

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 7, 2004

HYDRO ONE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends that the Council of the City of Vaughan inform Hydro One of its position in respect of this matter, as expressed in the following resolution:

WHEREAS Hydro One, a corporation subject to provincial regulation, seeks to increase the reliability of transmission supply to northern York Region; and

WHEREAS Hydro One is considering two alternatives in respect of this matter, the first being an increase in transmission capacity between its Parkway Transformer Station (in Markham) and its Armitage Transformer Station (in Newmarket); and the second being between its Clairville Transformer Station (in Vaughan) and its Armitage Transformer Station; and

WHEREAS public response to both alternatives has focused, *inter alia*, on the issue of the impact on human health of living in proximity to hydroelectric transmission lines---a question which may not be susceptible to a sufficient degree of scientific proof, one way or the other, that the matter will be deemed as settled in the near future;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Vaughan urges Hydro One to adopt the first of the above-noted alternatives, as this alternative involves a substantially shorter distance and therefore cheaper final cost to all consumers of electricity.

Purpose

To indicate to all concerned parties the position of the City of Vaughan in respect of this matter

Background - Analysis and Options

Hydro One is seeking to improve the reliability of its transmission supply to northern York Region. To that end it is studying two alternatives. Alternative 1 contemplates an increase in transmission capacity along Hydro One's right-of-way from its Parkway Transformer Station (TS) in Markham to its Armitage TS in Newmarket. The second alternative would entail an increase in transmission capacity along the so-called Claireville TS-to-Minden TS corridor (which passes through the westerly portion of Vaughan) to a point in the northeast portion of King Township and thence to the Armitage facility.

Citizen groups in both Markham and Vaughan have been invited to comment on these alternatives, with the same sorts of concerns---mostly in respect of the possible effects of electromagnetic fields on the health of those residing near hydroelectric corridors---being expressed in both Markham and Vaughan. These concerns touch on matters which are highly controversial and subject to dispute (to some extent within the scientific community itself).

As it is highly unlikely that these concerns can or will be addressed and answered definitively in the immediate future, other considerations in respect to these two alternatives should be taken into account: specifically the wide difference in the cost of the two alternatives due to the difference in the distances to be covered.

With this in mind, the City of Vaughan recommends that Hydro One pursue the cheaper alternative, Alternative 1.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

N/A

Conclusion

As the same possible health concerns have been raised regarding the alternative routes being proposed for transmission capacity enhancement by Hydro One, this provincially-regulated utility should select the shorter and cheaper alternative when considering how best to increase the reliability of transmission supply to northern York Region.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella