

5. J.W. Stonier

- i) Most of Mr. Stonier's petition addresses issues which, for the most part, are not directly related to the question of transmission in eastern Ontario. However, he does raise the question of the need for new facilities, and possible alternatives to the proposed transmission facilities.

- ii) The problem of reliable transmission in eastern Ontario was first identified over ten years ago. The question of the adequacy of the existing transmission was examined in detail at public hearings held by the Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning (RCEPP). Their final report issued in 1979 stated:

"After a careful review of the evidence that came before the Commission in the eastern Ontario hearings, we accept the existence of a need for additional bulk power facilities and recommend that the planning process proceed to its next phase."

(Volume 1, page X)

The RCEPP report was presented to Cabinet which issued an Order-in-Council requiring Ontario Hydro to proceed with the preparation of an environmental assessment.

- iii) The Joint Board addressed the subjects of need and alternatives at both the plan and route stage hearings. The Joint Board in its Reasons for Decision for the plan stage issued in August, 1982 stated:

"In summary, therefore, we have concluded that sufficient information on the alternatives has been provided to us and none of the alternatives presented was so clearly superior for us to interfere in the choice which has been made by Hydro to plan for the construction of additional bulk transmission facilities."

(page 26)

During the 1985 route stage hearing, Ontario Hydro updated its plan stage evidence with respect to need and alternatives. A number of parties presented evidence supporting the need for the facilities. Ontario Hydro cannot agree with Mr. Stonier that the Joint Board did not examine these issues in depth and any careful reading of the Reasons for Decision will reveal that the

Board gave appropriate and reasoned consideration to the views expressed by Mr. Stonier and the many other participants at the hearing.

- iv) Ontario Hydro respectfully submits that Mr. Stonier's petition be denied.