

January 13, 2012

Colchester Parents' Association

23358 Township Road 520, Sherwood Park, AB T8B 1G5

To: Alberta Utilities Commission

Re: Responsible Electricity Transmission for Albertans (RETA) Review and Variance Application Regarding Heartland Transmission Project Decision 2011-436

This is our formal letter of support and agreement with RETA's recent application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for a Review and Variance of its Heartland Transmission Project Decision 2011-436.

The AUC Heartland Transmission Project Decision released November 1, 2011 has directly and adversely affected all students and staff at Colchester Elementary School, as well as the Colchester Community. This decision will close the school down since no parents want their young children attending a facility that is so close to overhead power lines. This is not an option for the parents or Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), which is now making arrangements on behalf of the parents to find a suitable location for Colchester School families. If the school closed today there would not be enough spaces to accommodate all the students in the system. EIPS is currently working to keep Colchester School families together. The AUC did not take into consideration as well the fact that their decision will cost Alberta taxpayers at least \$20 Million to move the Colchester School families into a new school or modernization of a current school.

The AUC did not take into consideration the issues raised by parents such as health concerns, stress, safety risks, financial concerns, and loss of community amenities such as Colchester Elementary School.

Colchester Elementary School has been at the current location over 50 years, much longer than the area was ever called a TUC (Transportation Utility Corridor). Now a decision has been made to place a 500KV overhead power line less than 200 metres away from the school which will affect all Colchester Elementary School families. Alberta Infrastructure has completed a report that concluded Colchester Elementary School is in good shape and would be a viable school for many years to come. Unfortunately, this historically significant building will be torn down once all parents pull their children from the school and it sits empty.

The Colchester Parents' Association would like to request the AUC reconsider its decision and bury the power line near Colchester Elementary School so we can keep our children together as one family.

The applicants' most recent (December 2011) suggested alternate route by Colchester Elementary School does nothing to alleviate our concerns.

Yours Truly,

Gabriel Chemello,

Acting President - Colchester Parents' Association

Contact: 780-464-9057 or gabriel.chemello@telus.net

cc: All Alberta MLAs

Strathcona County Councillors