

Second third of corridor in Hydro expropriation

Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor approved expropriations for a power corridor from Limehouse to Colbeck, though several affected land owners refused to participate in hearings of expropriation. The point called Limehouse is actually north of Highway 401.

The minister's decision, dated 29 June, brings under expropriation about two-

thirds of the 500kV line which is to bring power from the Bruce nuclear generating station to the Milton area.

The properties affected are on either side of a 250-foot swath through Erin, East Luther and East Garafraxa townships.

The minister already has given Ontario Hydro the right to expropriate lands from the generating station through

Grey County to Colbeck, near Orangeville. That's along the northern third of the line.

Hearings of necessity on the bottom third of the line, through Halton Hills, are underway in Acton this week. Opponents to the corridor in the south, the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG), are trying to demonstrate the lack of study by Hydro of

alternate routes.

The minister's decision on the central section of the line weights heavily the work of the Solandt Commission and the Environmental Hearing Board meetings at Hillsburgh, plus what he terms several further months of public discussion.

As a concession to the minister, Ontario Hydro has undertaken to acquire some lands 250 feet away from its chosen path so the corridor does not affect four landowners and their neighbors

along the Eleventh Line of East Garafraxa.

The additional acquisition by Ontario Hydro is at the recommendation of the hearing officer Donald Meyrick. He was, however, bothered by the lack of submission by landowners.

The minister summarized the hearing officers position as follows: "There were individual objections and concerns. However, all the objecting landowners elected not to give evidence and the inquiry officer was therefore

unable to make any specific recommendations."

Hearing officer Meyrick in his report to the minister touched on the alternate proposal of the Bruce-Essa line. "In my opinion their (ICG) contention must also fall on the basis of their own argument."

"Solandt studied two northern spurs. One was Limehouse to Milton. There can be little doubt that Solandt studied carefully and recommended that the northerly route from Bruce G.S. cross the Niagara Escarpment (at) Limehouse."

And further "An alignment to connect the predetermined points of Bruce-Milton via Limehouse crossing does not in practical terms allow of consideration of the Bruce-Essa linkage."

However, the Ontario Supreme Court termed Hydro's position on the credibility of the Solandt Commission as "untenable in a May 24-25 decision. The court also

found the study of alternate routes before an inquiry officer is a must in expropriation hearings. The former seems to run directly opposite to Mr. Meyrick's opinion.

Hire crossing guards already for September

School crossing guards for the fall have already been hired.

Mrs. Evelyn Heaps, 115 Acton Blvd., will be co-ordinator of the guards at a salary of \$180 a month. Mrs. H. Bitorf and Miss E. Taylor will be stationed at the Main / School Lane corner. Mrs. Sandra Batten is hired for the Queen St. / Acton Blvd. crosswalk and Mill / Willow corner will be guarded by Mrs. Kay Timbers.

Bias in hearing? . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

matters. "Hydro proposed a site, right along the CPR tracks, and he (the consultant) agreed with it," Moshier said. The selection of the site was from four routes the east-west corridor could have taken. There were others, at least one of which would have carried power from the Bruce To Milton via Highway 401. And they proposed the Bruce-Essa line, which lawyer Marshall refused to consider.

In pre-Solandt Commission decisions, Moshier said, the Bruce-Essa alternate was rejected. One reason was systems security, which he could not comment on, because it's out of his ken. Another reason, he said was environmental in nature. There were

residences along the proposed line, he said, the line proposed would parallel an existing 115kV line. Moshier said.

After more involved exchanges and tangents, hearing officer Meyrick concluded the logic surrounding the rejection of Bruce-Essa ought to be before the committee. But the hearing officer has no power to coerce one side or the other to produce evidence, or to tell the truth.

Throughout the day long proceedings the ICG's Paroian moved for adjournment no less than four times, because Hydro refused to come up with information he, and at that time the hearing officer, thought important. Hydro's Marshall said he'd

check into some of the information to see if it was relevant.

The hearing officer said that under normal circumstances the objections made by the ICG's Paroian would have earned him an adjournment. "But this is a most peculiar inquiry. We proceed, notwithstanding the merit of your objections," Meyrick told Paroian.

