



BATCHEWANA FIRST NATION OF OJIBWAYS

RANKIN RESERVE 15D
GOULAIS BAY RESERVE 15A
OBADJIWAN RESERVE 15E
WHITEFISH ISLAND 15

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September 25, 2023

Via email: Registrar@oeb.ca

Ms. Nancy Marconi
Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: EB-2023-0061 - Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership Leave to Construct Application – Sault #3 Transmission Line Refurbishment Project – Interrogatories of Batchewana First Nation

Dear Ms. Marconi:

Please find attached Batchewana First Nation's interrogatories in the above noted proceeding. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Yours Very Truly,

Chief Mark McCoy

Cc: Wayne Greer, ABN, wayne@abnetwork.ca
Angela D'Elia Decembrini, ABN, angelad@abnetwork.ca
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Batchewana First Nation Interrogatories
Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership EB-2023-0061

BFN-1

Ref: Exhibit B Tab 3 Schedule 1 Page 1 of 2

Preamble:

“...there is no need to upgrade the circuit in terms of either line voltage and/or ampacity. HOSSM’s minimum standard transmission line conductor of 411 kcmil ACSR is sufficient to meet the future anticipated ampacity needs of the circuit.”

Questions:

1. Does Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Limited Partnership (“HOSSM”) agree with the Independent Electricity System Operator’s (“IESO”) contention that there is no need for a line voltage upgrade?
2. Did HOSSM and the IESO discuss the potential of a 230kv upgrade?
3. What are the future anticipated ampacity needs of the circuit?
4. When does HOSSM intend to upgrade the Sault #3 line to 230kv?
5. The IESO is proposing major upgrades that would include new assets connecting South Porcupine and Wawa as well as Hamner and Sault Ste. Marie. Does the development of these projects provide any impetus to reexamine transmission capacity from Wawa to Sault Ste. Marie?

BFN – 2

Ref: Exhibit B Tab 3 Schedule 1 Page 1 of 2
Exhibit B Tab 5 Schedule 1 Page 1 of 4

Preamble:

HOSSM has considered ratepayer benefits, economical line loss considerations, and reliability when assessing the alternatives to refurbish the Sault #3 line to reinforce the transmission system in the Sault Ste. Marie region.

HOSSM considered five alternatives for the refurbishment of the line between Third Line TS to Mackay TS.

Questions:

1. Did HOSSM explore a 230kv upgrade alternative and if not, provide reasons.
2. What is the estimated cost differential between the proposed solution and a 230kv upgrade?

3. Electricity demand is forecast to grow rapidly in Northeastern Ontario over the next decade due to new mines and major industrial electrification initiatives, such as Algoma Steel's planned conversion to electric steelmaking. What consideration did HOSSM give to the need for clean, green, zero-emissions electricity?
4. Was the economic impact on Batchewana First Nation ("BFN") or other power generation companies in the region considered when reviewing alternatives? Does the proposed refurbishment adequately consider BFN's long-term energy plans?
5. What benefits are being derived from the rebuild that will support growth within the electricity sector within BFN's Original Reserve?
6. How much consultation has HOSSM had with stakeholders who are not intervenors in this matter?
7. How will the Project benefit the system from a development perspective?

BFN – 3

Ref: Exhibit B Tab 1 Schedule 1 Page 1 of 6

Preamble:

HOSSM hereby applies to the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board" or "OEB") pursuant to s. 92 of the Act for an Order or Orders granting leave to refurbish approximately 90.5 kilometers of 115 kilovolt ("kV") single circuit transmission line named Sault #3 line between Third Line TS and Mackay TS. This line refurbishment is required to ensure that the area continues to receive a safe and reliable supply of electricity.

Questions:

1. Other than ensuring the "area continues to receive a safe and reliable supply of electricity" what else will be gained from the refurbishment over the long term? Will the completed Project be able to respond to future needs or issues regarding latent demand in the area?

BFN – 4

Ref: Exhibit E Tab 1 Schedule 1 Page 1 of 4

Preamble:

HOSSM will be utilizing its existing land rights, as described in the above paragraphs, for the Sault #3 Project. Should any updates of crossing permits be required, HOSSM will work with the authority under the transmission lines to appropriately update the existing crossing permits.

Questions:

1. When will HOSSM negotiate the permit required by BFN for entry and use of land on BFN's Original Reserve?
2. Aside from the Notice of Application, did HOSSM provide BFN with notice of the Project?

3. If so, when was BFN first engaged?
4. Has HOSSM spent any time with the members of BFN to effectively determine any impacts the Project could have impact BFN's rights and interests, including traditional uses of the land by its members? Please outline the meeting dates and outcomes of interactions with the membership.

BFN – 5

Ref: Exhibit B Tab 2 Schedule 1 Page 1 of 4

Preamble:

HOSSM owns and operates the Sault #3 transmission line, a 115 kV single circuit that runs between Third Line TS and Mackay TS, connecting the Montreal River area with the Sault Ste. Marie area. Sault #3 is a wood pole line, approximately 90.5 km in length and runs parallel to an existing 230 kV circuit, known as K24G, along its entire route. The Sault #3 line is the only supply source for two stations, Goulais Bay TS and Batchewana TS.

Questions:

1. In your consultations with stakeholders, have you been able to determine how many power generation projects exists along the Sault#3 line?
2. If yes, can you provide a detailed list of all of the potential projects that you have been made privy to?

BFN – 6

Ref: Exhibit B Tab 5 Schedule 1 Page 3 of 4

Preamble:

HOSSM therefore conducted a detailed 50-year Net Present Value (NPV) analysis using a 5.65% discount rate, to evaluate which conductor alternative provided the best NPV result. A NPV sensitivity analysis was also done using varying values for the price of energy.

Question:

1. Provide an explanation as to the discount rate value chosen. Is it prescribed or did an economic and/or financial review take place to determine the discount rate?