

**Ministry of
the Environment**

Office of the Minister

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416 314-6790
Fax: 416 314-6748

**Ministère de
l'Environnement**

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
11^e étage, édifice Ferguson
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tél. : 416 314-6790
Télééc. : 416 314-6748



ENV1283MC-2011-209

FEB 16 2011

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2011

WARD 4, COUNCIL OFFICE

Ms. Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor
Concord/Thornhill North
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan ON L6A 1T1

Dear Ms. Racco:

Thank you for your e-mail of January 20, 2011 with regard to the 407 Transitway project proposed by the Ministry of Transportation (proponent).

The proponent has been proceeding through the transit project assessment process set out in Ontario Regulation 231/08, Transit Projects and Greater Toronto Transportation Authority Undertakings (Transit Regulation). On December 23, 2010, the proponent published its Notice of Completion of its Environmental Project Report (EPR) and supporting technical studies. Following the issuing of the Notice of Completion, members of the public had a 30-day opportunity, which ended on January 24, 2011, to submit an objection to the Minister.

I understand that you are requesting an extension for submission of comments due to the timing of the 30-day review period occurring over statutory holidays. Please note that under the Transit Regulation there is no provision for the extension of the comment period by the proponent or the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

I received two objections about this project during the comment period. As required under subsection 12(4) of the Transit Regulation, the concerns forming the basis of the objections have also been forwarded to the proponent so that it can provide any additional information it believes will assist my ministry in its review of the objection. In addition, staff at this ministry and other relevant government agencies will review the issues and concerns cited as reasons for the objection. This information will be considered by me when making a decision on whether to issue a notice allowing the proponent to proceed with the project, issuing a notice requiring further consideration of the project or attaching conditions to the project.

...2

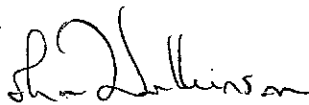
Ms. Sandra Yeung Racco
Page 2.

As Minister, I can exercise the options of issuing a notice allowing the proponent to proceed with the project, issuing a notice requiring the proponent to further consider the project, or can attach conditions to the project if, in my opinion, the transit project may have a negative impact on a matter of provincial importance that relates to the natural environment or a cultural heritage value or interest. I may also consider matters that have a negative impact on a constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty right. I am able to exercise these options no later than 35 days after the end of the public review period of the EPR.

Should you have further questions, please contact Ms. Lorna Zappone, Project Officer at the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, at 416-314-7106 or by e-mail at lorna.zappone@ontario.ca.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



John Wilkinson
Minister

c: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation
Mr. Greg Sorbara, MPP-Vaughan