



January 28, 2009
Our Ref.: 33015835

Hydro One Networks
483 Bay Street
North Tower, 13th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P5

Attention: Brian McCormick

Re: Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Environmental Assessment Study

Dear Mr. McCormick:

Thank you for your comments submitted in response to the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Report made available for review between Wednesday, November 12, 2008 and Friday, December 12, 2008.

Your concerns with the location of the proposed bridge approach relative to the Keith Transformer Station are noted. The bridge approach traverses the eastern portion of Hydro One Keith Transformer Station site and has been situated to avoid the need for physical relocation of the existing transformers. The DRIC study team recognizes that the proposed bridge approach is sited on lands that could have potentially been used to accommodate a future expansion of the Keith Transformer Station. It is not clear however, that expansion of the facility would be inevitable.

Discussions with your organization regarding compensation and future Keith Transformer Station expansion plans should be pursued through Transport Canada/Public Works Canada during the property acquisition process. Text has been included in Sections 10.2.4 and 10.7 of the EA Report to reflect this issue and commitment to further negotiation. Furthermore, Section 11.1 of the EA Report discusses future consultation requirements and references commitments to future consultation in Chapter 10 (the commitments to further consultation with Hydro One are contained within Sections 10.2.4 and 10.7 of the EA Report).

Regarding your suggestion to include a discussion of impacts to the Keith Transformer Station within Chapter 6 of the EA Report (*Illustrative Alternatives for Crossings, Plazas and Access Roads*), during the evaluation of illustrative alternatives, impacts were examined at a broad level and therefore did not take into account specific impacts to the Keith Transformer Station. Impacts to the Keith Transformer Station have been factored into the evaluation of practical alternatives which is summarized in Chapter 8 of the EA Report (*Practical Alternatives for Crossings, Plazas and Access Roads*). Details regarding the impacts to the Keith Transformer Station by the practical alternatives are contained within supporting documents submitted as part of the revised EA Report (*Draft Practical Alternatives Evaluation - Constructability Report for Plaza & Crossing Alternatives (December 2008)* and *Generation and Assessment of Practical Alternatives and Selection of the Technically and Environmentally Preferred Alternative – Plaza and Crossing (December 2008)*) which are available on the project website at www.partnershipborderstudy.com. Additional details regarding impacts to the Keith Transformer Station by the Recommended Plan have been included in Section 10.2.4 of the revised EA Report.

URS Canada Inc.
75 Commerce Valley Drive East
Markham, ON Canada L3T 7N9
Tel: 905.882.4401
Fax: 905.882.4399
www.urs.ca

Regarding your request that Chapter 3 of the EA Report summarize all consultation with Hydro One to date, the intent of Chapter 3 of the EA is to provide an outline of the consultation undertaken on this project, and does not provide detail regarding the outcome of each meeting. Accordingly, we have added the December 5th meeting date to the summary tables within Chapter 3 but have not included Hydro One's specific comments at that meeting. Hydro One comments submitted in response to the Draft EA Report, however, have been included within Appendix D of the EA Report.

The Ontario Environmental Assessment Report was filed with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) on December 31, 2008 (refer to enclosed *Notice of Submission of Ontario Environmental Assessment*). The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) report will be submitted to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) early in 2009. Anyone wishing to provide comments on the Ontario Environmental Assessment must submit their comments in writing and/or by fax to the Ministry of the Environment by **Friday, February 27, 2009**. All comments must be submitted to:

Catherine McLennon, Special Project Officer
Ministry of the Environment
EA Project Coordination Section
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5
Tel: 416-314-7222/1-800-461-6290
Fax: 416-314-8452

If you have any further comments or require additional information, please feel free to contact the undersigned through the project website at www.partnershipborderstudy.com, or by calling the Project Toll Free number at 1-800-900-2649.

Again, thank you for your participation and comments.

Yours very truly,



Murray Thompson, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager

cc. Catherine McLennon, MOE
Dave Wake, MTO
Roger Ward, MTO
Joel Foster, MTO

Encl.

