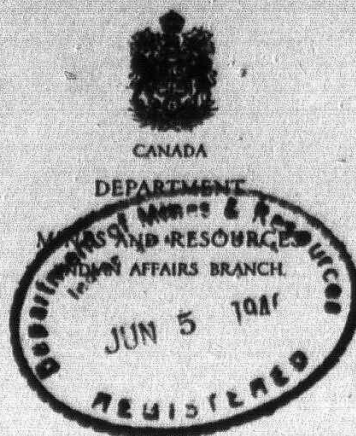




Caughnawaga, Que.
June 3rd, 1946.

R. A. Hoey, Esq.,
Director,

Indian Affairs Branch, O T T A W A , Ont.

Re: New Transmission Line
Quebec Hydro-Electric Power Commission
across Caughnawaga Indian Reserve.

Mr. R. W. Farmer of the right of way Division of the above noted industry called on the undersigned in accordance with Departmental letter dated May 11th, 1946, of which a copy was transmitted for appropriate action.

This matter was discussed fully and the following observations are submitted,-

Usually when any attempt is made from outside the Reserve to secure any right over Reserve Land, the Council, as a matter of policy is in opposition, and a build up is made in the minds of the individual Land holder to obstruct the venture, and cause the Department to act "in spite of." In nearly every case, there has been more or less trouble and long drawn out negotiations.

Since the Branch has placed the responsibility, more or less on the writer, it is desired to avoid a repetition of former disputes, by having positive and prompt dealings, in co-operation with the Indian Agent.

As of record, the Commission has under authority of Order in Council P.C. 1141 (1930) the privilege of an easement, 192 feet wide. On this right of way, a transmission line suspended on steel towers exists, leaving, it is suggested, ample room for a second line. While this right of way may not be the most direct route line to reach the proposed site for the crossing of the St. Lawrence River, near Mercier Bridge in replacement of the temporary war measures connecting line on wooden poles and slung on the Bridge Structure, consideration should be given to making a permanent line of the temporary right of way to the existing Right of Way on which the steel towers are, before going through all the negotiations and possible trouble necessary to secure a new Right of Way.

At least, it seems to the writer, there should be on file a sufficient statement to justify the Company in requesting a further Right of Way. This suggestion was raised with Mr. Farmer, whose reply was, "The decision rests with his Superiors."

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