

City Hall
100 Queen Street West
East Tower, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-3551
Fax: 416-392-1827
jpennac@toronto.ca
toronto.ca

March 27, 2015

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk
City Hall, 13th Floor, West Tower
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Madam Clerk,

Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding Strategy to Underground Hydro Wires

I am writing in response to the March 6, 2015 administrative inquiry submitted by Councillor Joe Mihevc requesting an update on the status and the timing of the City Manager's report with Toronto Hydro on a strategy to underground hydro wires.

At its meeting on July 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2014, City Council considered the report entitled *Review of the City of Toronto's Emergency Response to the December 2013 Ice Storm (EX43.3)*. Council adopted a series of recommendations related to urban forestry and infrastructure resiliency including three recommendations specific to the conversion of overhead hydro lines to underground.

Beginning in 2014, and continuing this year, staff from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, the Major Capital Infrastructure Co-ordination Office and Toronto Hydro have held a series of meetings and have been working to act upon Council's recommendations.

With respect to Toronto Hydro's strategy to underground key pieces of infrastructure, City and Toronto Hydro staff have exchanged and analyzed vegetation and overhead power line data to identify high risk installations and are reviewing a number of additional considerations that will inform the development of the strategy.

The City Manager will report to the June 30, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee and will address all recommendations from the July 2014 Council meeting including the undergrounding strategy. The report will also update Council on the status of Toronto Hydro's 2015-2019 rate application to the Ontario Energy Board, which included \$70 to \$75 million over five years to actively convert pieces of the existing overhead lines to underground.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager

cc: Anthony Haines, President and CEO, Toronto Hydro Corporation