

**Ministry of
the Environment**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de
l'Environnement**

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
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Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél. : 416 314-6790
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ENV1283MC-2010-1370

MAY 18 2010

Ms. Patricia Statie
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Environmental Planner
483 Bay Street, South Tower, 4th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2P5

Dear Ms. Statie:

On February 23 and 24, 2010, I received two requests from members of the public that Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) be required to prepare an individual environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Supply to Essex County Transmission Reinforcement Project (Project).

I am taking this opportunity to inform you that I have decided that an individual EA is not required. This decision was made after giving careful consideration to the issues raised in the request, the Project documentation, the provisions of the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA), and other relevant matters required to be considered under subsection 16(4) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The reasons for my decision may be found in the attached letters to the requesters.

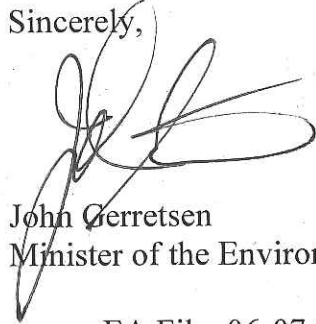
With this decision having been made, Hydro One may now proceed with the Project, subject to any other permits or approvals required. Hydro One must implement the Project in the manner it was developed and designed, as set out in the Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) and inclusive of all mitigating measures and environmental and other provisions therein. In accordance with the Class EA, any commitments made to affected agencies or members of the public must be fulfilled and implemented as part of the proposed project.

Ms. Patricia Statie

Page 2.

Lastly, I would like to ensure that Hydro One understands that failure to comply with the EAA, the provisions of the Class EA, and failure to implement the Project in the manner described in the Draft ESR, are contraventions of the EAA and may result in prosecution under section 38 of the Act. I am confident that Hydro One recognizes the importance and value of the EAA and will ensure that its requirements and those of the Class EA are satisfied.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gerretsen", written over a printed name and title.

John Gerretsen
Minister of the Environment

c: EA File: 06-07 Supply to Essex County Transmission Reinforcement Project
(Hydro One)

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MAY 18 2010

ENV1283MC-2010-1370

Ms. Jane Rogers
501 Wigle Grove Road
Kingsville ON N9Y 2N8

Dear Ms. Rogers:

Thank you for your interest in Hydro One Network Inc.'s (Hydro One) proposed Supply to Essex County Transmission Reinforcement Project (Project). I welcome your comments on this Project.

On February 24, 2010, you requested that Hydro One be required to prepare an individual environmental assessment (EA) for the Project. I am taking this opportunity to inform you that I have decided that an individual EA is not required.

In making this decision, I have given careful consideration to the Project documentation, the provisions of the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA), the issues raised in your request, and relevant matters to be considered under section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The reasons for my decision are briefly discussed below.

The Class EA is a process by which proponents plan and develop projects of this type, including evaluating alternatives, assessing environmental effects, developing mitigation measures, and consulting with the public, without having to obtain approval from me and the Lieutenant Governor in Council for each individual project.

The Class EA has itself been subject to review and approval under the EAA, which determined, in part, that the application of the Class EA process would enable proponents to meet the intent and purpose of the EAA. Hydro One has demonstrated that it has planned and developed this Project in accordance with the provisions of the Class EA. I am satisfied therefore that the purpose of the EAA, "the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment", has been met for this Project.

You do not support the Project because you contend that it will contribute or service future developments of industrial wind farms in Essex County or anywhere within the Great Lake Basing and its watershed.

Ms. Jane Rogers

Page 2.

You have raised concerns relating to industrial wind farms and its impacts on health, water quality, wildlife, socio-economic, landscape and heritage loss; however, the purpose of this Project is to address supply reliability problems and provide long-term electricity capacity in the eastern part of Essex County, including the Town of Lakeshore, Municipality of Leamington, and the City of Windsor in order to meet current and future electricity needs, as outlined in the Draft Environmental Study Report (Draft ESR). As such, this is the subject of the Class EA.

The proposed transmission lines for the Project are to satisfy the increasing electricity demand and facilitate the connection of new customers who use electricity.

Electrical generation projects, including industrial wind farms, are planned and developed by third party companies and are not within the scope of this Class EA. A separate approval process exists for these types of projects.

