

Prefers Bruce to Essa

Hydro's corridor route second best—Slater

From the point of view of planning an electrical transmission system, a computer expert told the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), Ontario Hydro's Bruce to Milton route is second best.

The expert, K.J. Slater, Slater Energy Consultants in Toronto, told the board there is better way of getting power from the Bruce nuclear generating station than the route chosen by Ontario Hydro.

Ontario Hydro has built a corridor from the generating station to just north of the Halton Hills border. The OMB is listening to arguments on why the public utility should or should not be permitted inside the boundary, in order to link the north-south corridor to the east-west corridor near Milton.

What remains is a 12-mile stretch in Halton Hills, but according to Slater's 44-page report, a line going east from the generator to Essa, near Lake Simcoe, is better from a systems planning point of view.

Slater was a witness for Halton Hills. Slater took the reasons for the north-south line Ontario Hydro gave to the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG), which strongly opposes the construction of the corridor from the Bruce to Milton.

Slater's report was requested by the Ministry of Energy to help the ICG understand Hydro's transmission system studies.

In general Slater told the OMB he found the Ontario Hydro studies to be consistent, but con-

tinued by saying the studies were not all encompassing, nor were they all the studies that should have been done.

Concerning post-fault capabilities—the ability of a transmission system to work after a major problem—the pick of Ontario Hydro fared poorly, according to Slater.

The Ontario Hydro plan, in part, has lines from the north and the east-west corridor, sharing a common right-of-way into the Milton transformer station.

Ontario Hydro studies did not include consideration of the loss of the Milton station, a point more vulnerable than the quarter mile of common corridor to the north, according to Slater.

"I would have prefer-



K. J. Slater

red further study on the possibility of a Bruce-Essa line or to some other points," said Slater.

A break-down at the

Milton Station may result in a blackout as widespread as the one that plunged the north-east United States and Ontario into darkness a few years ago, Slater indicated.

"It could, it's hard to say," he said.

Another point made in the Hydro studies was the need for a line length which would not be critical. Hydro would not want to cut down on generation from the Bruce plant, and so lose money, because a line was not secure.

"I estimated there would only be 13 weeks of the year when all eight units at Bruce would be in operation. During the 13 weeks the possibility of instability would happen only with a force outage and that amount of time on a forced outage is very small," said Slater.

"Very small," he estimated to be a half a day a year.

Slater told the board he considered the Bruce-Essa link an improvement, but that it would not be as good as having three separate corridors.

The Ontario Hydro studies evaluated eight alternate systems.

The Bruce-Essa connection has been one of the alternate routes suggested often by the ICG.

Ontario Hydro lawyer John Parkinson asked Slater if he included in his study any social or environmental considerations. He replied he did not because Ontario Hydro did not include such considerations in its justification for the Bruce-Georgetown route to the ICG.

The Solandt Commission dismissed the Bruce-

Essa line because "it would not be easy to find a socially and environmentally acceptable route," and because the Bruce-Essa link to the grid "might have to traverse some of the most popular scenic and recreational terrain in southern Ontario."

Slater suggested in his report that three routes would be better than two for corridors out of the Bruce. Ontario Hydro lawyer John Parkinson took him up on that point.

"Bearing in mind there are more lines out of Bruce someday and out of Nanticoke someday, there is still a possibility to achieve the pattern you outline. You studied a proposal of 1973, that has no reality," said the lawyer.

"Here we get into reality," replied Slater. "It was the only justification given to the ICG for the Bruce-Milton line from a systems planning point of view."

No smokes Jan. 22

Smokers should stay away from the January 22 Halton Hills council meeting. That night no smoking will be allowed in the council chamber.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson, wretched in smoke from Councillor Roy Booth's pipe, put forward the motion, pointing out council had endorsed January 21 to 29 National Education Week on Smoking. She said council should at least ban smoking at council meeting that week.

The motion squeaked past by a one vote margin.

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Speakers stolen

Someone couldn't wait until Sunday to go to church, so they decided to break in instead, according to Halton Regional Police.

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Corridor information needs updating—Bruce Howlett

Friday, January 5, 1979

If the environmental planner for Ontario Hydro's east-west corridor had to plan the corridor through Halton Hills he would update information.

Bruce Howlett, president of Bhi Limited, told the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) he would not be satisfied with some of the information used recently by another planner.

Halton Region lawyer, Ken Anderson, pointing at a nearly 15-foot long aerial photograph on the wall, asked Howlett, would he consider it current if he were looking for a corridor today.

Howlett said he would have the area rephotographed because "a variety of things could conceivably happen." The

photo is four years old.

Later, also in testimony, Howlett said he did not know how land use had changed in Halton Hills. "I think it would be worthwhile knowing before going on," said the environmental consultant.

The aerial photo was part of the information Ontario Hydro gave another planning consultant, John Bousfield, to help him study the proposed route for the 500 kV line. Bousfield, who concluded Hydro's route was the best he saw in the area he looked at, also drove the route and walked other parts.

Neither planner was present during the other's testimony.

"I noticed, here and there, there were buildings that did not appear



Bruce Howlett

on the photos," Bousfield told the board. The planner took the point of view of looking for a line with the least visual or agricultural impact. Bousfield's line goes

down the back lot line of the Fifth Concession from north to south.

