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**Elise Croll**

Director, Environmental Services

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Public Input Coordinator  
MNRF - Biodiversity and Invasive Species Section  
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**Re: ERO Posting 019-3465**

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Ontario's *Invasive Species Act*. Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") is Canada's largest electricity transmission and distribution service provider. Our values guide us to work relentlessly with our employees and those who work for us to achieve world class environmental performance.

Hydro One is generally supportive of the proposed changes to the invasive species act as outlined in ERO Posting 019-3465. Invasive species are an ongoing threat to Ontario's biodiversity and limiting their spread is a key element to reducing their establishment and overall impact in the province. Hydro One utilizes an internal policy and best management practise document focused on reducing the impacts of our work on spreading invasive species. We also maintain a seat on the board of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, providing a utility perspective to managing invasive species in the province.

While we are supportive of these legislative changes, there are circumstances where the health and safety of Ontario's residents needs to take priority. We would ask that consideration be given for an exemption to watercraft facilitating critical and/or emergency electrical infrastructure maintenance. In particular, allowing for the cleaning and draining of boats to be undertaken only once the emergency work has been concluded. Logistical delays directly related to cleaning requirements could result in extended outages and potential health and safety risks to the residents of Ontario. Broader considerations could also be given to limit cleaning requirements for boats facilitating electrical maintenance work to the end of a working day or when moving between regions.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Ontario to find a balance between industry needs and preventing impacts to Ontario's biodiversity by limiting the spread of Invasive Species in the province.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elise Croll".

Elise Croll

ERO Posting 019-3465