

Environmental.

Continued from page 1
 Dr. Brooks said people at the Ministry of Natural Resources had told him that the material Hydro used was just a "conglomeration of junk." He said he had done a study of his own only two and a half weeks ago and been surprised at the faults found in Hydro's reference maps. He said they omitted streams where there were trout and described one area he was acquainted with as Poplar swamp when it was predominantly dry. He said he had walked on it during the April spring run-off and never wet his feet.

Erin township, Dr. Brooks noted, contained the headwaters of the Eramosa, Credit and Speed Rivers, and a vast number of underlying springs which should be the last place to take a power line through. A noted authority at the University of Waterloo said the township contained the best cold water stream in Southern Ontario. He said he was not surprised Hydro people could not identify the headwaters of the Eramosa River in a recent session utilizing the maps they had for source material.

Dr. Brooks said Hydro planned to take A and B routes through white and red pine growth, some of the fastest growing trees in the area, and he could not believe they could keep them trimmed as they claimed so as not to interfere with power lines. As well as an effect on the ecology of the area, Dr. Brooks said considerable evidence existed that electromagnetic fields from high voltage lines can produce serious behavioral changes in animals including damage to perception, brain cortex, memory, learning and sleep. He said the nervous system of animals works by an electrochemical process and prolonged periods of exposure may have some effect on them. He claimed studies should be done, otherwise there could be serious consequences to animals of the area.

Dr. Brooks also said Hydro never investigated availability of infra-red photographs of the land under study although they were available from the National Air Library. The speaker also said a Forester with Ontario Hydro said there was no way they could ever go through a cedar bush as proposed and he could never guarantee whether the works crew would do what he asked them to do.

Dr. Walker of Hydro said the reason why some of Hydro's maps did not contain the proper information was because it had not been transferred from the original source material to the maps and cross-hatched but had still been identified and used as part of the study. He also claimed that the area within the study would not have been affected by improper information, anyway.

In that event, said Elbert van Donkergoed, executive director of the 500 member Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, that did not exclude mistakes in other areas of the study. He also noted Hydro had used independent studies of each area and rated them and this required a values judgment which he and his organization could not agree with because it did not take agriculture into sufficient account. Mr. van Donkergoed said the choice of priorities has an effect on where Hydro said the line should go. In his opinion the priorities were not acceptable to the agricultural community because it was low.

Dr. Walker agreed there was a problem with priorities but said someone had to make a decision. But Mr. van Donkergoed said taking six maps on different scales and throwing them in one pot made it impossible to achieve the proper balance of values. "You can't mix them and make them acceptable," he said.

Much of the meetings were also taken up with compensation for farmers and other property owners whose land would be traversed by hydro lines. Hydro pointed out there were two methods of compensation—either outright sale of the corridor width to them or an easement.

The first attempt to raise the issue brought a large cry from Catherine O'Donnell of Orton who said it was crude and ill-concerned to talk about price when they should be talking about homes, livelihood and environment. Loud applause greeted her remarks.

Another resident who stepped to the microphone said the real problem in compensation was for those who did not get hydro towers on their property and still must look at them without any compensation.

Lawyer Southey replied that the point raised was the subject of a report by the Law Reform Association and they had decided against it.

Commission favors

Limehouse crossing

Jean Besz presented a written report from the Niagara Escarpment Commission indicating the commission favored the Limehouse crossing of the Escarpment over any other alternatives presented by Ontario Hydro. But she also told the Environmental Hearing Board last Tuesday the only other alternative was one line running along the top of the escarpment. The board is holding a series of meetings at Hillsburgh to study the Bradley to Georgetown hydro corridor and its alternatives. Asked if the commission would consider an alternative route if it was found to be better than the existing route, Ms. Besz said she was in no position to answer at this time and the commission would have to study the proposal. She said they would like to be consulted on further alternatives.

The "best route" would have as little impact as possible on the escarpment.

