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January 21, 2009

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Re: Electrocution of Second Dog on Keele Street

Further to the Etobicoke York Community Council's request of Toronto Hydro to report directly to City Council for its meeting on January 27, 2009 on the electrocution of a second dog on Keele Street, the following information is forwarded for Council's review.

On Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 2:11 am Toronto Hydro received a call reporting that a dog had received a shock near TTC pole #H79 on the East side of Keele Street, immediately to the South of Annette Street. An emergency crew was immediately dispatched to the site, and they arrived at the location at 2:34 am. The crew was met by police officers and a fire captain crew. The Toronto Fire Services Captain advised the crew that a dog was electrocuted after making contact with a handwell lid on the sidewalk adjacent to the pole.

The Toronto Hydro crew proceeded to test the handwell cover for electrical voltage and determined that there was voltage present on the handwell lid. They disconnected power to the handwell and made repairs to ensure that the area was safe. A Toronto Hydro streetlighting crew was then dispatched to inspect the streetlighting wiring in the area to ensure that it was safe. This included testing for all possible sources of stray voltage in the area. There were no additional stray voltage conditions found.

As a result of this second incident, Toronto Hydro has committed additional resources to its stray voltage program, including using a team of mobile voltage testing vehicles and service crews that are now in the process of "sweeping" city streets to identify any further stray voltage conditions. It is intended that every city street will be inspected within the next 3 months. Stray voltage conditions that are identified are de-energized or repaired immediately, regardless of who owns the asset. It has been our experience, and the experience of many other utilities, that stray voltage conditions also exists on assets that are privately owned.

We are also committing service crews to visually inspect all Toronto Hydro handwells; and we are changing material specifications and construction standards related to handwell installations.

Toronto Hydro has implemented a staged program to retrofit all existing handwells to comply with the new standards.

In addition, this month we will be advising the public about the actions we are taking to address this problem through advertisements, web communications and other methods. A telephone hotline and web address have been established through which members of the public may report concerns about stray voltage. Toronto Hydro crews will be dispatched immediately should a member of the public, or any other person, report suspected stray voltage conditions.

The cost of these actions is estimated to be \$10,000,000 in 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. O'Brien".

David S. O'Brien
President and Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Hydro Corporation