

11 June 1981

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

Dear Sir:

RE: Environmental Assessment File No. 1-77-0007-0000

We write to you on behalf of the Hydro Consumers Association, a newly formed association of individuals seriously concerned with and opposed to the expansion of Ontario Hydro's electrical transmission system through Eastern Ontario.

We have reviewed the above noted assessment and find it seriously deficient in several respects in that it fails to comply with the requirements of the Act as set out by S.5(3). In our view, this assessment makes no attempt whatever to set out, describe, establish a rationale for or evaluate alternatives to the proposed undertaking. The requirements of this provision are mandatory and, in our view, critical to the objects and purposes of the assessment process. We appreciate that any board convened with respect to this matter would evaluate the adequacy of the assessment before it; in our opinion, however, any such consideration would be premature pending compliance by Ontario Hydro with S.5(3) of the Act.

In the event that you decide to proceed with this assessment as it stands, please be advised that we require a hearing by the board pursuant to S.12(2)(C). Further be advised that it is our intent to make submissions in this regard.

Sincerely,

K. Smith
M. Nault
W. Laut
J. King
P. Neelands
S. Shrybman

Steering Committee, Hydro Consumers Association
P.O. Box 247
Perth, Ontario K7H 3E4