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April 28, 2008

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 26th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Ms. Natasha Sookmangal
Case Administrator
Board Secretary's Office
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli and Ms. Sookmangal:

**Re: Bruce-Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project
Board File No. EB-2007-0050 and EB-2007-0051
Powerline Connections Group
Our File No. 021073/000002**

Three recent events led to the Powerline Connections Group taking a different approach to proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board. These are:

1. the completion of Hydro One's review of routing alternatives;
2. the response of Hydro One to Powerline Connections' interrogatories and;
3. the release of Hydro One's land compensation principles for the Bruce to Milton line.

Powerline Connections has been actively engaged before the Board since the inception of Hydro One's applications. It has also, consistent with its mission statement, been actively engaged in parallel consultations with Hydro One, which led early on in the process to a consent agreement with respect to Hydro One's section 98.1 application and now leads to Powerline Connections being in a position to advise the Ontario Energy Board that it will not be seeking to participate as a party in the upcoming hearing with respect to Hydro One's section 92 application. We will continue to monitor the Board process and will be seeking recovery of costs pursuant to the Board's procedural

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directions in that regard, but we do not intend to participate in the hearing in calling evidence or cross examining evidence called by others.

The release by Hydro One of its route refinement report on March 14, 2008, demonstrates that Hydro One has responded to the request to consider refinements and landowner input. The Powerline Connections Group was not formed to advocate for one refinement over another. Some of its individual members, particularly in Halton Hills, may choose to continue in the OEB process if they have a specific desire to advocate one route over another but as a group, Powerline Connections' mandate is complete on this point.

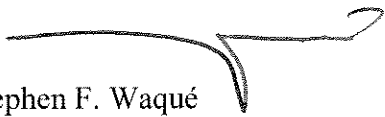
Another important element of Powerline Connections' participation in the OEB process was to ensure a critical examination and flow of relevant information to its members. While reserving the right to challenge Hydro One's responses to interrogatories in future or alternative compensation proceedings, Powerline Connections has achieved its goal of securing substantive information about the project for which approval is sought before the Ontario Energy Board and providing that information to its members so they can adjust their planning and consider mitigation strategies.

Finally, Hydro One's announcement of the land compensation principles for the Bruce to Milton line, based as it has been on landowner consultation particularly with Powerline, represents a significant departure from the practices of the former Ontario Hydro and ushers in a new era in dealing with landowner concerns. Through the weeks and months leading up to Powerline's decision not to take an active role in the proceedings before the OEB, Hydro One has demonstrated a genuine interest in putting landowner concerns at the fore and addressing those concerns in a comprehensive manner.

With a few exceptions, the landowners who make up the Powerline group have overwhelmingly expressed support for the compensation principles announced for the proposed Bruce to Milton line as a meaningful platform for individual compensation negotiations which, in many cases, may provide for compensation entitlements that exceed those provided for in the *Expropriations Act*. Of course, there remain compensation issues to be dealt with on a case by case basis, including those concerning individuals whose compensation entitlements are adversely impacted by the proposed switch of the new line from the east side of the existing corridor to the west side in Halton Hills. Our efforts to resolve these individual and outstanding compensation issues will continue.

On the basis of this substantial and groundbreaking progress, and relying on our ongoing discussions with Hydro One, the Powerline Connections Group again as a group, withdraws its opposition to the section 92 application before the Ontario Energy Board.

Yours very truly,



Stephen F. Waqué
SFW/dg

cc: Gord Nettleton
Powerline Connections Members