

To Review Panel:

RE: Milton Logistics Hub Project - Panel Orientation Session, March 1, 2017

I watched the presentation and comments made by Health Canada staff during the panel orientation session on March 1, 2017. I have some concerns about the upcoming review of the CN's Technical Data Reports on baseline noise study, noise assessment and vibration assessment.

The Health Canada presentation slides very briefly introduce the types of noise, exposure, health endpoints and relevant international standards for acoustics (e.g., speech intelligibility and sleep disturbance).

However, the Health Canada staff clearly stated that they would not (or not be able to?) comment or verify the accuracy of modelling results in the noise and vibration reports.

This is a huge concern for me as a practising professional engineer in the Province of Ontario. Health Canada has the most appropriate noise guideline relevant to this project: **Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment: Noise**, Draft, 2011. The Guide provides detailed technical assessment methodology and criteria, which, in my opinion, CN and its consultant failed to properly follow.

If Health Canada would not or cannot comment on the technical aspects of noise/vibration measurements, calculations, and modelling, I will be deeply concerned that there would likely be no other federal departments that could provide technical expertise on noise and vibration issues.

As stated in my submitted comments and from my professional experience, it is understandably clear that the potential noise and vibration would cause the most significant adverse effects to the environment and local residents. It is one of the most contentious issues that causes deep concerns among the citizens. Therefore, the CN's noise and vibration reports must be reviewed by professionals from the perspective of guidelines used, measurement methodology, calculations, and modelling accuracy, etc. Without this third-party, unbiased peer review, there is no way for the public to trust the CN noise and vibration reports. Needless to say that the environment and local residents would be fully protected from adverse noise and vibration effects.

I noted from the Region of Halton's submission that the Region has hired professionals with expertise in areas such as air quality, noise/vibration, and transportation, etc. From my professional experience, I believe that the noise/vibration consultant (i.e. Novus Environmental) does have the relevant expertise and would be able to provide technical input. However, this is the only consultant that has been listed as a potential reviewer of the CN's noise and vibration reports.

My suggestion to the Review Panel is that, if the federal departments would not or could not provide the expertise in technical review of the noise and vibration reports, then the Review Panel should reach out and hire those professionals who can provide the technical review on an impartial basis.

With regards to noise and vibration expertise, there are over a dozen of acoustical and vibration consultants in Ontario. Most consultants have been practising acoustics and vibration in Ontario for many years. They are experienced and familiar with most aspects of the regulations, guidelines, measurements, calculations, and modelling associated with noise and vibration emissions from railway, industries, etc. in Ontario and Canada.

I am positive that the Review Panel has the financial resources for hiring the technical experts. An impartial process may be releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) specifically to those acoustical and vibration consultants practising in the province of Ontario. This approach, if adopted by the Review Panel, can be applied to hiring consultants with expertise in other related areas such as air quality, water, and transportation.

Thank You.

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