement of the recent Public Open Houses on the Route Refinements.

#### Review of Previous Recommendations

In my August 22, 2007 report to the Town, I noted that Halton Hills asked Hydro One to revise the location of the proposed Halton Hills switch-over during the course of the Environmental Assessment in order to find a location which minimizes as much disruption as possible (i.e., natural, social, cultural, etc.). An initial analysis by Town staff of the Hydro One-proposed reference route indicated that there may be natural, social and economic benefits to relocating the transmission corridor from the east to west side, for an indeterminate distance (~20 kilometres) north of the currently proposed switch-over.

As a result of the Town's desire to see a fuller examination of the west side alternative, Hydro One revised their interpretation of "localized refinements" and subsequently revised the Terms of Reference submitted to the Ministry of the Environment to address this. (See attached Hydro One maps labeled Halton Hills A and B showing the north and south portions of the two routes.)

In the summer of 2007, the Town noted that siting this facility within Halton Hills will be a key consideration in the Environmental Assessment to be scrutinized by the Town of Halton Hills. The Town was also concerned that Hydro One had insufficiently notified landowners on the west side of the corridor.

The recommendations of the Amos report to the Town on August 22, 2007 were enhance references to the proposed local refinements in the Terms of Reference and to ensure that both routes received a comprehensive examination. At the time it was noted that Hydro One need to provide additional and timely notification of landowners on the west side of the corridor (i.e., local refinement). In that report, Halton Hills noted its support for the Region of Halton with regard to the need for Hydro One to identify and repair and/or provide enhancements to environmental features or functions within any areas of disturbance."

### Review of Revised Terms of Reference

A review of the revised Terms of Reference indicates that these requests have been substantively addressed.

The revised Terms of Reference state that any local refinements, if they were required, would be based on all available field data, environmental criteria/measures and will be made in consultation with agencies, local officials, interested Aboriginal communities and groups, and local land owners. Hydro One expected to consider refinements that could provide positive benefits by mitigating potential environmental effects and addressing stakeholder issues.

Hydro One promised to conduct a clear, logical and traceable evaluation of these refinements. The decision-making process will include input from agencies, municipalities, Aboriginal communities and groups, and the general public. Hydro One's approach will present the trade-offs between various evaluation factors, and document the reason why the reference route or route refinement is preferred. Hydro One also noted that they may use a quantitative weighted criteria method.

Further, with regard to the timely notification of landowners on the west side of the corridor, Hydro One's Terms of Reference commit them to consulting those affected by the proposed local refinements.

Hydro One's consultation efforts have been extensive. They have met with the public, landowners and agencies since the announcement of the local refinements. Also Hydro One has applied for access to the lands relevant to the west side corridor via the Ontario Energy Board. Hydro One has assured Regional and Town staff that all the landowners affected by the proposed refinement route have been notified and provided opportunities to participate in the Ontario Energy Board proceedings in which Hydro One has requested Leave to Construct the facility.

In the revised Terms of Reference, Hydro One makes statements that would appear to address the Town's stated concern that Hydro One should provide enhancements to environmental features or functions within the immediate area of disturbance. Hydro One stated that they will identify opportunities for habitat enhancement in environmentally significant areas in addition to the using appropriate construction procedures and associated mitigation measures for site cleanup and restoration to pre-construction conditions (page 57). Hydro One will seek opportunities to enhance those environmental components which may have been affected during the course of the project. For example, they may re-establish habitat for terrestrial or aquatic species or implement a tree planting or tree replacement program (page 45). Hydro One has indicated that potential effects on the natural, socioeconomic, cultural, and agricultural environment will be analyzed and measures will be considered to eliminate, avoid, or mitigate negative effects or enhance positive effects (page 30).

The revised Terms of Reference are clear with regard to compensation for landowners. Hydro One has stated that compensation will be available to those whose property will be crossed by the approved transmission corridor. Other properties directly affected by the proposed right-of-way widening will have independent appraisals for the required easement in the area of the proposed widened corridor done by Hydro One. Hydro



One will make offers to such directly affected landowners based on market value (page 62).

Hydro One stated that they are committed to fair, open and consistent treatment of all affected landowners. Further, Hydro One will consult with municipal stakeholders to minimize any inconveniences caused by the project and will consult with municipalities to understand and address their concerns (page 63). In addition to these statements, Hydro One has been clear about its policies and procedures for compensation and advised meeting attendees that wood clearing and placement of towers may be discussed on a site-by-site basis.

## **2. Hydro One Potential Route Refinements Agencies/Municipal Workshop**

### Purpose of the Meeting

At the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting in Orangeville numerous municipal representatives from the other areas of route refinement were in attendance. From the Halton Hills area, the CVC (Liam Marray), NEC (Neil Hester) and Halton Region (Jason Scott) attended. I attended on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills.

Hydro One's purpose in hosting this workshop was to consult agencies and municipalities with regard to the potential local refinements (i.e., alternatives to the reference route) for the Bruce to Milton Project. These "alternatives" to the preferred route were identified by Hydro One in the fall 2007. This full day meeting was intended to present an updated project timeline, review the results of the studies of the "existing environment" in general terms and solicit feedback about the evaluation criteria to be used for the selection of the route.

