

Holland Marsh Growers' Association
12 – 16715 Yonge Street, Suite 296
Newmarket, Ontario L3X 1X4
905-251-6786
www.hollandmarshgold.com



April 20, 2009

To Mayor Margaret Black and Members of King Council:

Thomas Jefferson once wrote:

“Governments are instituted among men (and women), deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”.

Your worship, you and this council were duly elected through the democratic process that Jefferson so eloquently spoke of in that Declaration of Independence written more than 230 years ago with words that resonates today. You are not lower-tier government, as many might try to pigeon-hole you, but, rather you are the level of government closest to the taxpayer and electorate and clearly elected to represent the best interests of King Township residents.

That is why we, the Holland Marsh Growers' Association and its many members, are here before you. We, the people, want to talk about “consent” or the lack thereof as it relates to the OPA. This council has seen its authority dismissed, its power under the various levels of legislation usurped, and the will and mandate of the people ignored.

We, the people, before you again this evening want to support this Council as it uses its due process and raises legitimate concerns to the OPA-selected York Energy Centre project, to stop this once and for all. You have that power and we, the people, want you to exercise it. Energy Minister George Smitherman came into this riding and confirmed that the company involved in

the project had many hurdles related to regulatory requirements and bid requirements to pass before the contract could be honoured. Hurdles? Not having a connection point, as required under the RFP, is merely the starting point.

We, the people, have confirmed:

1. The Cawthra Mulock Reserve cannot and will not extend permission for such a connection as a legal opinion has validated;
2. Hydro One has publicly stated it cannot permit the easement it has on the Reserve to be used by a third party private power developer for such purposes either;
3. The OPA has confirmed to others that if the company cannot connect *exactly* where and how it stated it would connect in its bid document, particularly related to an ability to meet the “islanding” requirement, then it would be in breach – we feel at this point that it is;
4. That the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has grave concerns and multiple issues related to storm water management, flood plain, and numerous environmental concerns that could also prevent this site from supporting a peaker. We, the people, have pictures to confirm a few of these conservation problems from just the past couple of months.

Therefore, we, the people, want you to help us ask why:

- (1) so many accommodations have been made to allow this site, in this location, with this facility?
- (2) was a last minute addenda filed by the OPA to permit this proponent and only this proponent not to have to issue proof of a HONI-approved connection?
- (3) should this site be permissible for power development, but not suitable for Hydro One when it considered it for the transformer station some five or so years ago?
- (4) is a gas pipeline being considered to plow through wetlands, natural heritage and linkage areas, a coveted nature reserve when there were alternate sites with much less environmental impact? Especially when some of the folks with Enbridge, during their first public meeting, acknowledged that the facility is being constructed in the wrong location – even by their standards?

(5) was the company allowed to bypass numerous municipal and provincial studies and environmental studies that would have made all the deficiencies and challenges of their development open to public scrutiny?

Consent was withheld from the beginning on this bid by the Mullock Reserve, by HONI, by the Conservation Authority, by the affected Ward Councillor Jack Rupke, by the Township-issued “Schedule P” letter, and by subsequent refusals to consent to use of the municipal right of way. So many why’s. So little consent. Yet, valuable time and resources – which we acknowledge yet again tonight – continue to be wasted on this undesirable and unwanted project.

We, the people, are standing with King Township Council in its decision, reinforced at a previous meeting, where Councillor Jack Rupke went on record not only commending your staff’s efforts regarding a connection point using township easements, but assuring the residents of King Township that this Council supports the position that there will be no connection unless otherwise forced.

The Mullock Reserve and others have recently been advised that OPA is assisting the company to have Hydro One find them a connection “near” the original connection point. Near – what’s near? Is this a game of horseshoes? Near doesn’t cut it when it comes to a multi-million dollar power plant tender. Again, more concessions, more special assistance, more why’s.

This project needs consent. Based on the rules of the tender and the proper review of the Township planning process, the Conservation Authority’s processes, and the will of the people represented by this Council, this peaker bid should be null and void for failure to honour the bid requirements and the promises made – no connection where stated, maybe no islanding, and certainly no consent by the population.

Mayor, you, your council, and your staff – along with many of the residents throughout your municipality, have spent onerous amounts of time, effort, and money in regards to the proposed natural gas-fired peaker plant facility to be constructed in a location many have noted is not appropriate for the intended use. This proposal has suffered several setbacks yet continues

unabated and against the best interests of this council and the will of the residents this council represents.

The Holland Marsh Growers' Association is requesting that this council send a letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Deputy Premier acknowledging that very position – that your staff has done its due diligence, that the time, efforts, and money could have been used for other ventures at a time when this province's economic downturn is impeding the very core of King Township. We would like to request that this council correspondence note clearly that the proposal has failed to abide by the conditions of the OPA Request for Proposal. Thus, it pleases our association that you, as a council, will appeal the rejection of the request for an environmental review.

That being said, this is about due process.

Therefore, we, the people, and the farmers in the area that the Holland Marsh Growers' Association represent, submit that the proposal has failed to adequately address the conditions, needs, and wants of the residents of King Township, and the requirements of the connection point and Conservation Authority.

Too often, in times of discourse, people are unsure of what is right – that grey areas exist to be exploited by a system that favours those that know how the game is played. Yet, this is no game that is being played out here; this is about livelihoods and the health, well-being, and environment of one of the greatest sources of pride within King Township and worthy of recognition from all Ontarians.

We know how hard this Council and its staff have worked on the OPA-imposed procurement processes that resulted in York Energy Centre proposal, only to see all of your efforts and concerns cast aside like so much frivolous waste.

However, it is more work for your staff that need not be done if the following were to incur. We would like you to send the letter off to the Premier and Deputy Premier – so that they understand

that this process has been draining on this chamber as well as the residents who elected you to protect their best interests and guide King Township to better days.

Municipal Councils are not lower-tier – they are the stewards of community concerns to all who would call this area home.

We, the Holland Marsh Growers' Association and its farmer membership, hope that this small request to end a near year-long venture into the political abyss is met with a favourable reaction from this Council, its staff, and our fellow residents.

Thank you.