



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.

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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.

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