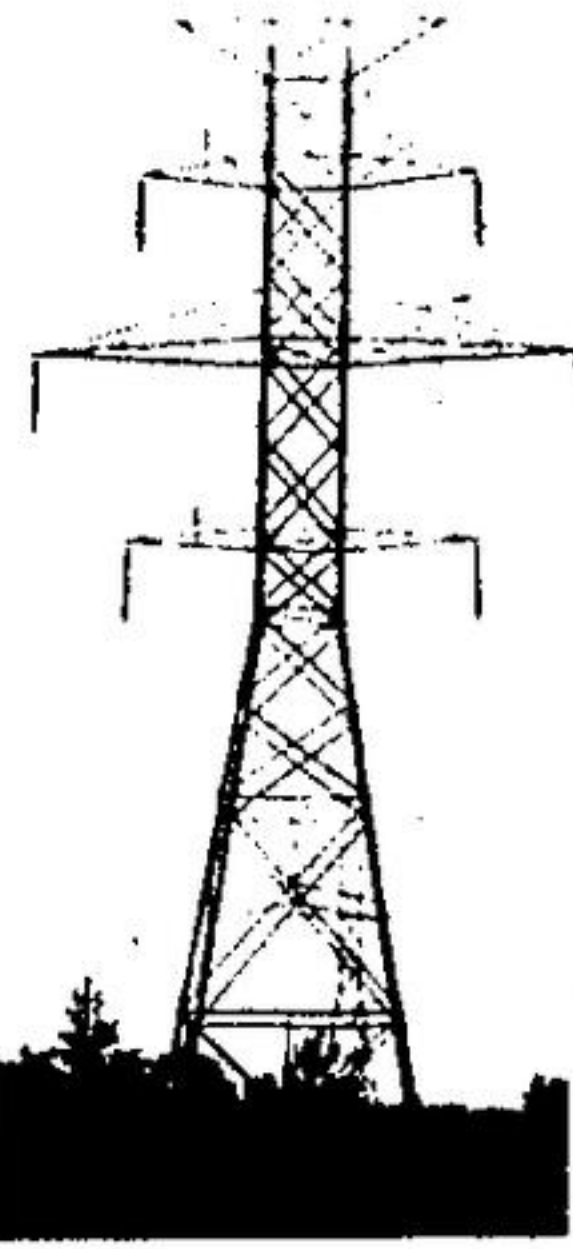
John Schneider of the Interested Citizens Group said part of the problem in finding a better route was the restricted study area. He repeated the theme of the ICG that there would be less environmental impact if the corridor followed existing corridors already owned by Ontario Hydro.

Schneider said it was the consensus of opinion among his group, comprised of 3500 to 4,000 people most of them in Halton and South Wellington—that existing corridors were the answer but at meetings attended by in excess of 500 people, they were concerned at the "incomplete study Hydro has done."

That view cut no ice with Ernest Michael Kenney of Hydro's right-of-way planning department. He admitted to the board that Hydro would have put the three proposed lines in three different rights-of-way if "we could get away with it."

Asked if Hydro had not considered other areas because Systems Planning had already decided to go elsewhere, Kenney said this was correct. He also said using existing corridors was considered prior to the study, and during the study, at Mr. Schneider's request, but it was unfavorable because the line was not secure. He admitted Systems Planning of Hydro made the decision.

Is it more desirable to put lines through areas of least population? "I don't agree," said Kenney. He said he never heard of a case where animals or people were killed because of standing under hydro lines. However, he said the proposed Bradley to Limehouse corridor would be the first of its kind in Ontario.



because of the practical problems of who should be compensated and who should not. Southey admitted the lines were an intrusion but he claimed, "People do get so they stop looking at them."

A female voice from the audience asked: "But why make yourself miserable?"

Schneider says

Northern route save millions

John Schneider of R.R. 2, Acton, told the Environmental Hearing Board that existing hydro corridors running almost empty could easily supply all the capacity Ontario Hydro would produce at the new Bruce nuclear power station without providing a new corridor from Bradley Junction to Georgetown.

Mr. Schneider said the present Essa to Kleinburg corridor is only operating at about 10% percent capacity and would be ideal for transporting power north rather than bringing it from the east-west Nanticoke to Pickering grid which would be supplied by a Bruce to Limehouse corridor.

It would be less expensive to bring power to Essa from Bruce, he suggested, and it would save 100 miles of transmission line to boot. His statements were made in Hillsburgh during two weeks of meetings to assess the impact of a proposed Bradley to Limehouse hydro corridor.

Hydro lawyer J. B. Southey said the way suggested by Mr. Schneider was beyond the terms of reference for the board which, he said, was restricted to about 25 miles of proposed corridor between

points 95 and 33, slightly north of Ballinafad to another point west of Shelburne.

"What is the reason it is not feasible?" asked Board chairman D. S. Caverley.

Mr. Southey said it was an intricate question of systems planning which he did not think should be introduced at a meeting which had restricted guidelines. Besides he said, the suggestion had already been considered and rejected by Hydro, the Ontario Cabinet and Dr. Solandt in his oft-quoted report of the Solandt Commission.

Southey also said it would mean calling in Hydro systems planners and enlarge the scope of the hearings. "I'm afraid," he said, "either we get into it or we don't."

Chairman Caverley said he had no authority to enlarge the scope of the hearings but reminded Southey he had not restricted discussion in keeping with his initial statement June 26. But the Hydro lawyer said Dr. Solandt had already given sufficient reasons for rejecting the Schneider suggestion, a statement challenged by the lawyer for the Interested Citizens, R. S.

Smith. And Mr. Schneider testified that ground rules have changed since Dr. Solandt gave his report. He reminded the board the government has requested Hydro to start saving money and asked what better way to do it than eliminating almost 100 miles of new corridor. As a businessman I question the solidity of building another warehouse when one is empty," Schneider said.

