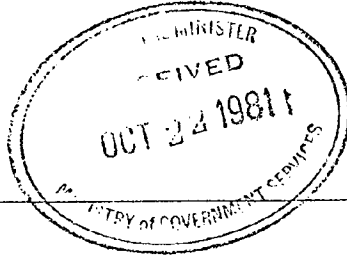


File - Oct 27/81 for reply.

Ontario Hydro
700 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1X6



Hugh L. Macaulay, Chairman of the Board

October 16, 1981

The Honourable Douglas J. Wiseman
Minister of Government Services
12th Floor
Ferguson Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Doug:

Thank you for your letter of September 25, enclosing a copy of the letter to you from John Bennett of the Hydro Consumers Association.

It appears that much of the work which the Hydro Consumers Association would like done by way of independent assessments has already been done as part of the work of the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning. The reports of this government-funded, independent Commission are, of course, public documents and your constituents may wish to review them.

In reaching its recommendations, the Royal Commission reviewed a variety of matters, including load growth, load management, conservation, industrial co-generation, and small-scale local generation.

On the basis of the Commission's reports, the government concluded that there was a need for additional bulk power facilities in eastern Ontario, "almost certainly in the form of bulk power transmission," and that there was an urgency to proceed with the planning process as quickly as possible. It was also stated by the government that the environmental assessment need not consider alternatives to the requirement for additional bulk power facilities.



Honourable Douglas J. Wiseman - 2

October 16, 1981

If, on reviewing the Royal Commission reports, the government response, the documentation provided by Ontario Hydro, and submissions of intervenors, the Joint Board feels that further study on any matter should be undertaken before final approval to construct facilities is given, that Board could require such studies as a condition of approval to be met during the route stage. The route stage study process would begin following the approval of a program and would take approximately 18 months.

One aspect of Mr. Bennett's letter which caught my attention was his reference to what he calls the "Ontario Government Review." This review was prepared by a member of the Approvals Branch of the Ministry of the Environment based on his interpretation of comments received from various ministries. The reviewer was careful to point out that "views expressed in this review do not represent a decision of the Ontario Government."

I hope that the above comments will be useful in addressing questions which your constituents may raise as we approach the pre-hearing on November 10 in Nepean. Perhaps you might wish to forward a copy of this letter to Mr. Bennett.

Sincerely,

