

B. RESPONSE TO LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONS

1. A.J. Schoenmakers

North Shore Concerned Citizens

- i) Evidence was presented before the Joint Board on alternative routes in the vicinity of land owned by members of Mr. Schoenmakers' group. As a result of representations made at the hearing by local residents, the Board approved a route change in this area that would place the towers about 1000 feet from the nearest home.
  
- ii) Ontario Hydro has investigated the possible effect of the construction of these facilities on the water table in the area and has concluded that no effects will occur. Ontario Hydro uses only government approved herbicides applied under the supervision of licensed personnel. As indicated in the Government review of the Environmental Assessment, Ontario Hydro will monitor well water during and after construction.

iii) Ontario Hydro's experience in operating transmission lines throughout the province leads it to the conclusion that radio or TV interference is not expected to occur. If there is a complaint about interference, it will be investigated by the federal Department of Communications and if Ontario Hydro is responsible, corrective action to mitigate the problem will be undertaken.

iv) The construction, operation and maintenance of transmission lines in Ontario has not resulted in any significant safety hazard to humans, livestock or wildlife. Potential environmental effects resulting from this undertaking and the proposed mitigation measures were addressed in the environmental assessment and at the hearing before the Joint Board. The Reasons for Decision and the environmental assessment conclude that the benefits of the project clearly outweigh any potential disadvantages.