

Citizens vow to drag out hydro fight unless govt. gives independent review

In a position statement issued this week, the Interested Citizens Group reiterated their commitment to continue their fight, by every possible legal means, for an independent review of the location of a proposed 500 kV hydro corridor from Bradley Junction to Milton. Otherwise the ICG says the issue could drag on for up to two years.

The statement says: "During the long contest it has become obvious that Ontario Hydro has suffered an enormous loss in its public image throughout the Province. In spite of the effort by its Public Relations Department to have the Interested Citizens labelled as a group acting against the general public good in their resisting the corridor and so risking the power being 'bottled up' in Bruce, Hydro has emerged to the public as a huge insensitive bureaucracy attempting to ride rough shod over the rights of a group of people."

"This image has been enhanced by the fact that local newspapers and other media have clearly informed the public that the Interested Citizens have never asked for a specific removal of the corridor but have asked only for an independent agency to examine the general situation and have agreed to accept the resulting finding with no further resistance."

"In spite of being opposed on this issue, the Interested Citizens are concerned about damage to Hydro since it is obvious that all people of the Province have a direct and personal involvement with and dependence upon Hydro's welfare. There is, in addition, a clearly apparent sympathy with the Hydro personnel who plan on good basic engineering principles only to have other pressures force changes in those plans."

"The Ontario Government, in its role of responsibility for Hydro through the Minister of Energy, has suffered damage to its public image similar to that suffered by Hydro. The situations where another group, the Concerned Citizens contesting Hydro's Middle Route from Middleport to Pickering, were given a

lengthy and costly independent study by the Solandt Commission, and where the route from Pickering to the east was also given independent examination, are well known throughout Ontario. The refusal to grant similar consideration to the thousands of Interested Citizens over a period of nearly four years has raised widespread concern and even suspicion. This has obviously involved the Government, as witness the solid block of Liberal members of the Legislature, with only one exception, from the Bruce and Goderich areas to Halton in the last two elections.

"In all this area the corridor problem has been a major election issue. It has been a source of exasperation to large numbers of people, including many of the Interested Citizens, that they cannot support the Government, as they normally would, because of the feeling of injustice associated with the corridor. Unless at least some correction of the situation occurs, the political impact will continue indefinitely."

"Legal procedures open to the Interested Citizens in defence of their rights and property will delay the 500 kV line out of Bradley for a minimum of eight months and probably much longer. The Citizens have amply demonstrated their determination to defend their rights by legal action and will continue to do so. Such action, whether successful or not, would be publicized and would continue to be harmful to the Government and to Hydro."

"To ensure that they are in no way responsible for any 'bottled-up' power, the Citizens offer to accept a four month review of the contested route to Milton in comparison with a Bradley-Kitchener-Milton route. The Kitchener route is one of the two that Hydro recommended at the time that the Bradley-Milton line was selected. The review would be carried out by an independent agent acceptable to the Interested Citizens, to the Government and to Hydro. The agent would be

A meeting between Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor and members of the Interested Citizens Group has been set up for next Tuesday, according to ICG member Gordon Kidd.

No reply has been received from Premier William Davis.

The meeting between the energy minister and the ICG, which opposes construction of a major power corridor, will review the brief which is reprinted here.

provided with the data already accumulated in the Hydro "Bradley-Georgetown" study which includes access to Kitchener.

"The Interested Citizens agree to accept the resulting recommendation of the reviewing agent. It should be clearly understood that this proposal does not include any new studies but would be limited to existing data and so would be confined to a four-month period. Other discussed routes beyond the two specified, such as the Bruce to Essa corridor, would be excluded from the review at this time. The route to Kitchener could be flexible since it could be Hydro's original plan recommended to the Government prior to the decision on the Bradley-Milton line or some variation of that plan. They have proposed also, from time to time, other system expansion alternatives involving 500 kV power at Kitchener.

"Hydro has stressed over the last five years the growing need for power in the Kitchener area, including the risk of 'brown-outs'. Their own plans called for a 500 kV transformer station at Kitchener by 1978 as stated in their Bradley-Georgetown Environmental Study, Page 6. This proposal is limited to a simple comparison since only one corridor has been approved at this time and the Interested Citizens believe that the best single corridor from Bradley would be via Kitchener to Milton.

"It is evident that the Kitchener alternative is necessary, feasible, already recommended by Hydro

engineers and one that can be developed as readily as the Milton line. It has ample possibilities to ensure that no power would be 'bottled-up' in Bruce. It further provides for more economical construction costs and export to U.S.A. Thus it is a reasonable alternative worthy of comparison with the Milton line. "The Interested Citizens Group now offers a means of settling a long-drawn-out dispute through a brief period of review of the two routes, to Milton and to Kitchener, with an agreement to accept the resulting finding. This is not the type of costly and lengthy study done by the Solandt Commission for the other citizens concerned about the Nanticoke-Pickering corridor route but it would give a brief comparison with only one alternative route. It would provide at least a little of the consideration given so amply over many months to another group of people."



HE MAY HAVE TO dig forever: D. F. Wilds of 135 Main St. South has to shovel all those steps everytime it snows, and it would not be surprising he does not especially appreciate it.

Milton's growth cited

Metro Trust opens office in Milton Mall

"We chose Milton for our new branch over other communities, because we want to participate and be part of one of the most dynamic communities in the province," T. Stewart Ripley, president of the Metropolitan Trust Company told a large crowd gathered to help him open the town's ninth financial institution Saturday morning.

Metro Trust opened its 23rd branch in Canada in Milton Mall, with a pair of gold scissors snipping a gold ribbon stretched across the doorway. The 11 a.m. ceremony was followed with a luncheon at the Bayrischer Hof Restaurant, for invited guests.

Among the dignitaries on hand were former Governor-General the Rt. Hon. Roland Michener, honorary chairman of the Metro Trust board of directors; Rudi Frastacky, chairman of the board, who founded the company in 1962; Halton MPP Julian Reed, and Mayor Donald Gordon.

Mr. Ripley cited Milton and the Halton region as one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario, during his remarks. In his view, Milton's growth makes it an ideal location for retail businesses, particularly financial institutions. Since 1971 the town's population has doubled and "because the town has all the benefits of both an urban and rural setting, total population is expected to exceed 25,000 by 1985," he said.

The location at Milton Mall, he said, was a result of research showing it will be the focus of Milton's continuing development. Within the next few years more than 2,000 new homes are planned in the immediate vicinity.

Metro Trust will offer a full line of financial services to consumers and businesses, he said. The branch will remain open on Saturdays as well.

Victor Snow, one of Metro's senior managers, is manager of the new branch. Staff includes Janet Vallier, Ruth Hiscox and Ann Trueman.

Mr. Ripley said Metro's assets today total over \$500 million and its business has grown at a rate of 22 per cent per annum since 1971.

Mr. Michener, a well known

parliamentarian, diplomat and former Governor-General, said it was a pleasure to revisit Milton, where he has often skied. He recalled Milton as a quiet and peaceful community of 3,000 people. He said he hoped the branch would prosper and grow, and give service to all. "You will find the citizens of Milton are very friendly," Mayor Gordon told bank officials, as he wished Metro, all the best.

Mr. Michener cut the ribbon, with Mayor Gordon assisting. As a souvenir of the occasion, Metro officials handed out first day covers of the new Canadian stamp honoring the four Governor-Generals, Massey, Vanier, Michener and Leger. They were quickly snapped up by the crowd and Mr. Michener patiently autographed dozens of them for pleased recipients.

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