

Hydro One Networks Inc.

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Brian McCormick

Manager, Environmental Services and Approvals

February 9, 2009

«First_Name» «Last_Name», «Position_Title»
«Organization»
«Department»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»
«Address_City», «Province»
«Postal_Code»

RE: Midtown Electricity Infrastructure Renewal Project
Class Environmental Assessment

Dear «First_Name» «Last_Name»:

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is initiating a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed replacement of an aging cable and addition of transmission capacity in the Midtown area within the City of Toronto.

The proposed Midtown Project involves the replacement of an aging 115 kV underground cable between Bayview Junction (Jct) and Birch Jct, construction of an additional 115 kV circuit between Leaside Transformer Station (TS) and Birch Jct, use of an existing 115 kV overhead circuit between Birch Jct and Bridgman Jct, and installation of new equipment at Leaside TS, Bayview Jct, Birch Jct and Bridgman Jct. The Study Area for the proposed facilities is shown on the attached map.

The need for the proposed undertaking was identified by Hydro One and Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited. The proposed project will increase reliability and capacity of the high voltage system in the Midtown transmission corridor, where load growth has been steadily increasing despite gains from energy conservation.

The proposed Project is subject to provincial *Environmental Assessment Act* in accordance with the "Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities". The construction of the additional circuit is also subject to "Leave to Construct" approval from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). Contingent on the outcome of the Class EA and OEB processes, construction could begin 2010 with the new facilities in-service as early as spring 2012.

The Class EA will involve the identification and comparative evaluation of alternative technology options in order to select a preferred technology (overhead, trench, or tunnel) for the transmission

facilities in the Midtown area. The Class EA will also examine the potential effects, mitigation measures and range of alternative routes to best upgrade the existing facilities within the Study Area. All mitigation and restoration activities will follow Hydro One's "Environmental Guidelines for Construction and Maintenance of Transmission Facilities".

Hydro One recognizes the need to begin consultation in the preliminary stages of project planning and has initiated consultation with regional and municipal representatives, as well as government agencies. A public consultation process will be undertaken, seeking local input to assist the Project Team in determining options for upgrading the transmission facilities.

Our first series of Public Information Centres (PICs) are scheduled for February 17, 18 and 24, 2009. The PICs will provide interested parties with the opportunity to learn more about the Project, provide their input on Project options, and discuss any issues or concerns with our Project Team. Please see the enclosed newspaper ad for details.

For our records, please complete and return the attached **Fax Back Form** indicating the appropriate contact person. We would be pleased to arrange a meeting to gather your input and feedback, and discuss with you the areas of interest and/or concern regarding this Project. Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) has been retained to provide assistance to Hydro One in the Class EA process. Shawna Peddle, Senior Project Manager with Stantec, may be in touch to discuss your interest and gather relevant information for this Project.

If you have any questions regarding the Midtown Project please feel free to contact me at (416) 345-6597, or Yu San Ong, Environmental Planner, at (416) 345-5031. Further information can also be found on the Project Website at www.HydroOneNetworks.com/newprojects

Sincerely,



Brian McCormick
Manager, Environmental Services & Approvals