

Hydro favors overhead wires for 500 Kv. transmission lines

Using many of the people participation techniques pioneered by Bruce Howlett Incorporated, a somewhat chastened group of 14 officials from Ontario Hydro outlined intentions for a right-of-way for a 500Kv transmission line from the Bruce generating station, to about 150 people at Hillsburgh Monday night.

The meeting was called by Hydro to get residents' views on the location of routes within the study area which encompasses Erin and Eramosa townships and parts of Western Ontario. The route starts at the Bruce generating station on Lake Huron and goes to the Kitchener and Georgetown areas from there.

The Hydro men told the meeting that public opinion would not dictate where the power corridors would go—that was Hydro's decision and only it could bear the responsibility. However, it was the intention of the Hydro study to determine a location for the lines which protects the environmental and property interests of local communities. To achieve these goals, Hydro hopes to get maximum public participation in both the study and the route to be followed.

The 3,000-square mile study area is first studied by the forestry department for an environmental analysis and then the physical profile of the study area is distributed to municipal officials, interested groups and individuals who will be asked to evaluate the environmental factors. Based on this information and public participation, alternative corridors will be marked out, further discussed with communities until finally the best route identified taking all factors into consideration.



MRS. RICK SYMMES inspects a map of the hydro study area at Monday's meeting in Hillsburgh. Mrs. Symmes is a member of the Esquesing committee and actively associated with the Solandt Commission hearings and the resultant study by Bruce Howlett Inc. for the commission.

Overhead wires

The Hydro people made no secret of the fact that the lines will be overhead and not underground as some suggested at Monday's meeting. They told residents of the area that underground wiring was both impractical and too costly.

Hydro officials said it was 30 times as costly to go underground as it was to go overhead on a 500 Kv line and 12 times more costly with a 230 Kv line. They estimated it would cost 12 times as much to install underground wiring for a 230 Kv line.

Underground installations were also impractical because

they required a reactor station every five miles, which took up more than an acre of land, another official claimed.

Art Mosher, chairman of the meeting, said there was also a problem with repairing lines when they were underground.

"Underground cables can be out of repair from six to eight days," he claimed, lightning can break service and contrary to popular

opinion underground wiring is not free of environmental damage. He estimated it would cost about six billion dollars to run the lines from Bruce to the east-west corridor, a figure which brought Rick Symmes of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens to his feet with the question, "Have you called for a quote?"

Symmes later told the Free Press he thought hydro officials were glossing things over too lightly in some instances, where new techniques were being developed. He believes underground is more practical than Hydro admits and thinks current studies will bear his suppositions out.

The Hydro people figured that the controversial Pickering to Nanticoke corridor would likely be known in about five weeks. The survey being conducted on that line by Bruce Howlett Inc. is expected to be finished in April.

Field questions

Hydro officials fielded questions all evening, interrupted only by a coffee break and it was obvious the new citizen participation dictums were being rigidly observed. Among the issues discussed were the leasing and purchasing of land by Hydro, possible tax increases, the devaluation of homes and other uses for the power corridors.

The biggest laugh of the evening was provided by one official who said a study concluded the hydro corridors had no effects on the economic values of homes. A roar of derisive laughter swept the room before the official concluded the study was again under review, words that partly mollified the crowd.

Hydro officials denied there would be any TV or radio reception difficulties near the high voltage lines, but if there was they said it would be corrected at Hydro's expense.

Medical problems?

When confronted with authoritative views from Mr. Cosgrave, Sixth Line of Erin, about the possible ill-effects of the lines on people with circulatory and heart conditions, Hydro people said they would take the problem back to the director of medical services. Mr. Cosgrave said it had been proven that the electromagnetic field along the lines had a demonstrated effect on behavior and was damaging to certain health conditions.

One official admitted employees exposed to lines continuously are rotated to avoid contamination but the general public would not be exposed to that intensity.

Towers for the proposed corridor would stretch out at 1,000 foot intervals, or approximately five to the mile. Wires have a 15 foot clearance between them and vegetation.

One point that brought astonishment was the estimated area required for transmission stations—150 acres. It was explained the sites of these would not be settled until the location of the corridors was decided and the "Georgetown" one could possibly be as far north as Hillsburgh.

Hydro officials continually insisted the corridor would make little difference to agricultural pursuits except in instances where farms were cut up piecemeal and then in many cases they would purchase the entire property. Some individuals in the crowd still expressed doubts.

Almost half Erin twp. population aged 20-59

Most of the people in Erin township range in age from 20 to 59, figures in the township official plan reveal.

There are 342 people under five, 972 from five to 14 years of age, 435 teens from 14 to 19 while 2,006 lie between 20 and 59. The township has 292 residents

from 60 to 69 years of age and 249 70 years and over, out of a total population of 4,294.

Percentages of the various age groups have changed greatest in the under five age group from 12.6 per cent in 1961 to 8.0 per cent in 1971—over four per cent while 15 to 19 age group has risen from

7.8 to 10.1 in the ten year span and the 20-59 age group has gained two and a half per cent, going from 44.2 per cent of the total population in 1961 to 46.7 in 1971.

