

**From:** C. Mitchell - J. Dykstra [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** October-02-13 3:52 PM  
**To:** BoardSec  
**Subject:** EB-2013-0246

Dear Rudra Mukherji and Edik Zwarenstein

Re: EB-2013-0246

Hydro One Networks Inc. is asking the Ontario Energy Board for permission to upgrade 25 kilometers of a currently idle 115 kilo volt electricity transmission line and build a 100 m connection to an existing transformer station. This line would connect a wind farm (Niagara Region Wind Corporation) and its associated electricity line to the provincial power grid.

I would like to address the issue of “The interests of consumers with respect to prices and reliability and quality of electricity service”

As you are reviewing Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan and “Making Choices - for the citizens of Ontario” please consider your mandate. The OEB is an independent regulatory agency **MANDATED to protect the interests of consumers with respect to the price, adequacy, reliability and quality of electricity service. It is responsible for promoting ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY AND COST EFFECTIVE generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Ontario.**

According to the 2011 Auditor General's Report the GOAL is for consumers to get reliable, affordable and sustainable power; and that any energy plan is economically prudent and cost-effective.

The suspension of the Ontario Power Authority independent regulator's review means that there is no independent assessment to ensure that decisions are made in an economically prudent and cost-effective manner.

According to the 2011 Auditor General's Report (p. 97)

Ø billions of dollars were committed to renewable energy without fully evaluating the impact, the trade-offs, and the alternatives through a comprehensive business-case analysis.

Ø No independent, objective, expert investigation has been done to examine the potential effects of renewable energy policies on price, job creation, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Ø No thorough and professional cost/benefit analysis has been conducted to identify cleaner, more economically productive, and cost effective alternatives to renewable energy, such as energy imports and increased conservation.

Wind power is an intermittent inefficient, and unpredictable resource which can compromise the reliability, stability, and efficiency of the system. Wind power needs backup power generated from other energy sources to maintain a steady reliable output. SO why is the OEB continuing to focus on systems that will compromise the electricity system of Ontario?

The IESO has confirmed that **consumers have to pay twice** for intermittent renewable energy - once for the cost of constructing renewable energy generators and again for the cost of constructing backup generation facilities. Your mandate is to protect the interests of consumers. How is having consumers pay twice for surplus energy that is then dumped at a loss, protecting my interests? How is this cost effective? Now we find that the taxpayers of Ontario are expected to pay for the upgrading of 25 km of transmission lines to be used by NRWC.

Electricity demand has declined since 2005 due to the economic downturn, conservation and declines in the auto, pulp and paper industries. The OEB analysis completed in April 2010 concluded that, **by 2016, electricity supply will far exceed demand**. Given that demand growth for electricity has declined at the same time as more renewable energy is being added to the system, electricity **ratepayers will have to pay renewable energy generators under the FIT program between \$150 million and \$225 million a year NOT to generate electricity!** The OEB is an independent regulatory agency MANDATED to protect the interests of the Ontario consumers with respect to the price, adequacy, reliability and quality of electricity service. Just do your job - Please explain why that the taxpayers of Ontario are paying for the upgrading of 25 km of transmission lines to be used by NRWC?

Wind generators operate at 28% capacity factor but have only 11% availability at peak demand due to lower wind output in the summer. Hydro - the greenest, cheapest renewable energy had a Capability of 7441 MW and is being operated at 60% of the capability to make room for renewables.

Ontario is being put in the ludicrous position of spilling water to reduce electricity supply. Because the overall cost to produce hydro power is often lower than that of all other types of power, reducing hydro power to "make room" for wind and solar is an expensive mitigation strategy, particularly as HYDRO, wind and solar power are all renewable energy sources.

According to the 2011 Auditor General's Report, in 2010, 86% of wind power was produced on days when Ontario was already in a net export position. From 2005 to 2011, Ontario received \$1.8 billion less for its electricity exports than what it actually cost. How is this cost effective generation of electricity? How does this protect the interests of the consumers?

The Ministry of Energy claimed that the Green Energy Act would lead to "modest incremental increases in electricity bills of about 1% annually" yet in November 2010 the Ministry forecast that a typical residential electricity bill would rise about 7.9% annually over the next 5 years, with 56% of the increase due to investments in renewable energy. So we go from a 5% increase to a + 40% increase.

The OEB is an independent regulatory agency **MANDATED to protect the interests of consumers with respect to the price**, adequacy, reliability and quality of electricity service. It is responsible for promoting ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY and COST EFFECTIVE generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Ontario. The OEB is a quasi-judicial tribunal that ensures consumers pay fair and reasonable rates for the electricity and natural gas they use.

Neither the OEB nor the OPA was consulted about the agreement with the Korean Consortium. The Energy Minister, on behalf of the government, signed the \$7 billion Green Energy Investment Agreement (GEIA) with the (Korean) consortium. According to the Energy Minister the consortium agreement was neither a non-competitive procurement nor a sole-source deal. Instead, it is an "investment arrangement". We lost that one in the World Court and the benefits of Ontario content disappeared too.

According to the Auditor General Report the “normal due diligence process for an expenditure of this magnitude was not followed, neither ”a comprehensive and detailed economic analysis or business case had been prepared.” Nor was all Cabinet approval required.

Please, just do your job and protect the interests of Ontario electricity consumers. Do NOT upgrade the high voltage transmission lines and download these costs onto the electricity consumers.

The renewable energy initiative is driving industry out of this province due to increased energy costs, so it decreases job opportunities. Studies in other jurisdictions have shown that for every job created through renewable energy programs, about two to four jobs are often lost in other sectors of the economy because of higher electricity prices.

The renewable energy initiative allows private for profit - frequently multinational - corporations to control our energy resources.

**The renewable energy initiative is crippling our economy and will bankrupt this province.**

Respectfully submitted

**Name:** Catherine Mitchell