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December 13, 2024

David Lebeter  
President and CEO  
Hydro One  
P.O Box 5700, Markham, ON L3R 1C8

Dear President Lebeter

Greetings from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Northwestern Ontario Energy Task Force.

We were pleased to have the opportunity to meet with you at the Waasigan groundbreaking celebration luncheon at Fort William First Nation on Friday, November 22. In particular our discussion regarding the current manner in which expansion of the transmission system falls requires new customers to incorporate that cost into the overall project was quite interesting.

As you are aware, bulk transmission lines are paid for by the entire rate payer under the assumption of a broad sharing of the benefits of ensuring that growth regions have sufficient power for their needs. The East West Tie and now Wassigan are essential bulk elements in powering the Northwest.

We have just completed our analysis of the power requirements that will need the power brought north via the Wassigan Bulk Transmission line:

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Ear Falls-Red Lake via E2R by 2028 | 232.7 MW |
| Pickle Lake via E1C by 2030        | 87 MW    |
| Sioux Lookout by 2032              | 180 MW   |
| Dryden TS by 2029                  | 72.6 MW  |

**The projected total for the Dryden area and its north is 612.3 MW by 2032.**

NOMA has been lobbying for increased capacity from Dryden to the Ear Falls-Red Lake cluster for decades. As you are likely aware the I.E.S.O. has launched a new planning process the North of Dryden IRRP Addendum. We have communicated the above projections to the I.E.S.O.

In our submission we wrote:

“It is clear that the best solution to the impending and significant load in the North of Dryden area is the extension of the 230V Waasigan Power bulk transmission line further North to Ear Falls. This will not only ensure that the capacity is there to support the future growth but will also ensure greater supply stability for the communities of Red Lake and Ear Falls.”

We went on to note that:

“In addition, we are now concerned that the soon to be constructed Wassigan Bulk Transmission line may not have sufficient capacity to meet the significant amount of new load North of Dryden.”

We believe that it would be prudent to add a second circuit to the Atikokan to Dryden section of Wassigan in order to meet that newly identified demand.

In a recent meeting between the I.E.S.O. and NOMA when presented with the proposition that the Waasigan Line be extended further North, the I.E.S.O. representative said that any recommendation for a bulk transmission project must come from Hydro One.

***We are therefore requesting that Hydro One immediately commence the process to develop the rationale for extending Waasigan to the Red Lake-Ear Falls cluster and to add a second circuit to the Atikokan to Dryden bulk transmission line***

On a related note, the I.E.S.O. is also undertaking a study as to how best to bring power to the Ring of Fire as well as the communities along the likely path of the line. This too should be constituted as a bulk transmission line and input to the I.E.S.O. by Hydro One early into the planning phase should help guide their consideration of the options.

We would be more than pleased to meet with you and your officials to discuss these two proposals further.

Yours truly,



Wendy Landry  
President, NOMA



Iain Angus  
Co-Chair NW ETF



Jim Vezina  
Co-Chair NW ETF

Cc:  
Mayor of Red Lake  
Mayor of Ear Falls  
Mayor of Dryden  
Mayor of Atikokan  
Mayor of Greenstone