

Old hydro pole, inspector leave firm in the dark

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The owner of an electric wiring manufacturing business in Georgetown is still furious after the plug was pulled on his Rosetta St. operation last week.

Grant Turner, whose Applied Wiring Assemblies plant employs about 40 full-time staff, had to send most of his workers home on Wednesday and Thursday because an obsolete hydro pole was suddenly shut down, affecting three businesses in an industrial area near the Georgetown GO Station.

An inspector for the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) arrived at around 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11 and ordered that power be disconnected so that the hydro pole, which belongs to the landlord of the property, could be replaced.

The landlord was informed months ago by the ESA, which enforces the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, that the hydro pole needed repairs and when the notice wasn't heeded, power was shut down due to safety concerns.

"It's silly how this has been handled. I've been in business in Halton since 1980 and all I've done is contribute to the local economy, and this is the way I'm treated?" said Turner, whose landlord rented a generator Thursday to allow some work to be done at Applied Wiring, but its molding operation didn't restart until Monday afternoon when the new pole was installed.

"My landlord has some blame here, but he says the contractor didn't do what he said he would do," added Turner.

"(The landlord) has been in Vancouver and didn't know this was going to happen. And (the ESA) has more or less indicated that they could care less if we're not able to operate. Their attitude is, 'Then sue your landlord.' I don't go around suing people if there's a problem. They're both at fault in this situation and I'm paying for it."



An old hydro pole (left) outside the Applied Wiring Assemblies plant on Rosetta Street was replaced by a new one (pictured at forefront) Monday but not before the Electrical Safety Authority disconnected the power to the firm, which lost two days of production.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

In addition to the lost business to Applied Wiring, which hadn't been calculated as of Tuesday, Turner said the power outage also affected other local businesses that he supplies wiring components to, including CPI and Minus Forty.

He added that it will require at least a day's worth of maintenance to Applied Wiring's manufacturing machinery because the injected molders were damaged due to the abrupt shutdown.

"We were told we had five minutes before the hydro would be shut down and we didn't even have time to shut all the computers off," Turner said.

"Because there was no power, I had to drive down here every 45 minutes or so to make sure nobody broke in, because the alarm system wasn't on. When I was sitting here, in the dark, I thought of putting a sign up saying 'we're closed', just auction everything off and leave. But I couldn't do that to my employees. Only three of them don't live in Georgetown."



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