



Ontario

Ministry  
of the  
Environment

(416) 965-3198

135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Suite 100  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

April 29, 1981

TO: Distribution List

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Ontario Hydro's: Eastern Ontario  
Plan Stage Environmental Assessment  
E.A. File No. 1-77-0007-000

Ontario Hydro has submitted to the Minister of the Environment, under The Environmental Assessment Act, a document entitled "Eastern Ontario Plan Stage Environmental Assessment." The application is for the approval of an electrical transmission system expansion program for eastern Ontario.

The "Plan Stage" referred to is the first phase of a 2-phase approval process, which Hydro has initiated, for additional transmission lines (and associated facilities). Hydro wishes for the approval of a general study area in eastern Ontario. Within this area, Hydro would pick out the precise location of the new transmission lines, transformer stations, etc. in the second phase of the study, which Hydro will submit later for approval. I understand that you may be interested in this proposal, and am therefore sending you this letter for your information.

As required by The Environmental Assessment Act, a government review, involving the comments of various government ministries on both the environmental assessment document and the proposal, has been prepared, and is available to the public. The public has until June 12, 1981 in which to make submissions to the Minister of the Environment, and/or require that a public hearing be held.

The Environmental Assessment Act applies to major undertakings of the Provincial Government Agencies and Municipalities, which are expected to have significant effects on the environment. The environment is defined in a very broad way, to

include not only its natural aspects, but also social, cultural and economic effects. The project under consideration cannot proceed until the environmental assessment has been approved. I should also mention that environmental assessment approval is the first formal government approval required to be obtained for a project.

Two decisions must be made on any environmental assessment submitted to the Minister of the Environment. The first is whether the environmental assessment document itself is acceptable; in other words, whether the information in the document is a satisfactory basis on which to make a decision on approving the proposal. The second decision is whether or not the project should be given approval to proceed, approval with conditions, or be denied approval. These two decisions can be made either by the Minister of the Environment, or if a public hearing is held, by The Environmental Assessment Board.

I am attaching copies of the Notice which is appearing in various local newspapers, notably the Ottawa Citizen, informing the public that the government review has been completed, together with a press release. As you can see, Hydro's environmental assessment document and the review can be inspected in several places, and you are invited to inspect them there. The government review, (but not the environmental assessment), has also been sent to the Clerks of municipalities in eastern Ontario, including those within Ottawa-Carleton, Frontenac, Leeds and Grenville, Prescott and Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Lanark, and the southern part of Renfrew.

A very limited number of copies of the government review only is available from this Office. I understand that Ontario Hydro has, likewise, a limited number of its environmental assessment documents available. Otherwise, copies of the environmental assessment documents and the government review may be purchased as follows:

Photocopies:

Time Savers Quik Print Centres Ltd.,  
20 Bloor St. East,  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3G7  
(416)967-4544.

Microfiche:

Micromedia Ltd.,  
Information Access,  
144 Front Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1G2  
(416)593-5211.

I should mention that only those people who make written submissions to the Minister of the Environment and/or require a hearing, will be placed on the mailing list for all subsequent Notices or orders until a final decision on the undertaking is made.

If you have any questions on the workings of The Environmental Assessment Act and process, you may contact me or Ms. Judy Simon at the address and phone number above.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "DJ Birnbaum".

David J. Birnbaum,  
Review Co-ordinator,  
Environmental Approvals Branch.

DJB/vh

Encl.