

Rick Lindgren

From: "Rick Lindgren" <r.lindgren@sympatico.ca>
To: "Michelle Swenarchuk" <SwenarcM@lao.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 2:40 PM
Subject: Re: federal EA

Hi Michelle:

He called me, too, & I'll call him back.

You're basically correct in terms of the inadequacy of the fed EA process – too discretion-laden, too narrowly focused on technical/mitigation issues, no consideration of "need" or strategic alternative options to meet the perceived "need", no hearing process that is procedurally equivalent to what we get before the ERT, etc. etc.

I saw last week that even Ontario's Energy Minister conceded that the fed EA process was less rigorous than the Ontario EA process.

Keep in mind, too, that the fed EA process will not be reviewing the overall acceptability of the IPSP itself – just discrete aspects of projects under the IPSP that might otherwise trigger fed EA obligations (i.e. fed lands, fed funds, fed permits on the Law List, etc).

At the present time, nuclear generating stations are on the "Comprehensive Study" List – but they could, in theory, be referred to a "panel review"; that is, an ad hoc roster of hand-picked experts, but this is not a very satisfactory form of EA (it is not the equivalent of an ERT hearing – review panels have no legally enforceable decision-making powers – they are, in essence, merely advisory).

For other types of ancillary nuke facilities, fed EA often takes the form of an env screening – in my view, the lowest form of fed EA available (next to Class screenings).

Hope this helps...

Regards,
 RL

— Original Message —

From: Michelle Swenarchuk
To: Rick Lindgren
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 1:59 PM
Subject: federal EA

I just did an interview with Darrell Harvey of CBC and though I'm OK on provincial EA, I need some talking points on federal EA for future calls.

I just know it to be less rigorous, without the required elements of the Ontario act..

And there's a scoping process, as I recall, that can be quite open to political manipulation.

What else? MS

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