At one other point, Meyrick said: "The public interest is such that we simply must proceed."

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ICG LAWYER LEON Paroian (right) and Ontario Hydro's lawyer Tom Marshall seldom see eye-to-eye in expropriation hearings in Acton's Legion. The hearings continued today.

'Great deal' of study not done

Opponents to Ontario Hydro's proposed 500 kV power line across southern Ontario used Hydro's own witness to discredit testimony given during expropriation hearings in the Legion Tuesday.

Art Moshier, Hydro's manager of land use and environmental planning, told the hearing that a "great deal" of work went into system security for an alternate of Hydro's proposed route. The alternate path would take power from the Bruce nuclear generating station, on Lake Huron, to Essa, near Barrie.

The route proposed by Hydro would take that power from the Bruce across the province to near Milton where it would lie in with another corridor along Highway 401.

Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) vice-president John Schneider, R.R. 2 Acton, led Moshier through an afternoon's cross-examination to

show the "great deal" of work was not done on the Bruce-Essa alternate. Schneider maintained, based on a Hydro memo of November 1973, the system security study was focussed instead on a Bruce to Woodbridge line.

Moshier, who claimed he wasn't qualified to answer detailed questions on system security, told the inquiry the "total document" is an assessment of the Bruce-Essa alternate.

ICG's Schneider also got Hydro's Moshier to find that Hydro's route between Bruce and Milton is between four and 14 miles longer than the alternate route suggested by the ICG.

Hydro's preferred line, which would pass through Halton Hills is 109 miles long, Moshier said. The Bruce-Essa line is between 95 and 105 miles long and a Bruce-Kitchener line would be 86 miles long.

Tuesday is the second day in the resumed hearings. The hearings started last November, but were adjourned twice so the affected landowners could take court action.

Hydro lawyer Tom Marshall indicated he was not about to present evidence to the hearing which he did not feel important to the hearing. Such evidence included data on the alternate suggested by the ICG on Bruce-Essa.

The Hydro lawyer had taken that position tentatively on Monday. After checking with superiors, he confirmed it. For example, Moshier, who is not a system planner, could not give testimony about systems planning. However, many of the opponents to expropriation wanted to know details about the system plans of Hydro.

Lawyer Marshall said he was not prepared to present systems planners at this inquiry.

The ICG's Schneider also got Moshier to testify that a 500kV line could be built, from a physical point of view, parallel to an existing 115 kV line from Bruce to Essa.

However, Moshier said it is inadequate to build a 500 kV line from a generating station. He said more than one was needed.

The hearings continue.

Weekend celebration . . .

(Continued from page one)

Church St. N. It was 11 inches in length and weighed eight ounces. He won a scale and roller skates.

The second largest bass was caught by Garry White, eight inches, three ounces. He received a bait box and a record. Anne McDonald of 29 Church St., won a bait box and a record for her largest catfish, 10 inches long and weighing four ounces.

CJOY radio donated the records and the roller skates, while firefighters donated the other prizes.

At night, the Rotary Club and the firefighters jointly sponsored a fireworks display. Fire chief Mick Holmes said he felt this was the best year as far as attendance is concerned. The show got underway at 9:30 p.m.

Security throughout the entire weekend, according to merchant Alma Swetman was tremendous. She said the Halton Regional Police were pleased with the crowd, including the beer garden. She dispelled rumors of trouble Friday evening, and said the police were very pleased with the co-operation received from the public.

Both Mrs. Swetman and Mr. Ruse were appreciative of the organizers and the general public's attitude and help throughout the weekend. Mr. Ruse said the general public was most helpful in areas where organizers could not be every minute, such as road barricades.

Doug Fread, vice chairman of the Save the Town Hall committee, explained it would be approximately one week before the final total of donations towards the town hall will be known. He said the group expects some money will be made towards the cause.

The excitement has died down now, and traffic is back to normal, (almost). Old man weather did not dampen any spirits, and the road construction did not interfere too much with the goings on. Money was raised towards the town hall, everyone enjoyed themselves. The people

of Acton were given back their identity they claim to have lost, if only for a few days. Money was raised towards the saving of the town hall, and, perhaps the most important item of all, everyone participating in any way had a very good time.

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