Another interesting statistic is the acreage of census farms. They have declined from 64,736 in 1961 to 45,305 acres in 1971.

Singleton says

Public health nurses should be in schools

Public health nurses should do their fair share in Halton County High Schools and offer more input than what is currently the case, Director of Education Jim Singleton told the Halton County Board of Education at a meeting Thursday night.

Singleton indicated the public

health nurses in the county spend only an hour or so per week in the schools and have no rapport with staff or students. The board employs 13 and a half nurses in the 14 high schools as health attendants. The director explained the boards went into the health business about 10

years ago when there was a real shortage of public health nurses. That shortage of nurses has gone now and the county has a full complement.

Get grant

Singleton said the Board of Health gets a per capita grant to look after the needs of the students in the health field.

He told the board that if the Board of Health saw fit to provide perhaps half time service in the schools, the Board of Education could consider going half way and splitting the current cost of \$32,000 a year.

At Singleton's suggestion the board agreed to open negotiations with the Board of Health in an effort to provide better service by the Health Unit.

O.P.P. report three collisions

The Ontario Provincial Police reported \$1,000 damage was done to a vehicle operated by Douglas Garrett, 25, of 62 Willow St., Acton, when it left the road in slippery weather and collided with a tree on 25 Highway, south of Acton early Saturday morning. There were no injuries.

Hornby, Saturday, a passenger in a vehicle driven by Dale Yorgason, 25, of R.R. 2, Hornby, when it struck a hydro pole. The collision occurred on Highway 7 at the Sixth Line, Esquesing and caused \$900 in damages.

At a recent Board of Health meeting members suggested they'd be willing to take over health services in the school, providing the Board of Education would transfer the funds as well as the responsibility.



Erin township council briefs

- At the regular meeting, March 5, Erin township council:
 - Passed a motion to accept the library board requisition of \$2,200 with an advance of \$400.
 - Passed a motion to pay \$3,348.67 of the Grand River Conservation levy, with \$4,000 remaining.
 - Received a letter from the Acton Fire Area regarding the possible acquisition of a \$15,000 tank truck equipped with radio and portable catch basin, to prevent instances where fires involve total loss because of water shortage. Council agreed to a meeting to discuss the matter further.
 - Was informed of a Land Use Conference at the Waterloo Motor Inn, March 21. Reeve Lloyd Lang will attend.
 - Decided against moving the headstones from the cemetery on the property of Mrs. Lena Hatch, to build a cairn in the Graham cemetery. Reeve Lang suggested that, instead, the land be deeded to the municipality who would then look after the care and upkeep, as are most of the other small cemeteries in the township.
 - Received a letter from the Hillsburgh Baptist Church asking council inform them in the event that the township intends to sell the lot behind the church, as they would like to purchase it for parking space. It was decided to let the church have first chance to buy it, if it goes up for sale.
 - Was informed the 1973 membership fee for the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board would be \$630, up \$200 from last year.
 - Discussed a registered letter to Mr. and Mrs. Mel Whitney which was unclaimed and returned to township office. The letter concerned 1972 and 1973 dog taxes. Reeve Lang asked council if the letter should be given to the police to deliver, adding that the police were supposed to go last year but they "must have got nervous".
 - Was informed Hillsburgh and Erin were designated as under-served for an additional physician at a Department of Health meeting on February 22, meaning that a doctor who establishes practice in the area could apply to the ministry for financial support.
 - Learned of a meeting April 16 over the Consumer Gas rate change.
 - Met with property-owners Bruce Ismond and George Sanders, who wanted their whole concession designated a gravel area in the official plan. After much discussion, Reeve Lang said council would have to consult the planner as it seemed to him designating the concession under discussion (10 side road north to 24 Highway, east of Erin-Caledon Town Line) a gravel area would constitute a change in the Official Plan. He also suggested getting a definition of the Niagara Escarpment Area to see if that particular concession was affected. Reeve Lang also commented that he was surprised at the lack of response from nearby residents regarding the proposed gravel area.



HYDRO officials wrote questions from the crowd on large sheets in a new technique evolved as part of public participation in deciding the route of hydro transmission lines.

DANGEROUS

Boys live more dangerously than girls. The Industrial Accident Prevention Association reports that out of nearly 500 child pedestrian deaths, about 300 or 60 per cent were boys.

GUARD solicits written support

At the first meeting of GUARD (Group United Against Rural Dumping) it was decided to seek the written support of such groups as Women's Institutes, bank clubs, conservation authorities, health authorities, junior farmers, 4-H clubs.

The new organization has 300 members, not counting 20 grade school students who want to join the "Battle of the Dolly."

Meeting at the home of Fred Brooks the committee discussed the use of combines, tractors, manure spreaders, wagons, etc. to block off Dolly Varden to Metro garbage if appeals to elected representatives are negative.

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