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**Re: Farm Stray voltage Consultation – Board Staff Discussion Paper
Board File No. : EB-2007-0709**

We would like to thank the Ontario Energy Board for the tremendous work accomplished so far in farm stray voltage. The Board staff Discussion Paper, and the three reports included, provides a lot of very useful information for all the stakeholders.

In response to your consultation process, we would like to point out that Hydro-Québec and the Québec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) keep statistics on matters related to stray voltage. In the last 4 years (2004 to 2007), the MAPAQ has received a yearly average of 247 demands made by farmers suspecting a stray voltage situation. Of those cases, after verifications and tests, Hydro-Québec made an average of 6 improvements per year to its distribution network. This represents only 3% of the cases as there are many other factors responsible for similar production and animal health symptoms commonly attributed to stray voltage (See quote 67 of staff Discussion Paper).

Since a very large portion of cases are not related to stray voltage (on-farm or off-farm), a global approach has been developed by a 3-party committee (MAPAQ, Hydro-Québec and a farm interest group "Union des producteurs agricoles" or UPA). The global approach looks at the many possible causes, saves time and money and is more susceptible to bring satisfaction to farmers.

We at Hydro-Québec feel that the primary NEV measurements along the distribution network gives a very good indication of its quality. It is a simple test, inexpensive, and it can be done by any electricity distributor. It does not require specialized equipment or expertise. Neither the primary NEV nor the contribution to FSV test is able to find certain stray voltage problems (for example, on-farm spike (transient) problems due to fencer or motor start). We thus provide expertise and conduct tests in this field when asked by MAPAQ.

We would like to express again our appreciation for all your work. As we all know, stray voltage is an important issue since it can have very serious impact on farm operations.

Yours truly,



Yvan Charbonneau, Eng.