

Ministry of the Environment

Environmental Assessment and
Approvals Branch

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Ministère de l'Environnement

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ENV1283MC-2008-3514

September 24, 2008

Mr. Bill Mullally
99 Queen's Drive
York ON M9N 2H5

Dear Mr. Mullally:

Thank you for your letter of September 18, 2008 to the Minister of the Environment regarding GO Transit's Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Airport Transportation Link from Union Station to Pearson Airport, also known as the Blue 22 (Project). I am pleased to reply on behalf of the Minister.

I understand from your letter that you have concerns about the possibility of GO Transit moving forward with the Project under the new transit project assessment process according to Ontario Regulation 231/08, which was made June 24, 2008.

Certain transit projects, including those undertaken by GO Transit, are eligible to be exempt from the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, provided that they follow Ontario Regulation 231/08. If GO Transit intends to use the process outlined in Ontario Regulation 231/08 for the Project, it is required to advise the Ministry of the Environment of its intent to switch over to the transit project assessment process by December 22, 2008. To date, the ministry has not been advised by GO Transit that it will be moving forward under Ontario Regulation 231/08 for the Project.

Please note that the steps of the assessment process for transit projects outlined in Ontario Regulation 231/08 mirror certain elements of an individual Environmental Assessment process, including public consultation, assessment of potential negative effects of a proposed transit project on the environment, and potential mitigation measures. If GO Transit decides to follow the process outlined in Ontario Regulation 231/08, I would encourage you to get involved in any consultation opportunities throughout the process. Proponents are required to meet all conditions of Ontario Regulation 231/08, including that consultation be conducted and fully documented.



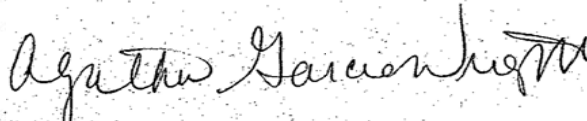
Mr. Bill Mullally

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There is also the expectation that the planning process outlined in the regulation is one of openness and transparency.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the attention of this ministry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Agatha Garcia-Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a stylized "W" at the end.

Agatha Garcia-Wright

Director

Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch