

November 28, 2012

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

ATTN: BOARD SECRETARY

As the representative of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCD SB), the Board wishes to comment on Ontario Energy Board file #B-2012-0047 and ask for observer status in this matter.

The HWCD SB is currently constructing the Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School at the corner of Rymal and Dakota Streets in the City of Hamilton. This building is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2013. The issue of the designation of our electrical service provider is threatening to severely disrupt the construction schedule and interrupt the education of over 1000 secondary students..

The HWCD SB would much prefer Horizon Utilities to be our service provider for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

1. Horizon Utilities has provided timely technical information and service with regards to the design of our power connection for Bishop Ryan CSS and the requisite equipment. This is further enhanced by Horizon Utilities being willing and able to supply and maintain a 1.5 KV transformer at no installation cost or maintenance cost to the Board.
2. Hydro One was sent an NCCI request for service to Bishop Ryan on September 24, 2012. As of today's date, no service connection response package has been received, in contravention of the required 60 day response time. This has now severely affected our ability to maintain construction schedules.
3. To the best of our knowledge, Hydro One requires the Board to own and maintain the transformer for the site. This is an onerous unplanned capital cost and a piece of equipment we lack the expertise to effectively manage and maintain.

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4. The Board has approximately 70 electrical services of which all but 6 are with Horizon Utilities. Horizon and the Board have a strong customer service relationship including:
 - Horizon Utilities support for energy management helping the HWCDSB with MUSH sector legislation requiring reduction in energy usage
 - Solar projects in planning stages with Horizon Utilities subsidiaries
 - Excellent communication and support in dealing with electrical and water issues.

No such relation exists with Hydro One.

5. The Bishop Ryan CSS site is currently a Hydro One island completely surrounded by Horizon Utilities customers. It is our belief that a Hydro One power outage could be much more severe than Horizon Utilities supplied power outage. Bishop Ryan CSS site is isolated from other Hydro One facilities. Horizon Utilities would likely have more options to reduce power interruption due to the proximity of its facilities. Power interruption is a critical issue in a school setting.
6. The HWCDSB is currently supplied with power by Hydro One at the St. Matthew Catholic Elementary Site in Binbrook. There have been ongoing power quality supply issues that have frequently disabled portions of our HVAC system and caused considerable occupant discomfort. In addition, power quality issues can be devastating to our computer infrastructure. These power quality issues have not been prevalent at Horizon Utilities supplied schools.

It needs to be re-iterated that the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board wishes an immediate resolution of this issue allowing us to choose Horizon Utilities as our preferred electrical supplier.

Regards,

David Morrissey,
Controller of Plant
Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

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cc: Dennis O'Leary, Legal Counsel-Horizon Utilities
Jay Shepherd, Canadian Energy Lawyers
Roy Drysdale, Manager of Physical Plant and Construction
Dan Duffie, Architect-Svedas Architects Inc.
Steve Swing, NRG Consultants

