



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Ontario AgriCentre**

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DEC 05 2008

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ms. Kirsten Walli, Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
Ste. 2700 2300 Yonge St.  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

December 5, 2008

EB-2007-0709  
Farm Stray Voltage

Dear Ms. Walli:

Attached are the Ontario Federation of Agriculture's comments on the Proposed Amendments to the Distribution System Code that have arisen from EB-2007-0709 in respect of Farm Stray Voltage.

OFA has only one suggestion and that is set out in the attached comments.

I particularly want to say thank you to you and everyone at the Board for the efforts that went into the Farm Stray Voltage consultation. Everyone with the OFA is enormously pleased that the OEB and everyone involved took the time and effort to be so thorough and conscientious in the work. It is a testament to the very positive attitudes and great ability which resides with the OEB and a testament to the fact that Ontario still works for all its residents. We are enormously grateful. Thank you very much!

With respect and best wishes,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ted Cowan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ted Cowan  
For the Ontario Federation of Agriculture

## **Introductory Comments**

The Farm Stray Voltage panel has been exemplary in the most positive sense. Stray voltage was raised for many years by farm hydro customers with varying degrees of success. It came to the fore in the Private Member's Bill introduced by Ms. Van Bommel and was referred to the Minister of Energy who in turn directed the Board to investigate and take action. Everyone associated with this process can take a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that the concerns of ordinary Ontario residents can be and are addressed via due process. The 'system' can and does work. It is thorough and conscientious and that reflects the people who carried the responsibilities of the Farm Stray Voltage Consultation. OFA is pleased to have been a part of this process and is very grateful to everyone at the Ontario Energy Board for coming to understand and address farm stray voltage. It may be a 'small' thing, but it is very important to those who have had to live with it, and the efforts of the panel will make their lives better.

The purpose of the consultation has been to allow the Board to learn about stray voltage and implement measures to ensure that stray voltage does not unduly impact the operation of farms. This purpose does not call for the elimination of stray voltage. That is realistic as Ohm's law is such that there will always be return neutral voltage going to ground and possibly appearing as stray voltage. The intent is to reduce stray voltage so it no longer is disruptive to the operation of livestock farms. This is a realistic and worthwhile objective.

OFA is very pleased with the recommendations made and has supplementary suggestions in only one area, that being the allocation of costs for studies where costs may involve multiple causes of FSV or causes that originate with neighbours. (Page 21 of the report)

## **Comments on the OEB Suggestions**

**ACC/ACV Threshold** OFA fully accepts the recommendation on page 5 that the animal contact current threshold for action be 2 mA and that the animal contact voltage equivalent be 1 V and is pleased with the suggestion that this threshold can be revisited if need be in the future.

**ACC/ACV as Indicator** OFA fully accepts that animal contact current and animal contact voltage ought to be the measured indicators of quality of supply with respect to stray voltage. No change is needed in the Neutral to Earth Voltage standards. (pages 6 & 7)