



## RED ROCK BAND

Lake Helen Reserve #53A  
 P.O. Box 1030  
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**RECEIVED**

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**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD  
 OFFICE OF THE BOARD SECRETARY**

December 1, 2008

*12/1/08*  
 Ms. Kirsten Walli  
 Board Secretary  
 Ontario Energy Board  
 P.O. Box 2319  
 2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Toronto On M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli

Re: Lake Nipigon First Nations' Submissions on the proposed Amendments to the  
 Transmission System Code  
 Board File No: EB-2008-003

Please find attached a copy of Lake Nipigon First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band submission in connection with the above referenced proceeding. This proceeding deals with the proposed amendments to the Transmission System Code.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 807-887-2510.

Yours Truly

*P. Pelletier*

Pierre Pelletier  
 Chief Red Rock Indian Band

*JP*



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### SUBMISSION FROM LAKE NIPIGON FIRST NATIONS ("LNFN")

LNFN appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the OEB's proposed amendments to the Transmission System Code (Code) issued October 29, 2008. A number of the communities that make up the LNFN group have participated in the OEB's current stakeholder consultation relating to the proposed amendments to the code. This issue is of critical importance to the LNFNs since we are considering commercial partnerships with a number of remotely located renewable generation project developers in the Lake Nipigon area which will need to be connected to the transmission system in a timely fashion.

As stated in an earlier submission by Red Rock Indian Band Chief Pierre Pelletier (Feb. 2008) we feel that the Province of Ontario needs to invest in RESOURCE RICH, INFRASTRUCTURE POOR Northern Ontario.

There has been, increased expressions of interest to develop renewable energy projects in our traditional territory and we are concerned with the allocation of cost regarding these enabling lines. We feel that Northern Ontario has an opportunity to diversify its economy with renewable energy projects, potentially developed by private and foreign investment. We feel that their investment relies on PROVINCIAL INVESTMENT of these enabling lines and improved transmission systems. We feel investments of this nature will only encourage future development of mining and improve the economics of some of our remote diesel based power communities.

Much of Southern Ontario's infrastructure of transmission has been developed by the rate payer and we feel it timely the Province invest in infrastructure in Northwestern Ontario to stimulate an economy and diversify the LARGER part of the Province of Ontario.

We sit collectively as a group of First Nation leaders around Lake Nipigon developing an Economic Development Corporation to encourage investment and development. We plan on establishing partnerships with developers in renewable green energy projects as the need for energy in OUR province grows.

While the LNFNs respect the OEB's decision to continue to maintain its principle that requires generators to be responsible for connection costs, we are concerned that in using the "Hybrid" option for cost recovery, there is a possibility that the LNFNs could become involved in a project partnership with a single developer near a proposed enabling line, where, if no other potential line users materialize, our project could incur the complete costs of the enabling line – thereby making the project uneconomical. We feel that there will be a growing number of potential renewable energy projects in the Lake Nipigon region over the coming years but that these may take some time to evolve. We encourage the OEB to develop the enabling line concept in the Lake Nipigon area and evolve with the Lake Nipigon First Nations together.

Yours Truly,

*for.*   
Chief Pierre Pelletier  
Red Rock Indian Band

Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge St., Suite 2700  
Toronto Ontario  
M4P-1E4

Dear Board Members:

We are submitting this letter to voice our concern about the important decision you will be addressing. We feel that your decision will have a very large impact on the lives and the economic outlook for people of Northwestern Ontario. We have been made aware of the Board meeting on Feb.8/08 at a recent meeting with Ontario Power Generation. We understand that you will be deciding the cost of enabling lines and whether it be project or rate payer borne.

As potential Partners with OPG on the Little Jackfish River Project we were made aware of the fact that if the LITTLE JACKFISH RIVER project would have to bear the cost of the enabling lines this project would not come to fruition.

We in NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO feel that the province needs to address this infrastructure inadequacy in its quest for renewable energy.

At present there are many Renewable Energy projects being studied in our area. The LITTLE JACKFISH RIVER on the north end of Lake Nipigon. The Namewaminikan River project on the east side of LAKE NIPIGON, along with the First Nation community of Rocky Bay is completing a feasibility study of a wind farm, located on the east side of LAKE NIPIGON.

Vortex wind energy from Ireland has presented its interest in a wind farm on the east side of LAKE NIPIGON. There is another expression of interest for another wind farm close in proximity to the Vortex site. Renewable Energy Systems have proven a feasible study and an interest to construct a 200m/w wind farm near Dorion Ontario.

Near the community of Shuniah a wind farm will become reality soon.

The communities of Nipigon and Lake Helen First Nation are both looking to Wind Farms as a possibility to diversify their economies while providing needed jobs. Lake Helen is looking at the possibility of a biomass co-gen plant. In our immediate area of approximately 150 km radius there stands to be an investment of approx 2 billion dollars. All of these initiatives rely on transmission and an investment by the province.