It appears that Hydro One has moved on from their consideration of the Terms of Reference and is now focused on the need to move quickly through the initial steps in the EA evaluation. The first step to be tackled is the selection of either the reference route or the local refinement route.

### Background

Hydro One is considering potential local refinements to the reference route for the Bruce to Milton Project. These "alternatives" to the reference route (the preferred route) were identified by Hydro One as a result of the public and agency consultation in the fall 2007. The consultations with affected landowners and other stakeholders lead Hydro to realize that specific areas for other localized routes could be considered as potential refinement opportunities. Hydro One have stated that they only selected a local refinement route if it presented a clear opportunity for significant benefits.

The local refinement route in Halton Hills is at the southerly end of the line, located north of Milton Substation. Hydro One's current plan is to evaluate a refinement to the original reference route. The proposed reference route (i.e., initially preferred by Hydro One) would twin the existing 500kV line from the Milton Substation northwards and would switch over on the north side of Steeles Avenue to the new towers to be built on the east side of the existing line. The refinement route proposes a hydro line switch-over to the existing 500kV towers a few kilometers from Milton Substation so that most of the new line is built on west side of the existing corridor. The refinement route,

created at the suggestion of the Town of Halton Hills, would accommodate nearby planned commercial developments in the Halton Hills.

Feedback obtained through consultations with landowners and other stakeholders suggested that Hydro One consider relocation the switch over at a point further to the north than originally planned by approximately 20 km. The purpose of the refinement was to reduce potential socio-economic impacts (i.e., potential property purchases) in Halton Hills in comparison to the reference route which follows the east side of the existing corridor. Hydro One committed to conduct an assessment to determine *where* the switch-over to the west side of the existing corridor should be placed to reduce these and other impacts.

#### Evaluation of Refinements

Hydro One and its consultants have initiated their evaluation of each the identified route refinements in Hanover, Camp Creek and Halton Hills. At this time, Hydro One is completing its consultation with landowners and affected agencies, municipalities, reviewing data, applying criteria to complete the evaluation of the preferred versus the refinement routes

Hydro One advised that they will make a decision to proceed using either the reference route or the local refinement route early in 2008. This decision will be available in a report on the website and participants will be notified.

Evaluation criteria to be used for the route refinements were not presented at the January 29 meeting. The Hydro One team presented some of the various existing environmental components which they will be addressing with regard to these topics: natural, cultural, agricultural, socio-economic and visual landscape.

The Hydro One team indicated that their sources will include Canada Land Inventory data, Ministry data (e.g., Conservation Authority, MNR data), digital photos, Official Plans/zoning information and consultation. Input was actively sought on the criteria to be used for evaluation.

Hydro One has asked for input on the evaluation criteria and the references that they will be using to conduct the refinement route evaluation. On behalf of Halton Hills I offered to follow up and/or meet with Hydro One to ensure that they have the correct and up-to-date reference materials.

Halton Hills Action: Staff and consultant to follow up and/or meet with Hydro One to ensure that they have the correct and up-to-date reference materials.

#### Property Owner Contact

Hydro One has informed all newly affected landowners of the consideration of the local refinement route. Landowners were notified through a combination of direct mail, admail and ads in local newspapers about potential refinements and a second round of Public Open Houses that were held in the vicinity of the potential route refinements on November 19 and 21, 2007 in Hanover and Acton, respectively. The primary purpose of these Public Open Houses was to inform newly potentially affected landowners of the project and activities to date.

In November Hydro One held a round of Public Open Houses on the route refinements. In January and February, Hydro One held Saturday workshops for landowners on the local route refinements in all three areas in Hanover, the Camp Creek area (West Grey) and the Halton Hills area.

Landowners along the reference route and within 500 metres of the reference and potential refinements routes were notified of potential refinements and of consultation opportunities through a combination of admail and newspaper ads, individual letters.

Halton Hills Action: No further action required at this time.

#### Visual Impacts

Hydro One has retained a visual impact specialist who is comparing the visual impacts of the local refinement routes versus the reference route. The visual landscape specialist will also be focusing on the NEC lands due to their sensitivity and policies related to visual impacts. This study appears to be moving quickly. In general, his conclusions are that twinning the lines and placing the towers in parallel with existing towers will reduce the visual intrusions compared with a new route or unique tower placements. Some tree planting will be proposed to mitigate visual impacts in key locations (e.g., roads, trails).

Halton Hills Action: No further action required at this time.

#### Proposed Property Requirements

Based on the maps provided by Hydro One (see attached Halton Hills north and south maps) at the meeting on January 29, 2008, the following summarizes the proposed or potential buyouts required for each of the two possible routes:

Location	Refinement Route	Reference Route
<b>North of Railroad</b>	0 buyouts 1 vacant buyout	4 buyouts 1 vacant buyout
<b>South of Railroad</b>	1 buyout 1 vacant buyout	0 buyout 0 vacant buyout
<b>Total buyouts</b>	3 buyouts	5 buyouts

It would appear that fewer buyouts are needed for the refinement route. It is anticipated that this information will form a major part of the evaluation of the two routes in Halton Hills.