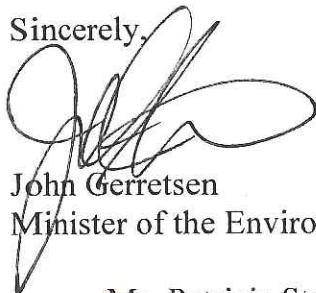
Hydro One understands that there are potential industrial wind farms in the study areas; however, Hydro One is not involved in the planning of these types of facilities. Hydro One is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity supply from all sources of electricity generators to homes and businesses, and not generation.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is the province's planning authority for electrical supply. Based on the directives from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure with respect to energy policy, the OPA plans and procures for electricity supply in the province.

With this decision having been made, Hydro One can now proceed with the Project, subject to any other permits or approvals required. Hydro One must implement the Project in the manner it was developed and designed, as set out in the Draft ESR, and inclusive of all commitments made during the review of the Part II Order request, mitigating measures, and environmental and other provisions therein.

Again, I would like to thank you for participating in the Class EA process and for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



John Gerretsen
Minister of the Environment

c: Ms. Patricia Statie, Environmental Planner, Hydro One Networks Inc.
EA File No. 06-07, Supply to Essex County Transmission Reinforcement Project
(Hydro One)

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MAY 18 2010

ENV1283MC-2010-1370

Ms. Rhonda St. Louis
3791 Poplar Avenue
Windsor ON N9C 2E2

Dear Ms. St. Louis:

Thank you for your interest in Hydro One Network Inc.'s (Hydro One) proposed Supply to Essex County Transmission Reinforcement Project (Project). I welcome your comments on this Project.

On February 23, 2010, you requested that Hydro One be required to prepare an individual environmental assessment (EA) for the Project. I am taking this opportunity to inform you that I have decided that an individual EA is not required.

In making this decision, I have given careful consideration to the Project documentation, the provisions of the Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Class EA), the issues raised in your request, and relevant matters to be considered under section 16 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). The reasons for my decision are briefly discussed below.

The Class EA is a process by which proponents plan and develop projects of this type, including evaluating alternatives, assessing environmental effects, developing mitigation measures, and consulting with the public, without having to obtain approval from me and the Lieutenant Governor in Council for each individual project.

The Class EA has itself been subject to review and approval under the EAA, which determined, in part, that the application of the Class EA process would enable proponents to meet the intent and purpose of the EAA. Hydro One has demonstrated that it has planned and developed this Project in accordance with the provisions of the Class EA. I am satisfied therefore that the purpose of the EAA, "the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment", has been met for this Project.

You do not support the Project because you contend that it will contribute or service future developments of industrial wind farms in Essex County or anywhere within the Great Lake Basin and its watershed.

Ms. Rhonda St. Louis

Page 2.

The purpose of this Project is to address supply reliability problems and provide long-term electricity capacity in the eastern part of Essex County, including the Town of Lakeshore, Municipality of Leamington, and the City of Windsor in order to meet current and future electricity needs, as outlined in the Draft Environmental Study Report (Draft ESR). As such, this is the subject of the Class EA.

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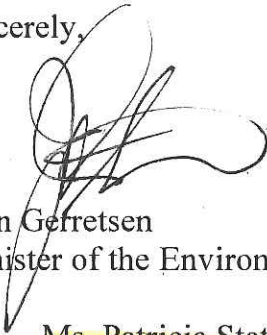
Hydro One understands that there are potential industrial wind farms in the study areas; however, Hydro One is not involved in the planning of these types of facilities. Hydro One is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity supply from all sources of electricity generators to homes and businesses, and not generation.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) is the province's planning authority for electrical supply. Based on the directives from the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure with respect to energy policy, the OPA plans and procures for electricity supply in the province.

With this decision having been made, Hydro One can now proceed with the Project, subject to any other permits or approvals required. Hydro One must implement the Project in the manner it was developed and designed, as set out in the Draft ESR, and inclusive of all commitments made during the review of the Part II Order request, mitigating measures, and environmental and other provisions therein.

Again, I would like to thank you for participating in the Class EA process and for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



John Gerretsen
Minister of the Environment

c: Ms. Patricia Statie, Environmental Planner, Hydro One Networks Inc.
EA File No. 06-07, Supply to Essex County Transmission Reinforcement Project
(Hydro One)