
March 7, 2022

Vanessa Ieraci
Policy Advisor (Acting)
Ministry of Energy
Via email: vanessa.ieraci@ontario.ca

Dear Vanessa:

Re: ERO number 019-4926 Supporting critical transmission infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4926#proposal-details>

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent (CK) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the consultation process Ontario has launched seeking comments on its plan to designate Hydro One as the transmitter for the following priority transmission projects in Southwestern Ontario; The Chatham to Lakeshore 230 kV line; The St Clair Line 230 kV line and The Longwood to Lakeshore 500 kV line.

Please accept this letter as notice of our formal opposition to the proposed designation without the requirement that any transmitter so designated be obligated to enter into a formal community support agreement with impacted municipalities.

Requiring Hydro One to obtain community support for the project(s) is crucial and would demonstrate the Ministry has ensured that impacted communities have backed both the project(s) and the decision to accelerate the process. Such an approach is also in the best interest of all hydro rate payers and end use customers, as cost can be minimized by avoiding delays and accelerated timelines can best be met through community support.

While we appreciate and support the need for this new critical transmission infrastructure, approximately 60-65% of the proposed transmission projects will be physically located within CK (see attached presentation). Given the extent of the projects, Chatham-Kent, being the municipality that will be the most impacted by this infrastructure, is deeply concerned with individual and cumulative impacts the projects will have on our community.

CK, having proactively facilitated the siting and development of over \$3 Billion of energy related projects in our municipality, has demonstrated it is a co-operative partner to the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Energy on provincial objectives related to meeting the energy supply needs of Ontario. CK has successfully negotiated several community support agreements with developers that have resulted in community co-operation, reduced project timelines, and financial savings for projects built within our community. Based on CK's extensive experience with ensuring energy related developments are supported by the community, the most effective way to ensure timely and cost-efficient completion of

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Ontario's proposed Priority Transmission Projects in Southwestern Ontario is to ensure municipal support is secured by the transmitter. Specifically, Chatham-Kent municipal engagement and support for the projects and Hydro One will:

- Assist with optimal route selection and mitigation plans to secure environmental approvals,
- Assist with stakeholder consultation, securing landowner and community support, and
- Minimize project development time and total project costs as stakeholders work collaboratively with Hydro One

The obligation to enter into a community support agreement will ensure a single sourced, designated transmitter who will construct and maintain significant and permanent assets in our community, becomes, and remains, a long-term valued partner with CK.

CK stands ready to work with key stakeholders to develop a framework that meets both provincial and local needs and that will facilitate construction of priority transmission infrastructure in Southwestern Ontario.

Thank you for initiating consultation on this critical issue. We would appreciate the opportunity for a follow-up meeting to further discuss the value and necessity of community support agreements.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

C: Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Honourable Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
David Donovan, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Energy