

December 13, 2018

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

EB-2018-0270

To whom it may concern,

RE: Orillia Power – Hydro One deal

I am writing on behalf of Georgian College in support of the City of Orillia's Mergers, Acquisitions, Amalgamations and Divestitures application to the Ontario Energy Board.

The City of Orillia, Hydro One and Orillia Power signed a share purchase agreement in August 2016 in what has been called a transformative opportunity for the city and citizens of Orillia.

As part of this transaction, Hydro One has proposed to make significant investments in the City of Orillia, with the construction of an Integrated Systems Operation Centre, a Regional Operations Centre and a Provincial Warehouse. These investments, the related economic development/employment impacts, and the partnership opportunities with both Georgian and Lakehead University will be tremendous.

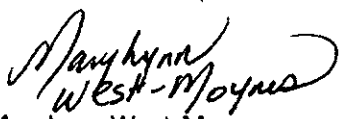
If the Ontario Energy Board approves this application, electricity customers in Orillia, including Georgian, will enjoy lower distribution rates and the city, as a whole, will benefit from investments that will drive economic and employment growth.

I understand a key requirement to finalize the transaction is to get regulatory approval and that though a traditional no harm test was successfully discharged for the first 10 years, the application was denied due to concerns about costs in year 11. As a customer and ratepayer, Georgian is satisfied that the evidence provided addresses these concerns.

The college will benefit from a reduction of one per cent in base distribution delivery rates in years one to five. Distribution rate increases will be based only on inflation in years six to 10. Furthermore, to address the issue of costs in year 11 and beyond, Hydro One has provided evidence that the cost to serve the former customers of OPDC integrated into Hydro One is no more than it would have been in absence of the transaction.

Thank you for your consideration. For the reasons listed above, I urge you to approve this application. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Kind regards,


MaryLynn West-Moynes
President and CEO

Cc: Minister Greg Rickford, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs

Mayor Clarke, City of Orillia