

# ICG bid to present new data denied as corridor hearings end

The expropriation hearing for an Ontario Hydro corridor planned to pass through Halton Hills ended suddenly last week without hearing officer Donald Meyrick receiving new evidence concerning an alternate route.

The hearings finished Tuesday in Acton Legion hall with the two sides, Ontario Hydro and the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG), as far apart as ever over the question of alternate paths for the 500kV line.

The ICG, which strenuously opposes the corridor, tried in vain since November to persuade Ontario Hydro to present evidence on its decisions and methods for selecting the route.

The public utility intends to bring power from the Bruce nuclear generating station on Lake Huron, across the province and down the centre of Halton Hills to a station near Milton.

The north-south line from the Bruce is to link up with east-west Nanticoke to Pickering line which is being strung adjacent to Highway 401.

The hearings at Acton concentrated on the section of line starting just north of Highway 7 to a point near Milton.

At the start of the hearings last November, hearing officer Meyrick decided he ought not to listen to questions of alternate corridors. His decision was turned over by the Ontario Court of Appeal, though it received split support from the Divisional Court.

Throughout the hearings, even after the court decision, Hydro refused to submit evidence or present witnesses to discuss alternate corridors, because Hydro lawyer Tom Marshall said such questions are not relevant to an expropriation hearing.

During the ten full days of sittings ICG lawyers repeatedly asked for Hydro cooperation for evidence and the hearing officer also pleaded for information from the utility.

In the final rounds the ICG moved to present evidence to the hearing concerning an alternate line. The line would take power from the Bruce to Essa, near Lake Simcoe, where it would hook up with a north-south line.

A few days before the restart of the hearings on August 15, the ICG came into possession of computer print outs from Ontario Hydro. The ICG had also just hired an expert on power and computers to analyze the foot-thick stack of data.

Ontario Hydro gave the evidence to the ICG six weeks after agreement to do so was reached between the citizens' group, ministry of energy and Hydro representatives at the Constellation Hotel, Toronto, this summer.

ICG lawyer Leon Paroian

asked for a month in order for the computer expert to go through the data but hearing officer Meyrick offered to give the ICG one day. The offer was refused, and both sides went into final arguments.

The hearing officer maintained that longer than a one day delay would be against the interests of the province.

Hydro lawyer Marshall contended the government approved the design of the route. On that basis, he said, Hydro did considerable work to find the least objectionable way within a wide study area.

The ICG, Marshall said, suggest that in the early stages of planning, this area might have been avoided altogether.

"I made it quite plain that that is not a proper study here," Marshall said. He later told the hearing officer: "You have ample evidence that Ontario Hydro has thoroughly investigated alternate routes."

The main ICG lawyer, Paroian, contended that

Hydro failed to fulfill criteria for planning as set out by Energy Minister James Taylor. The minister says that before expropriation is approved, Ontario Hydro must demonstrate the adequacy of its planning process, Paroian said.

Hydro, Paroian said, denied the hearing officer and land owners the opportunity of seeing the planning process.

The courts also supported ICG's request for evidence concerning alternate corridors, Paroian maintained.

Another ICG lawyer, Dick Howitt, said that if Hydro's position is inflexible, then there is no reason for these hearings. "The Expropriation Act has been rendered useless," Howitt said.

ICG spokesman John Schneider told the hearing officer that nowhere has Ontario Hydro presented evidence to demonstrate that its choice of line is secure.

This corridor could be a disaster for it does not conform to the North-East Power Co-ordinating Council's basic criteria for design and operation of inter-connected power lines, Schneider said.

The mile-long sleeve of corridor containing portions of the east-west line and the north-south line near Milton does not meet the council's condition regarding the loss of circuits in a common right of way, Schneider said. The council is a consortium of power companies here and in the United States.

# No town loan for condominium parking

The town can't legally loan Halton Condominium 29 \$2,500 to help pay for 13 extra parking spaces.

Russell Jackson, spokesman for the townhouse residents, said the extra parking space cost \$3,550 and \$1,050 has already been paid off after \$42 was collected from each resident.

With more and more families owning two cars there have been parking problems at the Kingham Hill townhouse complex since the town banned parking on the street at night last year.

He asked if the town would give the residents a low interest loan to pay off the rest of the debt.

Engineer Robert Austin said the town treasurer had looked into the problem and found the town can't loan money for work on private property and the residents can't be levied a local improvement tax since the extra spaces are on private property.

He said he has talked to other municipalities about too few parking spots at townhouses and found in other areas people with two cars must pay a rental fee to raise the money for creation of more spots.

Councillor Mike Armstrong commended the condominium for solving their parking problem and said he was sorry the town couldn't help the

residents. Jackson said he was dubious of the chances of getting money from the town. He said there are now 71 parking spots for 69 cars. Jackson noted a \$5 a month is now being charged for 18 reserved parking spaces.

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## County courts snag Hydro 500kV line

A Grey County Court judge will this week decide if he'll follow suit with two other county judges in delaying the right of Ontario Hydro to take possession of lands for a controversial power corridor.

The court decisions along sections of the proposed Bruce-Milton 500kV line keep the public utility off expropriated land until the end of the year.

Judges in Wellington and Bruce counties have decided against Ontario Hydro.

The decisions affect only the northern part of the proposed line, from the Bruce generating station to Colbeck, near Orangeville.

Expropriation hearings at Acton on the south part of the line, ended last week.

The motion to delay Hydro's takeover of land pivots on an appeal filed by Durham lawyer Peter Fallis to the Divisional Court. He hopes to overturn the utility's right to expropriate in Bruce, Grey, Wellington and Dufferin counties.

Hydro completed the expropriation of 214 land owners along the northern arm of the route.

A case concerning the central section of the line, from Orangeville to just north of Limehouse, is also before the courts.

# Scott deal still in hold

The possible purchase of the closed Domtar plant by Scott Paper remains in a holding pattern.

Councillor Peter Pomeroy said plans to make a proposal to bring Scott to Georgetown have been delayed.

He said because of vacations and other problems it took Scott longer to put together intake and outtake flow charts for water and sewer requirements than was originally expected.

This and other information is essential to the town proposal since Halton Hills is attempting to figure out ways to solve technical problems so Scott can locate in Georgetown if the firm desires.

Pomeroy said the flow charts, as well as plant development staging plans, have now been turned over to the town and passed on to Halton Region Industrial Development Officer Bill Marshall.

He said Marshall will prepare a written proposal for Scott which will be examined by council and then sent on to the paper manufacturing firm for their consideration.

Following a meeting late last month, town, region and provincial officials decided to make a formal proposal to try and lure Scott to Georgetown.

It was expected the proposal would be made to the firm in late July but delays in receiving needed information slowed things up.

Early in the spring broad hints about a paper manufacturing firm moving into the Domtar plant which closed in March were dropped by Mayor Tom Hill and provincial Tory candidate George Gray. The pair indicated the deal was almost sealed.

Not long after Scott revealed it was the firm looking at the Domtar facility but at the same time made it clear the deal was a long way from being closed.

They took a one month option on the property in May which was later extended to June and eventually extended indefinitely when technical problems couldn't be readily solved by the town.

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GREG MARKS proudly displays the 32 inch pike he caught in Fairy Lake Monday evening. (The exact location of the catch he would not reveal). It took Greg about five minutes to land the fish. The pike, which is Greg's largest catch ever, will be mounted. Brother Garnet doesn't look too happy at the thought that the fish is almost as big as he.

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