

OEB RRFE Regional Infrastructure Planning Process Working Group

OPA Summary: Northern York Region and York Region regional planning process experiences

- the 2005 Northern York Region (NYR) and the current York Region studies are two examples of how regional planning has evolved with new expectations, challenges and process issues
- **Northern York Region study:** started off as a transmission expansion project by Hydro One; growth in NYR; need new capacity; Buttonville x Armitage best solution based on LDC/ Hydro One planning studies (pre-OPA)
- Significant community opposition in Markham, Newmarket and Aurora; asked why other options such as local generation not considered; project was stalled
- In a July 25, 2005 letter, OEB requested OPA to examine the need and potential solution/options to address the need for meeting the forecast demand growth in NYR; OPA's goal is to recommend a long-term solution that is technically feasible, timely, cost effective, while considering its impact on the affected communities
- **Planning process:** meetings with key stakeholder groups early in the process; held public meetings (700 people showed up at a May 4th meeting); establishment of a working group with cross-section of representatives; advisory group set-up; as well as observers (e.g. STOP); 5-full day of information, deliberation and proposals; an elected official forum (3 sessions held); media invited; website and written comments; public/media briefing of recommendation (March to Sept 2005)
- Sept 30 report submitted to the OEB; confirmed need; 5 recommendations: 20 MW of DR; Holland TS; cap banks at Armitage; natural gas generation; and plan for another TS in NYR by 2011
- Two progress reports filed with the OEB between 2005 and 2009
- All solutions except for some switching at Holland and the next TS have been achieved
- **Lessons learned:** need to look at other options – not only transmission; working with the communities; range of options and not just the primary project
- **York Region study:** initiated by a letter from PowerStream to the OPA indicating the need to supply 3 new TSs in the near-mid time frame; is there supply capacity to do so; as well the siting of Vaughan #4, a TS needed around 2016

- The study is modeled somewhat as we have discussed: team of OPA, LDCs, Hydro One and IESO; TOR prepared; detailed consolidated demand forecast prepared; need study conducted; developed options to address need
- Salient considerations:
 - CDM and DG much more prominent than before
 - Reliability criteria more stringent and complex (e.g., restoration requirements) as well as factoring in a large gas-power source in the study area
 - Important to identify needs in the near/mid/long terms in order to facilitate implementation activities (move ahead with near-term activities before the overall study is complete)
 - Not to arrive at solutions too quickly; suggest community consultation for mid to long term major options (i.e. ALT TO); serious consideration of employing CDM and DG before infrastructural expansion (if not, must answer why not)
 - The concept of Plan vs. Project consultation
 - The detailed study of transmission (if transmission) to be done by the Transmitter in consideration or part of the EA process (cost of options can be affected by undergrounding, routing, etc.)
 - This part is a long process and can't be fitted easily into a fixed timeline; thus, the need to move on with the near-term projects before the completion of the overall study
- Still in midst of planning process for York Region; just before the Plan consultation part; consultation plan is being developed; in the mean time, a number of near-term projects which involve station work mostly is moving forward (it should be noted that even though, the solution for the near-term is transmission, there are issues affecting the gas power plant that requires OPA involvement as the counter party to the PPA; as well the near-term work also includes means to achieve CDM targets and procuring DG)
- Will have to wait to see the effectiveness of the new York Region process

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