

**Neighbours on the Line (NOTL)**  
c/o Robin Sadko, Communications Director  
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Nancy Marconi  
Registrar  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor, P.O. Box 2319  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

January 30, 2024

Re: OEB Application #EB -2023-0198

Dear Ms. Marconi,

We are led to believe that the ratepayers will be paying for the Waasigan Transmission Line Project. Our concern as ratepayer is: Are we getting the best possible price for this sole sourced contract?

After reading the responses from the various parties, (Intervenors, Hydro One and the Ontario Energy Board), it appears to us that there was no competitive bidding process for a project of this size. Is this correct?

Hydro One has applied to the Energy Board, (OEB), for approval of their profit margin. The higher the cost – the higher their profit, with no regard to the ratepayers.

Hydro One are not sparing any expense. For example, they have changed their methodology to the use of helicopters and the creation of fly yards - increasing the cost of construction. The number of fly yards required changed from one to forty-seven.

Has the cost of the project been so inflated that it could accommodate such a notable change or will the project cost increase again?

It does not matter to them because they are not paying for it – we are.

Hydro One has time to fix the mess they have created. They should be taking the time to evaluate the cost and the environmental impact on the direct route from Thunder Bay to Dryden.

The IESO has stated that the increased need for additional power north of Dryden is not predicted until the year 2030.

It is not too late to consider this shorter, more economical route from Thunder Bay to Dryden proposed by NOTL. This route would have less impact on the environment and communities. This shorter route will give Hydro One the same result as their preferred route.

There has been no resolution with some high value mining claims along Hydro's preferred route which could result in significant monetary compensation. Is this factored into Hydro One's cost figures?

Hydro One is not operating in good faith. It seems that they do not want to solve problems ahead of time. They say they will deal with issues as they happen. This will lead to extra costs that we ratepayers will have to pay for.

We are requesting that Hydro One calculate the fair cost estimate of our proposed route from Thunder Bay to Dryden and present this to you at the OEB for consideration.

- Neighbours on the Line