

Judy Socha  
1649 Birchwood Drive  
Mississauga, Ontario L5J 1T5  
Ph: 905-822-5117 Fax – 905-822-0106  
Email: jasocho@rogers.com

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Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 1E4

Attn: Kristen Walli  
Board Secretary

**VIA EMAIL**

**RE: NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND A CODE  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CODE  
FARM STRAY VOLTAGE  
Board File No.: EB-2007-0709**

Unfortunately we are challenged to understand the recent report on the direction that the board has decided to take. When I attended the Dec 2007 meeting on this I understood from talking with Maria van Bommel MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, who put forth this private members bill and Jason from the ESA, when I asked about residential, they both commented that the results of this endeavour would form a basis for residential. I understood that it was known about the residential, but that there were too many factors and that is why they started with Farm. That is fine, however you have an opportunity to rectify and **remove** hydro out of the mix, with ZERO tolerance for stray voltage, for future health (animal/humans) issues. Your report indicates the OEB is electing NOT to do that.

Taking the high road and seriously listening to those who have both studied and documented this as well as those who suffer from stray voltage with respect to humans is critical. Utilizing that information in rectifying the situation with farms as a basis for residential. One retired Ont. Hydro employee got up at the Dec./07 meeting towards the end and talked about his clients challenges. He had a choice – stay with-in code to try to rectify (which would not have solved the problem) or do something else. He chose to listen to his clients and not go with code and it resolved the issue – common sense. What has happened to the common sense of the board.

Would you dare to go out and about with a highly contagious infection? Then why should anyone, farmers, residential, commercial have to deal with the results of some one else's stray voltage? Why should anyone - farmer, commercial or I as a homeowner have to spend money and time dealing with something that you the experts are supposed to have with in your powers - to protect us. Why should anyone have to figure out which neighbour – farmer/residential has something that is causing stray voltage **and see if they will agree to have it rectified?** Not everyone is willing to work with you let alone act above board. Why should my Hydro company have to spend the monies and manpower to first find and then sort out some wonky equipment of some kind – could be a ceiling fan - on a neighbours property?

Further more why should anyone have to deal with loss of revenues or income have to deal with the medical side whether it be animals or human, the loss of quality of life AND do the figuring out of what is going on to rectify the situation - Why should anyone have to deal with this at all! This is your job. Governing bodies are put in place to listen and with the experts input, provide **boundaries to protect**

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**the lowest denominator.** You are supposed to listen to all and act in the best interest of everyone and based on the fact that this has been going on since the 70's common sense says governing bodies are protecting themselves and not those that they are supposed to be serving.

Farmers, in particular, are like finely tuned built in radar – they have to be or they can lose their shirt. Had farmers been listened to back then, we would have been in the process of making changes for the better for over the last 30 years! Even when you have legitimate studies you do not listen. Based on what I know of Prof. Madga Havas various studies someone had better sit up and listen very closely and start making some serious common sense changes.

Trans Fats – It was a known fact that when trans fats were approved that they had repercussions with respect to health issues, to bad someone did not have enough common sense to fast forward and go wait a second lets really look at the possible future effects. How much has it really cost - health care, employers, families – etc.? Now of course it is “fashionable” or “in” not to have trans fats – when companies should have taken the high road in the first place.

So are we waiting for the general public, at large, to really know and understand about stray voltage to apply public pressure to make it “fashionable or in” to mind our stray voltage before something is done about it? You are obviously not listening to the experts who are dealing with farmer and residential clients looking for answers to HUGE WHY and how does one rectify it. They have case after case after case. Process of elimination is absolutely key and while hydro may not be the total cause, it definitely does play a role.

Again, my husband and I spent over \$30,000 to date. It does not include loss of quality of life, income, etc. We have even looked into Ronk blockers. Ultimately we want the stray voltage stopped from coming onto our property. That could mean, removing the neutral line coming in off the street, carrying all of our neighbours “stray voltage, voltage as the result of shorts etc.” off our home and property, a stray voltage blocker of some sorts or some have talked about an addition neutral line that would carry the stray voltage.

It is time that the utilities got their head out of the ground and take into account the “cumulative factor”. The approach being taken is a very dangerous and narrow approach to take.

The key to all of this is to resolve it before it does major damage to humans or animals and I strongly believe that is not being done. The bar is a no brainer for us – ZERO! You also need to find another way to ground the electrical system – causing HUGE infrastructure bills, which we all have to pay for in taxes!

***We have absolutely no control what so ever what hydro delivers to our business, our home, our farms, through their systems or from our neighbours – you however do have control over it. Take the high road.....***

Respectfully,

*Judy*

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