

May 14, 2026

Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
Planning and Housing Policy Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

and

William Coutts
Ontario Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM)
77 Grenville Street, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 2C1

*Submitted by email to PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca and
ParkwayBeltTransmissionCorridor@ontario.ca.*

Dear Mr. Coutts and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff:

Hydro One Networks Inc. ("Hydro One") is Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution provider. We connect virtually every home and business in the province with our 30,000 km long transmission network. Our 126,000 kms of distribution infrastructure provides over 1.5 million customers with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. As the connecting link bringing Ontario's energy system together, we are a key partner in enabling the province's Integrated Energy Plan.

We are pleased to offer our response to three related Parkway Belt West Plan (PBWP) consultations:

1. [ERO 026-0229, 2026 Proposal to revoke the Parkway Belt West Plan](#) (through the Ministry of Municipal and Affairs and Housing);
2. [ERO 026-0230, 2026 Proposal to Revoke the five MZOs associated with the PBWP](#) (through the Ministry of Municipal and Affairs and Housing); and,
3. [ERO 026-0347, Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure within and adjacent to the Parkway Belt West Plan Lands](#) (through the Ministry of Energy and Mines).

When the Ontario government last consulted on proposals for the Parkway Belt West Plan (PBWP) in 2022/23, Hydro One stressed that transmission infrastructure and subsequent land protections were vital to achieving Ontario's economic and growth priorities. At that time, we advised that protecting lands

within the PBWP alone were insufficient to meet the province's anticipated electricity and transmission needs.

We commend the Ontario government for being responsive to our input and developing a 2026 proposal to protect a corridor of land for electricity infrastructure within and adjacent to the PBWP lands. Hydro One supports the preservation and prioritization of land corridors for transmission use, whether through land designations, policy frameworks, or in this instance, a designation-in-effect under the Provincial Planning Statement.

All future preserved transmission infrastructure corridors should retain the practical land-use benefits of the PBWP, support future corridor expansion identified by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and align with Hydro One's existing land and easement holdings, which represent the most feasible locations for future transmission development. Government should ensure that Hydro One continues to have discretion to permit or restrict third party uses within its corridors.

Recommendation: Identify and secure corridors to accommodate current and future emerging electrical needs

We strongly urge the government and the IESO to identify and secure corridors of sufficient size to accommodate emerging electrical needs in the near term and well into the future. Increasingly, Hydro One has been required to construct 500 kV transmission infrastructure, which necessitates a corridor width of at least 210 feet. These corridors must be rigorously protected due to the limited compatibility of other installations (i.e. secondary land uses) with this transmission line voltage.

Hydro One also encourages the government and the IESO to continue identifying and designating protected transmission infrastructure land corridors throughout the province. As was the case with the PWBP, taking visionary action to protect land corridors now can help secure Ontario's prosperity in the future. Preserving land for future electricity infrastructure is a prudent and forward thinking approach that benefits everyone; not only does it keep costs down for ratepayers, but it also supports Ontario's economic growth and development by reducing the time needed to ensure electricity infrastructure can be built to meet the growing energy needs of communities in dense urban centres.

Recommendation: Protect designated electricity infrastructure corridors from non-transmission development and reinforce Hydro One's existing land and easement rights

In our 2023 submission to MMAH on the [Provincial Planning Statement \(PPS\)](#), Hydro One noted that third party developments and uses within transmission corridors are a notable impediment to the installation of new transmission facilities. As urban development continues to intensify, there is likely to be increased pressure for secondary and encroaching land uses on corridor lands currently within and adjacent to the PBWP. This could reduce or eliminate essential buffers and pose risks and reduce safety for nearby communities and the province's electricity grid as a whole.

Hydro One contractually acts as a major land manager on behalf of the province for transmission corridor land ("Corridor Land") that were owned by Hydro One and then transferred to the Government of Ontario on December 31, 2002, in accordance with section 114.2 of the *Electricity Act, 1998*. Hydro One has a statutory easement over the Corridor Land. We continue to recommend that the government provide clearer guidance about user priority and colocation parameters, and stronger enforcement of Hydro One's existing rights, including primacy of use on Corridor Land, to better optimize safe and effective operation of Hydro One's existing infrastructure in shared corridors. The guidance should reinforce that any proposed secondary uses within Hydro One's transmission corridors are subject to Hydro One's policies and approval processes, and that Hydro One reserves the discretion to decline uses that are incompatible with our current or future operational requirements.

In closing, Hydro One is committed to supporting the development of a safe, reliable electricity system that will build a strong Ontario and power the province for generations to come. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Hiltz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bonnie Hiltz
VP, Government and Stakeholder Relations