



Hydro One plans to twin transmission line corridor...

66 properties in Halton Hills impacted

Continued from page 1

affected, along with seven industrial properties, three vacant residential properties and one Conservation Authority property.

In a report to Halton's planning and public works committee, Peter Crockett, Halton's Commissioner of Planning and Public Works said the additional required land required could be acquired, for the most part, through easement agreements with private landowners.

He said due to the urgent need for the new line, Hydro One will be applying for approval to acquire the land rights through expropriation, although Hydro One will also negotiate directly with the private landowners, based on the principles of market value, using external appraisals to set land values.

Crockett also said where the widened corridor directly impacts a house and or major operational building, Hydro One "usually exercises the option to buy out the entire property holding."

Although the current transmission system can handle power from the six existing operating nuclear units at Bruce, there are plans to return two more nuclear units

to service and that power, along with wind power, requires a new 500kV line and that the only viable options is to twin the existing line.

Halton Hills Council wants Hydro One to deal with local residents and the Town in an "open and transparent" manner.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said the Town "would have preferred a different route" – one that didn't have serious impacts on agricultural, the rural area and the Town's prestige industrial lands in the Steeles Avenue-401 corridor.

Bonnette sent Hydro One a letter on Tuesday, asking it to be "very generous in their approach to compensation

for those affected."

The project requires Environmental Assessment Act approval and Ontario Energy Board construction approval, but no Halton planning approvals are required.

The proposed 500kV line project would involve construction of 180-kilometre of double-circuit line from Bruce to Milton, and the target in-service date for the new line is 2011, with an estimated cost of \$635-million.

As part of the project planning, Hydro One would undertake a public consultation program, including six public information centres, along the proposed corridor.

Region councillors receive \$1.1 million in pay, expenses

Halton municipal politicians received \$1.1-million in remuneration and expenses last year – payment for sitting on council, other boards, and conservation authorities and for conference expenses and mileage fees.

Former Chair Joyce Savoline topped the list with \$169,708, and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette received \$42,445 in salary and expenses.

Halton paid \$43,669 to the eight members of the police service board, and \$35,951 to the 14 councillors who sit on two conservation authorities.

Council member mileage and other expenses totalled \$12,000, and ap-

proximately \$26,000 was spent on conferences at-

tended by Regional council members.

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