

City of Orillia and Orillia Power disappointed after OEB denies hearing appeal

For immediate release (Aug. 24, 2018) – The City of Orillia received notification that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will not hear an appeal on its decision to deny the proposed acquisition of the Orillia Power Distribution Corporation (OPDC) by Hydro One.

In a decision dated Aug. 23, 2018, it was determined by the OEB that the motions put forward by OPDC and Hydro One to review and revise the OEB's April 2018 decision to deny the application to acquire OPDC failed to satisfy the threshold necessary to move forward with an appeal process.

"This decision is very disappointing and unfortunate for the City of Orillia. The acquisition of OPDC by Hydro One would result in one of the largest ever investments in Orillia's history; bringing much needed economic growth, jobs and development to our community," said Mayor Steve Clarke. "As we deliberate on how to proceed, the future wellbeing of our community will be at the top of mind."

"Orillia Power is committed to working with the City of Orillia as we determine a path forward that is in the best interest of our customers," said Greg Gee, Chair of the Orillia Power Corporation Board of Directors.

City staff are reviewing the OEB's decision and will be consulting with necessary parties to evaluate the options and opportunities moving forward.

A copy of the decision is available on the OEB's website.

The negotiations between the City of Orillia and Hydro One formally started in September 2015. Mayor and Council members undertook two formal public consultations and numerous meetings throughout the community to enable the public to provide comments on the opportunity. In August 2016, a final deal was reached between the City of Orillia and Hydro One. Submission to the OEB for approval took place in September 2016 and the denial of the application was received April 12, 2018.

More information is available at orillia.ca/techhub.

The City of Orillia is a city of 31,000 people in the heart of Ontario's Lake Country on the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. Visit our website at orillia.ca.