



Department of Justice
Canada

Ontario Regional Office
The Exchange Tower
130 King St. West
Suite 3400, Box 36
Toronto, Ontario
M5X 1K6

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Bureau régional de l'Ontario
la tour Exchange
130 rue King ouest
Pièce 3400, CP 36
Toronto (Ontario)
M5X 1K6

Tel: (416) 973-3035
Fax: (416) 973-0809
Email: Gregory.Kinlin@justice.gc.ca

Our File: 4-587953
Notre dossier:

Your File:
Votre dossier:

December 19, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE & EMAIL

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

Attention: Board Secretary

Dear Sirs/Madams:

**Re: Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. / Notice of Application And Hearing
For Electricity Distribution Rate Change / Board File: EB-2008-0232/
Request for Advice**

I am counsel for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development ("DIAND"), an intervenor in the above-noted application.

DIAND is committed to supporting the wishes of the Marten Falls First Nation of being added to Hydro One Remote Communities Inc's ("Remotes") service territory. We anticipate that the tripartite agreement between Marten Falls, Remotes and DIAND regarding the inclusion of Marten Falls will be completed early in 2009.

The First Nation has been working towards a March 31, 2009 completion date for the transfer of services to Remotes. DIAND has committed significant funding to assist the First Nation in readying the community's existing diesel generating and distribution systems to facilitate this transfer of servicing. We are informed that most of the required improvements have been identified and that the essential work is being addressed. We

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are, therefore, confident that the community can be included in Remotes' service territory on or before July 1, 2009.

Yours truly,



Gregory Kinlin
General Counsel
Aboriginal Law Section
Department of Justice Canada
Ontario Regional Office
The Exchange Tower
130 King Street West, Suite 3400
Toronto, Ontario
M5X 1K6

gregory.kinlin@justice.gc.ca
Phone: (416) 973-3035
Fax: (416) 973-0809

GJK/pa

cc: Mr. John Strung, Counsel for Applicant
Mr. Glen MacDonald, Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
Ms. Leigh Jessen, DIAND, Ontario A/Regional Director General
Ms. Jennifer Alderson, DIAND, Director, Strategic Direction and Policy
Ms. Linda Churchley, DIAND, Strategic Direction and Policy
Mr. Sean O'Donnell, DOJ

copy via email: Board Secretary, BoardSec@oeb.gov.on.ca
regulatory@hydroone.com
dmc@cunningham-gillespie.com
Mona Habashy, Mona.Habashy@oeb.gov.on.ca
Adrian Paye, Adrian.Pye@oeb.gov.on.ca
Peter Faye, pfaye@rogers.com
David MacIntosh, DavidMacIntosh@nextcity.com