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December 14, 1981

Mr. Keith C. Norton,
Minister of Environment,
14th Floor,
135 St. Clair Avenue West,
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5

Re: Eastern Place Stage
Environmental Assessment
and Re: Joint Board Hearing CH-81-01

On November 16, 1981 we submitted a detailed and comprehensive application for funding that would help us alleviate some of the financial burden of participating in the above-noted hearing. Although over four weeks have now gone by, we have unfortunately not as of yet received your response.

During this period of time, we have proceeded with the task of preparing for the upcoming hearings (January 5, 1982), in the expectation that some financial assistance would be forthcoming. In this regard, we have met with several individuals who have agreed to provide us with the expert assistance that is needed in order to properly present the issues with which we are concerned.

Our efforts in this regard have however been seriously hampered by two factors. The first concerns the onerous timetable imposed by the board which allows us very little time to co-ordinate the activities of a large number of individuals whose assistance we require. We have corresponded with the Board, articulating our concerns in this regard, which simply put, underlines the importance of adequate preparation in facilitating a meaningful and expeditious hearing of the matters at issue.

The second inhibiting factor concerns the matter of funding. To date, we have invested of our own resources, a considerably greater amount that we are requesting of the Ministry. In addition, we have had to devote a significant portion of our scarce resources to pursuing available avenues of funding. In many instances, the

commitments that we have received from various experts has been tentative pending the availability of some financial assistance. In sum, uncertainty as to funding has significantly undermined our efforts to pursue our "legal" right to participate in this "public" hearing process.

We have at this point simply exhausted our resources and unfortunately have to recognize the hard fact that our substantial efforts to date may come to naught. This is to advise, therefore, that unless we received by Friday, December 18, 1981 your notification that funds will be made available immediately, we will have no option but to withdraw as parties to this process.

Further in this regard, we have discussed this matter with the other intervenors to this hearing and they have fully endorsed our position. You will note from the list of parties and participants to this hearing that this will essentially deny the Board the opportunity of hearing any representative of the public during the course of this decision making process whose major function must be considered that of facilitating public participation.

It is perhaps a little late in the day to reiterate our commitment to the validity and importance of allowing public participation in the process of assessment and review of undertakings that will significantly impact upon the environment. As primarily rural residents, who must live with the immediate environmental impact of this proposed undertaking, we feel that our participation will inevitably enhance the quality of the Board's decision on this matter.

Our commitment to participating in this process has been amply demonstrated by the time and energy that has been invested by several members of this community in an effort to make this legislated process of public review a meaningful and effective one. Within this context, our request that we be met somewhat less than half way in defraying the financial burden of this participation, must be viewed as being quite moderate.

Sincerely,



Steven Shrybman,
On Behalf of the Hydro Consumers' Assoc.

C.C. - Mr. Bruce Campbell,
Tilley, Carson & Findlay,
44 King St. W., Toronto.

Mr. T.M. Murphy,
1 St. Clair Avenue W.,
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8 York Street, 5th Floor S.,
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