



From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 6:48 PM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Cc: Lrich@eastlink.ca
Subject: Intervention Form: EB-2023-0198 - Larry Richard

Intervention Form

Case Number:

EB-2023-0198

Intervenor Name:

Larry Richard

Mandate and Objectives:

N/A, OEB intervention guidance document state I am not to fill out this section

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency Represented:

N/A, OEB intervention guidance document state I am not to fill out this section

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

N/A, OEB intervention guidance document state I am not to fill out this section

Governance Structure:

N/A, OEB intervention guidance document state I am not to fill out this section

Representatives:

Larry Richard
Lrich@eastlink.ca

Other Contacts:

Frequent Intervenor Form:

OEB Proceedings:

N/A

Issues:

My name is Larry Richard and I wish to be approved as an intervenor in Hydro One's application to construct a transmission line along the Atikokan-Thunder Bay as described in EB-2023-0198. I am representing the families of cottage owners along Three Mile Bay on Lake Shebandowan. The proposed transmission line will require the deforestation of 200km of land between Thunder Bay and Atikokan on the south side of the existing corridor rather than use the brown field space from the decommissioned Steep Rock Mine Corridor on the north side of the existing corridor further contributing in climate change. I am particularly concerned about the proposed corridor along Three Mile Bay where which will be constructed on a slope along the lake approximately 33 metres from property lines. The visual aesthetics, and the noise from the humming of the power lines will be horrific, not to mention the direct effect on property values. The run off from the slope will go directly into the lake at two wet lands affecting the nesting of ducks, loons, blue herons, beavers, otters, mud turtles, snapping turtles and other nesting habitat including whip-poor-wills. Hydro One in their own documentation called this area environmentally sensitive area. Upper Shebandowan land use is governed by the MNR and the Shebandowan Lake Management due to the at risk native lake trout species in the lake. I met with Hydro run where they discussed constraints of using the Steep Rock Corridor, however it became very clear that they have no intent on using the steep rock corridor. I have been told that this is because First Nations wanted a 100 year guarantee on no pesticide use on the Steep Rock Corridor. Hydro One has not confirmed or denied this constraint. I am trying to obtain some documentation to support this claim. I have also proposed an alternative route that would be more cost effective to Hydro One and would better protect the lake and cottages along Three Mile Bay. Hydro One has indicated that they will

review the proposal but have not heard back from them at the time of this submission.

Policy Interests:

When Hydro One started this public review process they indicated that they will use the Steep Rock Mine Corridor as much as possible, to my knowledge they have used very little or none of this corridor. In fact in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) they state that they will protect and preserve the environment, clearly this is not the case. In the draft EA, Hydro One states that they will work directly with residents directly affected by this proposal. They never reached out to any of the property owners along Three Mile Bay, the reason I found out about the proposed corridor was staking that has occurred and then follow upon my comments to the draft environmental assessment. In the draft EA Hydro One states that they will limit or avoid the effects of the physical landscape, geology, soils and ground water. Clearly that is not the case in regards to runoff and landscape. The proposed transmission line will run closer to the lake and across a wetland. Conservation Authorities document that transmission lines within 30m of a wetland could affect hydraulic function. Hydro One has ignored this in the Three Mile Bay Area. In the draft EA Hydro One has stated that they will take steps to minimize or avoid effects to wetlands, this is clearly not the case. In the draft EA Hydro One states they will put measures in place to ensure no negative impacts on fish or their habitats. Hydro One has clearly ignored the at risk lake trout habitat as per the Lake Shebandowan Land Use Guide. In the draft EA Hydro One states that they don't expect any significant effects on greenhouse gas emissions, yet they choose to deforest 200km of land rather than using the brown field Steep Rock Mine corridor. In the draft EA, Hydro One states that there will be no adverse effects on noise from operating the transmission line. The constant hum from the transmission line especially during wet rainy and snow conditions. The sound to the camps below will be deafening. The draft EA states that Hydro One will limit the adverse effects on Tourism, however given that the proposed corridor will be visible along Three Mile Bay, the fisherman from the tourist camp at the end of the Three Mile Bay, may choose alternate accommodation where their fishing sight line will be non inviting. In the draft EA Hydro One states they will minimize the visual effects where possible. Hydro One indicated in my meeting with them that they will try to leave large trees standing along the corridor, given that this proposal has the corridor on the slope towards the lake and the surrounding forest is a balsam forest where there are few tall trees, there will be no mitigating effects to reduce the horrendous visual effects this corridor will have along the Three Mile Bay. Clearly Hydro One has chosen to ignore their guidelines with respect to the impact on Three Mile Bay as well as the use of existing corridors.

Hearings:

I have no requirement for a specific type of hearing

Evidence:

I will show evidence that Hydro One considers the area around Three Mile Bay as environmentally sensitive. I will show evidence of the MNR and Lake Shebandowan Land Use plan prohibits development in Upper Shebandowan to protect at risk lake trout populations. I will attempt to provide evidence that shows Hydro One abandoned the Steep

Rock Mine Corridor because of pesticide use. I will attempt to provide evidence of endangered species in the Three Mile Bay area. This evidence is to show why Hydro One should be using alternate routes around Three Mile Bay and along the Steep Rock Mine corridor. Given that nesting season is over, photos of endangered species cannot be obtained until spring summer of 2024. Evidence on changing corridors due to pesticide use will require a whistleblower, or Hydro One to fully disclose, I don't know if either is possible at this time.

Coordination with Other Intervenor:

Neighbours On the Line is also contesting this proposed route, but their interests are much different than mine, so I will stand alone as an intervenor

Cost Awards:

Depending on where this hearing is held, I may ask for travel and accommodation to attend the hearings

Language Preference:

N/A