

**Ministry of Energy**

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**Office of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs**

March 17, 2008

The Ross Firm  
138 Courthouse Square  
Goderich, Ontario  
N7A 1M9

Attention: Mr. Quinn Ross

Dear Mr. Ross:

Re: OEB File No. EB-2007-0050

Thank you for your letter of March 10, 2008 addressed to Minister Phillips on behalf of your clients. In that letter you request the Minister of Energy's response to interrogatories in relation to the above referenced Ontario Energy Board proceeding. The purpose of this proceeding is to allow the Board to determine whether to approve Hydro One Network Inc.'s application for the construction of a new 500kV electric transmission line between the Bruce area and the town of Milton.

The Ontario Energy Board is a quasi-judicial independent tribunal responsible for the conduct of proceedings brought before it and as such it is inappropriate for the Ministry to engage in a matter that is before the Board. As you know, the Ministry of Energy is not a party to this proceeding and the Board's interrogatory process does not apply to a non-party. We believe that it is in everyone's interests for the Board's procedures to be followed. You may wish to contact Board staff to learn how your interests on these particular matters may be best represented at the Board.

Your covering letter to the list of interrogatories raises issues concerning the need for the project and the protection of the interests of land-owners and rate-payers in Ontario. The concerns of landowners who are potentially affected by a project such as this are of course important and the Ministry is always vigilant that the interests of Ontario's ratepayers are being protected. These are exactly the reasons that the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 requires proposed new transmission lines to undergo the rigorous scrutiny of an Ontario Energy Board leave to construct approval process.

You have also made reference in your letter to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and as such your letter has been forwarded to the Ministry's FOI and Records Management Officer for assessment.

I hope that this information will be helpful. Should you have any further questions of a general nature, please call the ministry's information line at 1-888-668-4636, TTY 1-800-387-5559.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosalyn Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosalyn Lawrence  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Office of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

C: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary, Ontario Energy Board  
Glen MacDonald, Senior Advisor, Hydro One Networks Inc.