



357-2024-191

February 21, 2024

Elevation Requester

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today regarding your elevation request for Capital Power Corporation's (the Proponent) proposed increase in Goreway Power Station's name plate capacity by 40 Megawatts (the Project).

Following the publication of the Notice of Completion of the Environmental Screening Process, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks received 158 elevation requests (of which 157 were form letters) asking that the Proponent be required to prepare an individual environmental assessment for the Project. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am denying the requests for elevation.

In making my decision, I have carefully considered the factors set out in section B.4.1.1. of the Environmental Screening Process, including the concerns raised in your request and the other requests I received, the Proponent's response, the Proponent's Environmental Screening Process documentation, and the consultation record.

## Reasons

The Environmental Screening Process establishes the process through which projects of this type can be carried out, and includes identifying, describing and assessing potential environmental effects of the project, including completing relevant studies; undertaking consultation with interested persons, Indigenous communities; and developing impact management measures. The results of the process and the conclusions were documented in an Environmental Review Report. Based on the Environmental Review Report for the Project, the Proponent has carried out the process to date in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Environmental Screening Process.

The elevation requests submitted to the ministry note a lack of municipal support for the proposal and raise concerns about the impact of natural gas fired power plants on our ability to achieve climate targets, impacts to air quality and human health, consideration of alternatives, and mitigation strategies.

I note that the Environmental Screening Process does not require municipal support for a Project. Regardless, the Proponent provided an explanation as to why a resolution from the municipality is not required for the Project and I have considered that explanation.

The Environmental Screening Process does not require alternatives to a project be identified or assessed by a Proponent. The Project would result in no new disturbances to the natural environment, bring about increased operating efficiency and flexibility for the Goreway Power Station and would fill a need identified by the Independent Electricity System Operator, as evidenced by the call for Same Technology Upgrade proposals.

With respect to the remaining concerns outlined in the elevation requests, I am satisfied that they are addressed by the work done to date by the Proponent for the Environmental Screening Process and by commitments made by the Proponent in its Environmental Review Report. In particular, I am satisfied the Proponent has:

- Appropriately assessed and considered potential impacts to air quality from the generation and release of greenhouse gas, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and ammonia
- Appropriately addressed potential impacts to human health

The Environmental Review Report demonstrates that the anticipated emissions associated with the Project would be within regulated provincial limits. I am therefore satisfied that the anticipated emissions from the Project are not likely to adversely impact air quality. Additionally, further technical review of air emissions from the Project will occur through the application process for an amendment to the Goreway Power Station Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for Air. The ECA regulates air emissions from the facility and include conditions of approval that are protective of human health and the natural environment.

I am also satisfied that meaningful opportunities for public and Indigenous engagement and consultation were provided by the Proponent during the process.

Based on the above, I am of the opinion that there is no public benefit to be gained from requiring the Project to proceed through an individual environmental assessment.

With this decision having been made, the Proponent can now proceed with the Project, subject to any other permits or approvals required. The Proponent must ensure that it implements the Project in the manner that it is consistent with the description, as set out in the Environmental Screening process documentation, and inclusive of all mitigating measures and commitments, and environmental and other provisions therein.

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I would like to thank you for participating in the Environmental Screening Process and for bringing your concerns to the ministry's attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Khanjin", is enclosed within a faint, irregular white outline.

Andrea Khanjin  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Kathleen O'Neill, Director, Environmental Assessment Branch, MECP,  
[Kathleen.oneill@ontario.ca](mailto:Kathleen.oneill@ontario.ca)