

Hydro seeks input over proposed transmission line corridor

by Rob Cotton
The News

Tourism operators, First Nations, the forest industries and the Ministry of Natural Resources all have concerns over the effects of the proposed 500 kilovolt transmission line in Northern Ontario.

Ontario Hydro has been holding public information centres across Northern Ontario to allow the public to review and comment on the preliminary study for the the new line which will carry electricity purchased from under an agreement signed with Manitoba in 1989.

Ernie Hahn, an Ontario Hydro, senior planner, with the information centres, said operators of fly-in lodges have expressed concern about the access the line might create to their lakes.

"The public could use ATV's, or snowmobiles along the transmission line's cleared right-of-way to get to a river and from there access a lake," he said.

There are no First Nations reserves within the the proposed corridors, Hahn said, but there are still areas that, traditionally, have been used by people of the First Nations.

Ontario Hydro has a community studies group that has

contacted the bands in the study area that might be affected.

"It will be interesting to see if we can get some geographic expression of their concerns over the traditional-use areas," Hahn said.

The forestry industry wants the right-of-way for the line to avoid the areas it has identified as optimum areas for regeneration.

Ontario Hydro has hired a forestry consultant to map out the information provided by the industry.

The transmission line will be affecting nine Ministry of Natural Resources districts, Terrace Bay being one of them.

Hahn said the MNR has provided Ontario Hydro with information regarding concerns such as moose concentration areas, moose aquatic feeding areas, deer habitat, osprey and bald eagle nests, heron rookeries, spawning areas, and trout lakes.

"All of this information is marked on a map," Hahn explained, "and given a very high rating as areas to avoid."

Ontario Hydro has stated a preference for the corridor to run from Nipigon straight over to Timmins rather than down to Sault Ste. Marie.

The southern route is very rugged, limiting access and

increasing construction costs, Hahn explained.

There are also long term high-tourism values in the area west of Wawa that are of concern, he said.

"It is the route of the Trans-Canada Highway and we do have an existing line there that is quite visible."

The northern route has less potential impact on wildlife, tourism and recreation activities, provides better construction and maintenance access off Highway 11, is more compatible with economic activity in the highway corridor, provides for a potential connection with Hydro Quebec.

New Block Parent Program for Schreiber Township

Continued from page 1
said.

However, he explained, children traveling with their parents to different communities wouldn't know about Block Parents if they happened to get into trouble.

A program in Schreiber would give them that information.

It would also provide a refuge for new children coming into town as well as visitors, he said.

The costs for the program are minimal. A starters kit from the head office of Ontario Block Parents costs \$35. The signs for

the homes are sponsored through the banks.

"The cost of 100 signs is only going to be \$8.50," McBride said.

The Block Parent sign is an official symbol of the program across Canada.

The red and white graphic design of a child holding an adult's hand is easily identified.

It is placed inside a window clearly visible from the street.

The sign tells children and adults that help is immediately available at this home for any emergency.

It is also a sign that tells

criminals and trouble-makers that the children of the community have been taught how to deal with strangers.

The sign is displayed only when someone over 16, who has been screened by the local police is in the home and available.

Absence of the sign does not mean the house is unattended.

Block Parents have no legal status except their natural status as citizens. They are volunteers who have agreed to act as sensible, responsible adults in an emergency situation.

The Block Parent program

requires the involvement of the total community, including municipal governments, boards of education the local police.

Constable Bert Logan of the O.P.P. Schreiber Detachment, will provide liaison with the Schreiber Block Parent committee.

The committee is an independent body. However Constable Logan will provide information on safety and other concerns.

He will also educate the children in the schools about the program.

The police also help the committee to select volunteers by screening the past history of every block parent applicant.

Logan said grounds for rejection include a criminal record, a history of domestic disputes, or involvement with drugs.

It is important that the children are being sent into a safe environment, he said.

It is also important that parents teach the children to respect the sign. Block Parents do not provide food or beverages, toilet facilities, or transportation.

They do not leave the home to break up a fight or actively engage any dangerous persons.

Contact Ron McBride at Schreiber Township offices for information.

Tree of Good Tidings

McCausland Hospital's Christmas tree is standing in Simcoe Plaza waiting for the people of Schreiber and Terrace Bay to bring it to life.

It needs lights so that it can be transformed into a Christmas Tree of Good Tidings by Dec. 21.

Christmas tree lights can be purchased at the administration office of the hospital 8 - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday between Nov. 19 to Dec. 20.

Any and all donations will be welcomed by the hospital.

Donations to the fourth annual Light the Christmas Tree project will be used to help purchase the new X-ray equipment for the Radiology Department.

The tree will be transformed on the evening of December 21. The highest bidder will light the star.

Future jobs

Continued from page 1
government in December, 1991. Ontario Hydro anticipates the government review of the study to be complete by the fall of 1992, and a hearing, if necessary, done by 1993.

McKay said the construction phase, survey, ordering of material and clearing, could begin in the winter of 1995-95.

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