Howlett's company performed some planning, about four years ago, on possible paths for a corridor. Results were included in the Solandt report, which mainly studied the east-west line.

"The present course for the corridor was not recommended by Bhi, but was an alternate route.

In cross examination Ontario Hydro lawyer John Parkinson inquired if Howlett thought the board should postpone its decision, keeping in mind the cost of delays.

"I'm not making a recommendation; it's just what I would do," replied the planner.

Howlett indicated he thought it worthy to re-examine the information on a line as short as a dozen miles. Such a proper study would require about three months, said the planner.

Cost is a factor in selecting routes, and it, with other, factors are put in a barrel and out comes a route? asked Parkinson.

"I don't agree with that," replied Howlett.

The Bhi studied was carried out in about eight months under what Howlett said were time constraints. Part of his work involved questionnaires to the public and meetings.

"We would have liked to have more time to deal with the public. We moved rather rapidly," he said.

In his report Howlett recommended "impro-

ved appearance towers," single poles, rather than the usual lattice structures. He indicated surprise the suggestion was not used.

Howlett appeared surprised to discover another recommendation, concerning the use of trees to camouflage the Milton transformer station, has also not been used.

Howlett made it clear he was not at the hearing to solicit business, but Hydro's Parkinson asked if he had been available to perform an independent study for the region, Halton Hills or the Interested Citizens' Group.

No sooner had Howlett replied: "Yes," when an unidentified voice from the audience asked if the Ontario Government could not also have hired him.

Hydro slams ICG data

An Ontario Hydro engineer at Ontario Municipal Board hearings disagreed with a picture suggesting the utility needed no more high power transmission lines from the Bruce nuclear generating station.

Hydro transmission utilization engineer Alan Watson testified yesterday there are forecasts of power being bottled up at the Bruce station this year. Watson also told the board that with the possible surplus generation at the nuclear station it is important to have another major transmission line because of the cost of using other fuels to generate power.

The hearings are at Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena.

Ontario Hydro applied to the OMB to rewrite an Esquensing township bylaw and official plan which block the utility from entering the municipality of Halton Hills. A 12-mile ribbon of land within the muni-

cipality is all Ontario Hydro needs to complete a 109-mile long transmission corridor from the nuclear generating station, on Lake Huron, to the Milton transformer station where it is planned to join the Nanticoke-Pickering line.

Watson was directing his evidence towards previous testimony of John Minns, representing the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG). The ICG opposes construction of the Bruce-Milton line without there first being an independent study like the one carried out on the Nanticoke-Pickering line by the Solandt Commission.

Minns presented figures showing Ontario Hydro has enough lines from the Bruce and that there is no bottling up of power at the nuclear generator.

Watson said some of the figures used by Minns were dated and irrelevant. Also the method Minns used to add up the system's limits did not compare to

the "very complex analytical process" used by Ontario Hydro, said Watson.

Figures were introduced by Watson to demonstrate that under ideal transmission conditions there would be, according to projections, 463 megawatts of power which would be unable to be transmitted from the Bruce with existing lines. Under foul weather conditions with one circuit knocked out, the amount of megawatts bottled up would nearly triple, according to Watson. In total with four generators at the Bruce and Douglas Point the production of power would be 3,166 megawatts, Watson said. The figures Watson used came from an Ontario Hydro projection for October of this year.

The ICG's Minns was trying to convince the OMB there is no need for the Halton Hills section of the line.

Watson indicated the cost of not having the 500

kV powerline from the Bruce to Milton would amount to more than \$12-million this year. The cost would come from the need of Ontario Hydro to use coal and oil generation instead of nuclear generation.

Fossil fuel generators are linked to Ontario Hydro's grid.

"Probably the cost of generating power at the Nanticoke station is seven times the cost at the Bruce nuclear station and at the Hearn generator the cost of production is probably ten times the cost of getting power out of Bruce," Watson said.

Watson was allowed to give testimony after an hour long lawyers' debate on the question of Ontario Hydro being permitted to introduce new evidence after the opposition lawyers brought forth all their evidence.

Ontario Hydro is applying for the official plan amendment while the ICG, Halton Region and Halton Hills lawyers are fighting to keep the laws the way they are.

OMB chairman Henry Stewart and Bill Dyer decided to permit Ontario Hydro to introduce reply evidence in the interest of a full and fair hearing.

The hearing, which has accumulated more than 60 exhibits, started January 2 and is expected to end today.

Court to test OMB Act

A spring time court battle may render insignificant any meaning from the current Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing concerning the proposed Ontario Hydro corridor through Halton Hills.

Halton Hills, with the backing of the Interested Citizens' Group (ICG) brought an application to the division court of the Ontario Supreme Court to enquire into the jurisdiction of the OMB

into hearing the application to amend the Esquensing official plan and bylaw pursuant to the Planning Act in light of provisions of the Power Corporation Act and the OMB Act.

The court, which is expected to hear the case in the last week of March, will examine the specific article in the OMB Act. That article states: "Nothing in this Act confers upon the Board any jurisdiction as to

matters that, under the Power Corporation Act, are within the exclusive jurisdiction of Ontario Hydro.

Such jurisdiction includes construction of power corridors, according to ICG lawyer Patrick Devine.

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