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL CROSSING STUDY

The Canada-United States-Ontario-Michigan Border Transportation Partnership has completed the provincial Environmental Assessment for the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study. As required under section 6.2(1) of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and according to the Terms of Reference approved by the Ontario Minister of the Environment on September 17, 2004, the study team submitted its Environmental Assessment to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment on December 31, 2008 for review and approval.

Windsor-Detroit is the busiest commercial land border crossing in North America. Reliable roadway connections and border crossings are essential for the secure and efficient movement of people and goods in this strategic international corridor. Improvements are needed to provide alternatives in cases of major incidents, maintenance operations, congestion or other disruptions at any of the existing border crossings.

Through extensive technical studies and public consultation, the DRIC study team has identified The Windsor-Essex Parkway, along with a new customs plaza and international bridge in the Brighton Beach industrial area of west Windsor as the Recommended Plan. The DRIC study is a bi-national planning study being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in Canada, and coordinated with the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act in the United States. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), in coordination with Transport Canada, has led the Environmental Assessment study in Canada, and retained URS Canada Inc. to assist in this undertaking.

The improvements recommended in this study include:

- A new six-lane freeway linking Highway 401 to a new inspection plaza and border crossing;
- 11 tunnels covering 1.8 km of the new freeway;
- A green corridor that provides more than 300 acres of parkland and 20 km of new recreational trails;
- A new four-lane service road;
- A new Canadian inspection plaza; and
- A new six lane bridge crossing the Detroit River.

As required under the Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Assessment will be available for public review and comment from Friday, January 9, 2009 to Friday, February 27, 2009.



The Environmental Assessment will be available for review during normal business hours at the following locations and can be downloaded from the study website at <http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com>

**Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group**
949 McDougall Avenue, Suite 200
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 973-7367

**Office of the Clerk
Town of LaSalle**
5950 Malden Road
LaSalle, Ontario
Tel: (519) 969-7770

**Windsor Public Library
Central Branch**
850 Ouellette Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6770

LaSalle Public Library
5940 Malden Road
LaSalle, Ontario
Tel: (519) 969-8992

**Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Environmental Assessment & Approvals Branch**
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario
Tel: 1-800-461-6290

**Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Windsor Area Office**
4510 Rhodes Drive, Unit 620
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 948-1464

**Office of the Clerk
Town of Tecumseh**
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh, Ontario
Tel: (519) 735-2184

**Windsor Public Library
Sandwich Branch**
3312 Sandwich Street
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6770

Tecumseh Public Library
13675 St. Gregory's Road
Tecumseh, Ontario
Tel: (519) 735-3670

Ontario Ministry of the Environment West Region Office
733 Exeter Road
London, Ontario
Tel: 1-800-265-7672

**Office of the Clerk
City of Windsor**
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6211

**Office of the Clerk
County of Essex**
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, Ontario
Tel: (519) 776-6441

**Windsor Public Library
Nikola Budimir Branch**
1310 Grand Marais West
Windsor, Ontario
Tel: (519) 255-6770

URS Canada Inc.
75 Commerce Valley Drive East
Markham, Ontario
Tel: (905) 882-4401

Anyone wishing to provide comments on the environmental assessment must submit their comments in writing and/or by fax to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment by Friday, February 27, 2009. All comments must be submitted to:

Catherine McLennon, Special Project Officer
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
EA Project Coordination Section
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1L5
Tel: (416) 314-7222 or 1-800-461-6290
Fax: 416-314-8452

A copy of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent for its consideration. If you have any questions or need further information about this project, please contact:

<p>Mr. Roger Ward Senior Project Manager Ministry of Transportation Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group 949 McDougall Avenue, Suite 200 Windsor, Ontario N9A 1L9 Tel: (519) 973-7367 / Fax: (519) 973-7327 e-mail: detroit.river@ontario.ca</p>	<p>Mr. Murray Thompson, P.Eng. Consultant Project Manager Detroit River International Crossing Windsor Project Office 1010 University Avenue West, Suite 104 Windsor, Ontario N9A 5S4 Tel: (519) 969-9696 / Fax: (519) 969-5012 Toll Free: 1-800-900-2649 e-mail: info@partnershipborderstudy.com</p>
---	--

For more information visit www.partnershipborderstudy.com or www.weparkway.ca

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