Halton Hills Action: No action required at this time.

#### Follow up by Halton Hills

Hydro One noted that they will keep affected municipalities informed of the progress on the EA via a monthly newsletter. The first such newsletter will not be issued until after the Terms of Reference are approved.

Hydro One committed to publish the proceedings of the latest round of agencies, municipalities and landowner consultation on the website by mid-February.

### **3. Coordination with Halton Region**

Since the outset of this study, Halton Hills' staff and consultant have coordinated efforts on an informal fashion with the Region of Halton staff. The Halton position does not differ significantly from the Town's position. Both municipalities want to continue to monitor the Hydro One study and provide accurate and timely feedback. Both municipalities are concerned with landowners' rights and natural environmental preservation and, where possible, enhancement of the natural environment.

In January, Halton Region sought and was granted intervenor status for the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Hearings for the amended application for Leave to Construct. This proceeding will be examining a series of issues. More information about this proceeding is available on the OEB website:  
[http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca/html/en/industryrelations/ongoingprojects\\_bruce\\_milton\\_92\\_1\\_eavetoconstruct.htm](http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca/html/en/industryrelations/ongoingprojects_bruce_milton_92_1_eavetoconstruct.htm)

Halton Hills Action: Town staff to contact Halton Region Planning staff to discuss formalizing the coordination of monitoring activities.

#### **4. Follow up for Halton Hills**

Based on the above, I recommend that the Town of Halton Hills undertake the following actions:

1. Continue to monitor Hydro One progress on the Minister of the Environment review of the Terms of Reference. No revisions recommended at this time.
2. Continue to monitor Hydro One progress on the Bruce to Milton EA study with emphasis on ensuring that Hydro One and their consultants have the correct and up-to-date resources to undertake the route evaluation and that once completed, the Town provide comments on the route selection. This monitoring may take the form of reviewing the Hydro One references and meeting with Hydro One to ensure they understand the particulars of the route selection within Halton Hills.
3. Continue to coordinate with Town of Milton as needed.
4. Seek observer status at the Ontario Energy Board hearings (including the current amended application for leave to construct under the Ontario Energy Board Act) by writing to the Board and monitoring the proceedings, as needed.
5. Formalize coordination arrangements with Region of Halton for the joint review of the Terms of Reference and the Bruce to Milton EA.

Respectfully submitted  
Janet Amos, MCIP, RPP

#### Attachments

1. Terms of Reference for the Bruce to Milton EA project, December 2007 (in Council Lounge)
2. Final advertisement for Route Refinement Public Open Houses, November 2007
3. Hydro One Maps of Halton Hills Refinement Route (north and south),

**Prepared by Amos Environment + Planning, February 15, 2008**

ONTARIO'S NEW CLEAN ENERGY CORRIDOR







## Attachment # 3 continued





February 29, 2008

Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Re: EB-2007-0050 – Request for Observer Status

Please be advised that Council for the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, February 25, 2008 adopted the following:

Recommendation No. GC-2008-0065

THAT Report No. PD-2008-0014, dated February 19, 2008, regarding the Bruce-Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the monitoring report from Amos Environment + Planning dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 relating to the Bruce-Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the review and recommendations outlined in the monitoring report from Amos Environment + Planning dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 shown as attachment 1 to report PD-2008-0014.

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorse the following actions:

1. That the Region and the Town formalize the coordinated arrangements for the review of the terms of reference and monitoring of the EA process and that staff report back at a later date;
2. That Hydro One be requested to provide secondary level information to the Town and the Region relating to the local refinement evaluation process in order that the scope and accuracy of the information can be assessed by the Town and the Region;

- 2 -

3. That the Town staff write the Ontario Energy Board to seek observer status as part of the application for leave to construct, in concert with the Region representation, in order to ensure that the Town receives all information and can continue to monitor the process.

Sincerely,



Renee Brown  
Senior Administrative Assistant - Planning

- c. Glen MacDonald – Hydro One Networks Inc.
- c. Monica Wallenfalls, Region of Halton
- c. Mayor R. Bonnette
- c. D. Perlin, CAO
- c. Janet Amos, MCIP, RPP – Amos Environment and Planning



Town of Halton Hills  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Halton Hills ON L7G 5G2  
www.haltonhills.ca

## Fax Transmittal

No. of Pages Including Cover: 18

*bw  
m-1/3/08*  
To: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Fax: (416) 440-7656

Company: Ontario Energy Board

Tel: 1-888-632-6273

From: Renee Brown

Dept: Planning and Development

Date: February 29, 2008

Tel: (905)873-2601 Ext. 2291

Fax: (905)877-3524

**Re: EB-2007-0050 -Request for Observer Status**

Original letter to follow in the mail.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Renee Brown  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
Planning Department  
Ext. 2291

If there are any problems with the transmittal, please inquire with the above contact for assistance.