

From:Kevin Jakubec.
9715 GreenValley Line.
N0P 1M0 Ont.
Tell # 519-350-6994
kevinsjakubec@gmail.com

EB-2024-0155
August 20,2024
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Ontario Energy Board

In the matter of the Ontario Energy Board Act,1998, S.O. 1998, c.15. Schedule B, as amended (the “Act”).

In the matter of an application by Hydro One Networks Inc. pursuant to sections 92, 96.1 and 97 of the Act for an Order or Orders granting leave to construct the St Clair Transmission line route, approximately 64 kilometres of electricity transmission line and associated facilities from Lambton Transformer Station connecting Wallaceburg Transformer Station and terminating at the Chatham Switching Station in Chatham -Kent Ontario.

Written Interrogatories from Kevin Jakubec

Pursuant to the OEB’s Procedural Order Nol1 dated July 31,2024, Kevin Jakubec submits the following Interrogatories:

Risk Identification of Environmentally Sensitive Aquifer along the St Clair Transmission line route;

Given the connection between water poverty and energy poverty and the grave financial hardships that can result to rate users should water wells become interfered either in quantity or quality through the construction of the St Clair Transmission line route I ask the following Interrogatories to determine if the Applicant has properly recognized and taken adequate mitigation,remediation and compensation measures for a historically known environmentally sensitive area along the St Clair Transmission route where the underlying Aquifer and water wells are sensitive to construction activities.

Specifically from a Hydro One Networks presentation to Chatham-Kent Council on February 5th, 2024 that was recorded can the Applicant provide the following information;

All seismic studies from helical pile driving from the Chatham to Lakeshore project that the Applicant has informed Chatham-Kent Council is relied upon for the St Clair Transmission line project including vibration records comparing water well pump vibration to helical pile driving vibrations.

All Geotechnical reports for the St Clair Transmission line project including depth profile mapping of the variable Aquifer depth along the St Clair Transmission line route.

All background seismic studies characterizing the existing background vibration field generated from the installed windfarms that the St Clair Transmission line route must transverse.

Risk Identification of Environmentally Sensitive Aquifer along the St Clair Transmission line route;

All studies, expert opinions and communications sent to the MECP Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks where the Applicant has discussed the issue of a groundwater baseline study for the St Clair Transmission line project

Blasting plan for the use of explosive splicing that the Applicant will use for the St Clair Transmission line project and if the Blasting plan has recognized the Environmentally Sensitive Aquifer area along the transmission route and if any precautions are so noted in the Blasting plan.

All vibration suppression plans and designs for the Transmission towers that will be used in the Environmentally Sensitive Aquifer area, specifically how will the transmission towers not contribute to or minimize vibration transmission.

Remediation and Compensation Plans to impacted rate users whose water wells would be interfered by the construction of the St Clair Transmission line project:

What remediation efforts will the Applicant make towards rate users whose water wells are negatively impacted to make the rate users drinking water supply whole again? Will the Applicant provide a suitable safe drinking water supply in sufficient quantity for household and any livestock needs?

In terms of compensation for causing environmental stigma to the rate user's property should the water well no longer be usable to provide water in the same safe manner before construction of the St Clair Transmission line project, will the Applicant fully financially compensate the rate user for Environmental stigma damages?

To: Hydro One Networks Inc.
Eryn MacKinnon
Regulatory Advisor
Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street, 7th Floor South Tower

Applicant Counsel, Gordon Nettleton
McCarthy Tetrault LLP
4000, 421-7th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 4K9
Tell: 403-260-3622
Fax: 403-260-3501
gnettleton@mccarthy.ca

To: Monica Caceres
Assistant General Counsel
Hydro One Networks Inc.
483 Bay Street, 8th Floor South Tower
Toronto ON M5G 2P5
monica.caceres@hydroone.com

Patrick McMahon
Enbridge Gas Inc.
Technical Manager
patrick,mcmaon@enbridge.com

Paula Lombardi
Siskinds LLP
Partner
paula.lombardi@siskinds.com

Andrea Edward
Siskinds LLP
andrea.edward@siskinds.com

Amy Back
Vector Pipeline Inc.
amy.back@vector-pipeline.com

And to: Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
registrar@oeb.ca

Case Manager, Andrew Bishop
andrew.bishop@oeb.ca

OEB Counsel, Micheal Miller
michael.miller@oeb.ca

