

*General Letter*

Hydro One Networks Inc.  
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Myles D'Arcey  
Sr. Vice-President, Customer Operations

November 1, 2007

Mayor Frank Scarpitti  
and Members of Council  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard,  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

**Via Facsimile: (905) 479-7775**

Dear Mayor Scarpitti & Members of Council:

**Request for Exemption to By-Law 2007-146 for Electric Utility Operations**

With the Town of Markham's by-law to regulate the non-essential use of pesticides on public and private property scheduled to come into force on January 1, 2008, I am writing to respectfully urge Council to consider an amendment to the by-law to allow selective use of pesticides (herbicides) by Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One").

Hydro One is wholly-owned by the Province of Ontario and is responsible for the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to large industries and local distribution companies serving major urban areas such as PowerStream, and also 1.3 million homes and businesses in small urban and rural communities across Ontario. We are deeply concerned by the fact that an exemption for electric utility operations has not been included in this by-law.

In correspondence and presentations leading up to the Town's adoption of By-Law 2007-146 on June 26, 2007, Hydro One outlined the importance of vegetation management to its electricity transmission and distribution business. Representatives from our company and from PowerStream subsequently met with Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Leadership, Town of Markham on September 18, 2007 to reiterate the critical role herbicides play in maintaining a safe, reliable and reasonably-priced supply of electricity for consumers and to outline the exemptions in place for utilities in other municipalities that have passed similar bylaws.

The inability to selectively and judiciously apply herbicides within Hydro One-owned transformer and distribution stations and on provincially-owned power line rights-of-way can compromise public and worker safety, and will hinder our ability to minimize power interruptions. Prohibiting responsible herbicide use will also drive up utility operation and maintenance costs, putting pressure on rates we must charge electricity consumers.

Of utmost concern to us is the safety of our workers. It is essential to prevent weeds and other vegetation from growing through the crushed stone surface at facilities such as Hydro One's Parkway Transformer Station on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, since vegetation can reduce the effectiveness of the station's electrical grounding system putting electrical maintenance workers at risk. You can appreciate that the manual removal of weeds in a high voltage electrical environment would be virtually impossible.

A reliable supply of electricity is essential for the economic well being of Ontario's communities and the safety, comfort and convenience of all electricity consumers. The public expects electricity service providers to be environmentally-responsible corporate citizens, and I can assure you that Hydro One's vegetation management programs are fully compliant with all legislation and regulations and represent best practices in the utility sector.

We appreciate Council's consideration of our request. Our representatives are available should you wish to pose questions or seek clarification on our request.

Sincerely,



Myles D'Arcey  
Senior Vice President Customer Operations

MD/ts

cc: Ms. Mavis Urquhart, Manager, Environmental Leadership, Town of Markham  
Ms. Sheila Birrell, Clerk, Town of Markham  
Mr. Mike Matthews, P. Eng, Director, Asset Management, PowerStream Inc.  
Mr. John F. Bowen, Programs Officer, Hydro One Networks

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