

**Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416-314-6790

**Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416-314-6790



September 27, 2024

Stephen Smith
Environmental Specialist
Atura Power
Email: Portlandsupgrade@aturapower.com

357-2024-1979

Dear Stephen Smith:

I am writing to you today regarding Atura Power's (the Proponent) Portlands Energy Center Efficiency Upgrades (the Project). During the public review period, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the ministry) received 196 elevation requests asking that the Project be elevated to an Environmental Review within the Environmental Screening Process for Electricity Projects (ESP) or to a comprehensive environmental assessment.

The ministry reviewed the Project Environmental Screening Report (ESR) including relevant appendices and determined there were deficiencies in the ESR with respect to:

- An assessment of local air quality, including existing activities and sources that significantly impact air quality, and an analysis of how the project may affect existing conditions.
- An examination of nearby sensitive receptors and the project's potential air quality impacts on both present and future sensitive receptors.
- A discussion of local air quality impacts that could arise from the Project during both construction and operation.
- A discussion on the operation and decommissioning phases of the Project.

Next Steps

As a result, Atura is required to address the deficiencies identified above with updates to the applicable sections of the ESR and appendices. Atura should address MECP's comments on the appendix to the Screening Report Atura recently provided to the ministry, a new revised ESR and appendices for review.

Subsequently, Atura is required to publish a new Notice of Completion of a Screening for the Project in accordance with section B.2.4 of the ESP. The Notice of Completion of a Screening Report must provide for a minimum 30-day public review period. The revised ESR and appendices must be made available for public review during the

comment period set out in the new Notice of Completion. A decision regarding the elevation requests already received and any new requests submitted during the new review period will be made after the review period has ended.

I encourage Atura to make this letter publicly available to the requesters and other interested stakeholders.

The Project is designated as a Part II.3 project under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. It is only exempt from the requirements of Part II.3 if the requirements of the ESP for Electricity Projects are met. As such, it cannot proceed until the requirements of the ESP have been met.

Should you have any questions about the information provided in this letter, please contact Kathleen O'Neill, Director, Environmental Assessment Branch at kathleen.oneill@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline.

Todd McCarthy
Alternate Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks