

# FARM STRAY VOLTAGE CONSULTATIVE GROUP

## MEETING NOTES



Main Board Room, Ontario Energy Board

September 25, 2007

### Welcome & Opening Remarks

Following opening remarks and the introduction of guests, Board staff provided a progress report on the procurement of expert studies as follows:

- Impact of stray voltage on farm operations - literature review: Request for Proposals issued 18 Sept
- Regulatory approaches in other jurisdictions: Request for Proposals to be issued Sept. 28

### Invited Presentation by Mark Cook, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Mark Cook, Manager, Rural Electric Power Services gave a two hour presentation describing the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's experience developing regulations to address Farm Stray Voltage. The presentation included an historical account of events, beginning with the 1987 initiation of investigations into how neutral to earth current flows can contribute to low level voltages to which livestock can be exposed. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period and round table discussion. Click [HERE](#) for Mr. Cook's presentation.

### Old Business

- On the advice of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Board staff prepared a handbill providing information on the FSV Consultations and made several hundred copies available to the OFA for distribution from the OFA booth at the International Plowing Match, which took place in Crosby on Sept. 18 – 22.
- A number of candidate locations were identified for farmer Consultation Meetings to be held in late October/early November period. It was agreed that wherever possible the meetings should be scheduled so as not to conflict with other farm-related events such as the Royal Winter Fair.
- The Electricity Distributors Association provided the results of their member survey. Six utilities reported dealing with farm stray voltage enquiries, primarily in the 1980s and 1990s, with the highest number reported by utilities serving the southwestern Ontario region.
- The Electrical Safety Authority announced that their Utility Advisory Council's Stray Voltage Working Group had submitted its final report for consideration. The report includes several recommendations and two manuals detailing procedures for investigating and addressing farm stray voltage situations: one for utilities and one for contractors working on behalf of customers.
- The Ministry of Energy reported that information from Ministry archives show that Ontario farmer stray voltage concerns date back to 1980.

### New Business

- Additional opportunities to distribute copies of the OEB FSV Consultation handbill were discussed.
- Decisions on the locations of Consultation Meetings in rural communities would be finalized on the OFA's advice within the next few days, after which the OFA would begin to make the necessary arrangements in each location. Board staff will prepare a program for the meetings. The arrangements and the program will be discussed at the next Consultative Group meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 19, 2007.

In Attendance:

Michael Bell	Hydro One Networks
Stephen Cain	Board Staff
Steve Clarke	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Ted Cowan	Ontario Federation of Agriculture
George Dimitropoulos	Board Staff
Gary Gilbert	Electrical Safety Authority
Jason Hrycyshyn	Electrical Safety Authority
Donald McCabe	Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Takis Plagiannakos	Board Staff
Kenneth Quesnelle	Board Member
David Richmond	Board Staff
Gordon Ryckman	Board Staff
John Savage	Ontario Ministry of Energy
Jeff Thomson	Electrical Safety Authority

Regrets:

David Balsillie	Board Member
Kevin Mackenzie	Electricity Distributors Association
Erik Veneman	Waterloo North Hydro/ESA UAC Working Group on Stray Voltage