

Neighbours on the Line
c/o Robin Sadko, Communications Director

Nancy Marconi
Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor, PO Box 2319
Toronto, ON
M4P 1E4

Ref. EB- 2023-0198

December 4, 2023

Dear Ms. Marconi,

We understand that the OEB requested that any additional information from Neighbours on the Line (NOTL) was to be submitted by December 5, 2023. The following outlines our concerns regarding costs and who will be responsible for those costs.

The biggest question we have is: Does Hydro One internally pay for any of the costs for the transmission line or is it passed on to Hydro One consumers?

It was stated by Hydro One in our local media that we as customers will be paying for this transmission line. Therefore, we have every right to know that Hydro One is being transparent with their costs.

The following is an outline of our concerns that we hope the Ontario Energy Board will consider:

- A. Who pays for all the expenses for Hydro One Toronto personnel to attend the numerous meetings and presentations held in Kaministiquia? Which at times we felt were excessive.
- B. Who pays for all their land men/contractors that have been pushing for the landowners to sell or agreeing to land access?
- C. Note that there is 90 km of current mining claims, in Phase One, that would be directly on the new line right of way, some being high valued at this time. Hydro One did not reveal or did not know about these until NOTL presented them with a map outlining all these claims. Who pays for the settlement and the work that will be involved to settle with the mining claim holders?
- D. Who pays for the human impact and the destruction of the community?

There has been so many residents experiencing mental and physical stress. Will they be compensated?

For those that have signed and agreed with Hydro One either did not care, wanted to sell anyways, do not live on their property, or were just bullied into an agreement, i.e., take what Hydro One is offering now, or you will

get so much less later.

- E. Regarding the NOTL first alternate route that was presented to Hydro One, we knew that their numbers of their evaluation were not transparent and swayed in their favour.

When we added up the numbers that they had on their evaluation, the true result was that their route and our alternate route were close in numbers.

Because of this example of Hydro One not being transparent and not recognizing the true facts, will their answers to your questions outlined in Procedural Order No. 2 be accurate. That is our biggest concern.

- F. Hydro One had a news conference in Thunder Bay and clearly stated that we as consumers will be paying for this Waasigan Transmission Line. So are we paying to have our property and community destroyed, trees cut down, watersheds impacted, houses demolished, and visual destruction. This will be forever, in a community that has been established for over a hundred years.

This does not have to happen. There is an alternate route that would be cost effective and cheaper, i.e., the route proposed by NOTL.

Is human value of no concern?

- G. What about their partners involved in this project? Will they be liable for anything? What will they cost us, as we, the consumers, will be paying for the line?
- H. We pay the taxes on our property which includes Hydro One's existing easement. Now with a second planned easement, we will continue to pay taxes on land used by Hydro One and their partners.

If other companies, i.e., fiber optics, use the line as well, are they paying Hydro One for that use, and we do not get anything?

NOTL feels that this whole project has been lacking in transparency. A good example of this is the fact that we as Unincorporated Townships were not recognized in the Terms of Reference. Why is that?

This new line, just as the existing line, will go through all unincorporated townships from Shuniah to Atikokan. Hydro One and partners need to explain and justify why this project should even happen as proposed.

Regards,

Neighbours on the Line