Southey said, however, that the proposals had been turned down in general terms in the Solandt Report and in a letter from Energy Minister to William Mann, chairman of the Interested Citizens. He said Hydro had to consider the capabilities of a transmission line if a fault occurs somewhere else in the provincial system to handle emergencies. He pointed out Dr. Solandt had said the corridor might have to traverse some of the most popular recreation land in Southern Ontario if Mr. Schneider's ideas were accepted.

The chairman pointed out that Mr. Southey's arguments were out of date, that Dr. Solandt was referring to another Schneider proposal. The newest one had evolved over the weekend.

Mr. Southey was not convinced. He said the Schneider plan had been put forward on many occasions and the Minister said he was not going to expand the terms of reference to cover that field of study. "If I open it up I have to bear the full consequences," he said, "and I prefer to leave it."

The chairman suggested Mr. Southey forget about system planners and asked if Mr. Schneider's figures on which his case was based were correct.

Southey reluctantly agreed the figures were correct—temporarily—but the real need for the Essa to Kleinburg corridor was for transmission of power for a more important generating station to the Toronto load centre. He said Hydro anticipates a need for the capacity of the corri-

dor in future from Georgian Bay to the Toronto load system.

Southey admitted there was room for another line in the corridor but said Hydro wants to key up for transmission of power from more northern parts of Northern Ontario to Toronto.

But Mr. Schneider pooh-poohed Southey's allegations noting Dr. Solandt had reviewed the situation on a long term plan which was not approved. It is important, he said, that Hydro bring out a long term plan showing how they were going to use the corridor now they had been ordered to cut back. He said all long term plans of Hydro were subject to the approval of the recently appointed Porter Commission.

Schneider said he had been prodded by Dr. Solandt to find a socially acceptable route as an alternative to the Georgetown to Bradley corridor using existing corridors and with the unveiling of future Hydro expansion plans had been able to do so by just connecting Flesherton to Essa—which was more direct and had less people. It would also save valuable farmland and not go through the popular scenic areas Dr. Solandt referred to in his request.

Mr. Southey said this may all be true but when Energy

Minister Dennis Timbrell considered the route he still agreed with Dr. Solandt. Mr. Timbrell was operating under a misunderstanding, stated Interested Citizens' lawyer R. S. Smith.

Yes, agreed Schneider, Mr. Timbrell thought the route was 21 miles longer and would entail greater cost. "We're suggesting a shorter route. Mr. Timbrell does not understand the situation."

Commission favors

Limehouse crossing

and no studies have been done on effects to animals or people. Kenney's view was disputed by Mr. Manion of the Grey County Hydro corridor Committee, who said this cattle would not cross under 230 kV lines to get to pasture on days of high corona (foggy days). According to a book "Power Over People", from Oxford University Press, written by Physicist Louise B. Young the discharge of high voltages into the air can produce ozone, a form of oxygen with three (rather than two) atoms in its molecular makeup, and oxides of nitrogen.

Ozone can oxidize or "burn" healthy tissue and nitrogen oxides form nitrous acids and one of the major components of smog. All of these might well affect people and plants that live near high voltage lines, the author states. The book is circulating at the meetings.

People who live near such lines in the U.S. say that high voltage alternating current sets up a powerful electromagnetic field that induces voltages and currents in any electrical conductor—generally metallic objects—within about 200 feet of the lines.

In a recent survey 18 families living near the Ohio Power Co.'s 765-kV line reported being shocked by touching farm machinery, wire fences or even damp clotheslines. Two women complained of shocks received while on the toilet. Others complained of bad TV reception and the sizzling sounds of the electrical discharge.

Hydro however, admitting mild shocks can occur, insists scientific studies show lines do not produce ozone or any harmful effects. Grounding buildings and fences near the line can solve most of the other problems, the utility insists.

However, those who attended last week's four day meet-

Aggregates lost if corridor.

J. M. (Mac) Duff, who operates a Limehouse gravel pit, appeared before the Environmental Hearing Board Wednesday evening to ask if there was a possibility he could get all the sand and gravel out of the pits before the hydro corridor goes through.

He told the board it was a well known fact Halton is short of sand and gravel and the Limehouse crossing of the Escarpment which Hydro says Dr. Solandt recommended, goes through his operation. The operation is classified number one in a study in a mineral resource study of Halton.

Unless Hydro makes some provision for taking sand and gravel out of the operation, Duff said the aggregates could be permanently lost.

Duff also admitted the route picked for the corridor was the best in the area, noting there was no other place to put it without disrupting many other things.

But, he said, "It plays hell with our future plans." He said between the Niagara Escarpment Commission and Ontario Hydro the situation is extremely complicated.

Duff wasn't the only area operator to complain about Ontario Hydro's plans to push a 250-foot corridor through the centre of Halton Hills. David Moffat of Lot 2, Con. 5, Halton Hills, raises mixed vegetables on his 20 acre farm with the use of an irrigation system. He told the board he was concerned with the lack of precise information regarding the effect the hydro lines would have on his system.

ings of the Environmental Hearing Board were not convinced.

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