

Neighbours on the Line
c/o Robin Sadko, Communications Director
2134 Gus Wuori Road, Kaministiquia, Ontario P0T 1X0

Nancy Marconi
Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27 th Floor, PO Box 2319
Toronto, ON
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February 21, 2024

Inquiry Re: EB-2023-0198

Dear Ms. Marconi,

We are still waiting for Hydro One to answer our questions which we submitted in our first letter to the OEB on November 16, 2023. Also note that Hydro One has only been dealing with us since January 2023, why is that when this whole project and terms of reference was begun in 2019? No unincorporated townships or communities were ever included in the terms of reference. Why is that when the majority of the project impacts these communities? Therefore we are not responsible for delaying this project, Hydro One is now demanding OEB to approve their application. How can the OEB approve this project when so many communities were not included from the very beginning. Also note we are not against this project, we are against the route they are proposing. We have proposed an alternate route from Thunder Bay to Dryden which would be cheaper, shorter, less impact with the same end results.

The following are questions we have that Hydro One still has not addressed:

A. Hydro One has not given us valid reasons as to why the proposed line has to go to Atikokan. We have asked this question at the open houses, in our response to the Draft EA and in our response to the Final EA. Hydro One has not given a valid technical reason to any of our inquiries. We have since consulted with retired Hydro One staff and they have confirmed what we have suspected all along that there is no technical reason for the Waasigan TL to connect to the Atikokan Transformer Station. Therefore there is no valid reason to dismiss our proposal to construct the Transmission Line directly from Thunder Bay to Dryden, bypassing Atikokan and ignoring a \$100million +/- saving on this project. We will not accept a statement that Hydro One is only following the direction of the IESO as we know that the choice of the preferred route was a collaboration between the two entities.

B. How can the Energy board know that the rate payers of Hydro One are getting the most economical value for this project when it was a single source contract from the IESO. A project of this size should have been put out for tender to qualified contractors of which there are several, thus ensuring a competitive process.

C. Hydro One would be using the land owners properties, which would leave the land owners with no rights to use this portion of land and why would this be when Hydro One does not pay any taxes. Hydro One is making huge profits from these hydro line easements.

D. How can the OEB approve the use of the easements acquired through Transmission Line purposes to include a telecommunication project to be piggy backed on the Hydro One towers.

E. Within the land agreements, Hydro One needs to clarify what they mean when they say the right to use of all lands. Is this the easement only or all adjoining land.

Please refer to our letter to OEB on November 16, 2023 which lists all our questions in detail that have not been answered clearly and in depth.

Neighbours on the Line

Submitted by Bryne Lamarche