



**Michael Gravelle, M.P.P.**

Thunder Bay – Superior North

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

October 12, 2018

The Hon. Rod Phillips Minister  
Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation & Parks  
77 Wellesley Street W. 11th Floor  
Ferguson Block Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

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

Dear Minister Phillips and Ontario Energy Board Secretary,

I received a copy of the enclosed letter from Ms. Lesley Bell, Secretary for the West Loon Lake Campers' Association, as sent to MECP Special Project Officer Antonia Testa, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch. The letter addresses Hydro One's terms of reference regarding plans for the Lake Superior Link.

The Association's primary concerns arise from studies for a new 'Reference Route Alternative' which would adversely affect landowners, campers, and recreational-scenic spaces, in the Dorion/Loon Lake area. The Association asserts strong opposition to the 'Route Alternative' and cites many strong reasons including its impact on populated and natural spaces, its late introduction, the lack of consultation and public information, and Hydro One not presenting a clear rationale for the alternative route.

As MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, I will respectfully support these formal comments from the West Loon Lake Campers' Association to the Ministry with the suggestion that the 'Route Alternative' not be followed.

I will also respectfully ask that my support as MPP be noted as a formal comment on the Lake Superior Link project by the MECP Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch, and by the Ontario Energy Board.

Yours, sincerely,

  
Michael Gravelle, MPP  
Thunder Bay-Superior North

cc enc Antonia Testa Special Project Officer  
Env. Assessments & Permissions Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation  
& Parks 135 St. Clair Ave. W.  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

cc Ms. Lesley Bell Secretary  
West Loon Lake Campers Assn.  
135 West Loon Drive  
Shuniah, ON P0T 2M0

## Michael Gravelle MPP

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**Subject:** FW: Hydro One Lake Superior Link Transmission Project - Comments and Concerns, West Loon Lake Campers Association  
**Attachments:** West Loon Letter to MOE Lake Superior Link TOROct718.docx

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**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] >

**Sent:** Sunday, October 7, 2018 4:51 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Reply To:** lbell33 lbell33

**Cc:** minister.mecp; Gravelle-CO, Michael; wlandry; Stewart Duff and Holly; Donna Blunt; Don Smith; rgiardetti

**Subject:** Hydro One Lake Superior Link Transmission Project - Comments and Concerns, West Loon Lake Campers Association

Antonia Testa

Special Project Officer, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Dear Ms. Testa,

Please see attached a letter from the West Loon Lake Campers Association expressing our concern regarding Hydro One's inclusion of the Reference Route Alternative Section in the Dorion/Loon Lake areas in their terms of reference for the Lake Superior Link Transmission Project,

Sincerely,

Lesley Bell, Secretary

West Loon Lake Campers Association

October 7, 2018

West Loon Lake Campers Association  
135 West Loon Drive  
Shuniah Ontario P0T 2M0

Antonia Testa  
Special Project Officer  
Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, M4V 1P5  
Email: Antonia.Testa@ontario.ca

**Re: Comments on Hydro One Lake Superior Link Transmission Project Terms of Reference**

Dear Ms. Testa:

This letter is written on behalf of the members of the West Loon Lake Campers Association (WWLCA), and contains comments and concerns regarding Hydro One's Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Lake Superior Link Transmission Project.

The WWLCA is strongly opposed to the inclusion of the Reference Route Alternative Section in the Dorion/Loon Lake areas, and believes that this study route should be removed from the ToR for the follows reasons:

**1. The Reference Route Alternative Section in the Dorion/Loon Lake Area will have a large negative impact on an area which provides cultural, recreational, social and economic benefit for a large population of residents:**

- Loon Lake is a high-value recreational area with more than 200 seasonal and year round residential waterfront properties. The existing 230kV transmission line on the north shore of the lake is clearly visible from most properties. The towers and lines are both unsightly and take away from the beauty and natural surroundings of the Lake.
- Loon Lake is one of the most densely populated areas along the existing 230kV transmission line between Wawa and Thunder Bay. Construction and the ongoing

operation and maintenance of a second transmission line in the same corridor will have a large negative impact on many property owners.

- The existing 230kV transmission line was constructed in the 1960's without giving notice to property owners at Loon Lake and without a proper environmental assessment. Twinning this route would repeat the errors of the past.
- Nextbridge recently studied potential routes in this area and concluded that the route paralleling the existing 230kV transmission line was not viable for an overwhelming number of reasons. They concluded that the subject Reference Route had many benefits, and solely adopted this route in their TOR for study in an Environmental Assessment.
- The Loon Lake area has already borne more than its share of the burden created by modern utilities. Besides the existing transmission line on the north shore of the lake, a CP Rail line, a Transcanada Inc. pipeline, a highway, and two other Hydro One transmission lines encroach the south shore of the lake. Further development here will be very detrimental to the community and the natural environment.

## 2. Hydro One has no clear justification for the inclusion in Reference Route Alternative Section in the Dorion/Loon Lake Area:

- Hydro One introduced the Reference Route Alternative based solely on comments received from the MNRF. No other stakeholders provided comments on the draft TOR requesting that alternatives be considered in the Dorion/Loon Lake area.
- The MNRF made no objections to the proposed Reference Route, and gave no clear rationale in their request to consider an alternate route in the Dorion/Loon lake areas.
- Hydro One included the Reference Route Alternative knowing that there would not be community support, and despite having received numerous comments from the Municipalities, Campers Associations and the general public urging Hydro One not to include the Reference Route Alternative in the Dorion/Loon Lake Area.
- Hydro One and the MNRF did not give due consideration to other alternative routes in the area that would be less impactful to the community. These include either of the two Hydro One owned transmission line corridors south of Loon Lake and the Transcanada highway corridor.

## 3. Hydro One failed to properly consult with the public on the Reference Route Alternative Section in the Dorion/Loon Lake Area:

- Hydro One held numerous public consultations and open houses in early 2018 and only communicated the Reference Route; no alternative routes in the Dorion and Loon Lake areas were ever proposed during these public consultations.
- Hydro One introduced the Reference Route Alternative Section very late in the process in a revised draft TOR on August 15, 2018. Hydro One unfairly set a deadline for public comment of August 21, 2018, allowing only 4 business days for public input and comment on this very significant change.
- Hydro One did provide a Community Information Centre (CIC) meeting on the Reference Route Alternative Section for the Municipality of Dorion on August 30, 2018, but this was after the period for public comment was closed.
- Hydro One also provided a Community Information Centre (CIC) meeting on the Reference Route Alternative Section for Shuniah on September 26, 2018. Again, this was after the period for public comment had closed, and also after the TOR was finalized and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Hydro One has failed to include the West Loon Lake Campers Association in the Project Notification List, and have not notified the Association of the project status.

Can you please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Lesley Bell, Secretary  
On behalf of:

West Loon Lake Campers' Association

Cc:  
Hon. Rod Phillips Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
MPP Michael Gravelle, Thunder Bay-Superior North  
Shuniah Mayor, Wendy Landry  
Shuniah Councillors, Duff Stewart, Donna Blunt, Don Smith and Ron Giardetti