



# Low-Income Energy Network

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Sent by Electronic Mail

October 30, 2014

Attention: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
Suite 2700  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Walli:

**Re: Cost Awards Request – Stakeholder Forum on November 6, 2014  
Development of an Ongoing, Ratepayer Funded, Electricity Bill Assistance Program  
Board File No.: EB-2014-0227**

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The Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN) requests intervenor status in the above-mentioned proceeding and seeks eligibility for a cost award.

## **INTEREST IN PROCEEDING AND GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION**

LIEN represents over 60 member groups across Ontario. We seek to raise awareness of the impact of rising energy prices on low-income households and to suggest solutions to aid these vulnerable consumers. Our aim is to ensure that low-income consumers have optimal access to energy conservation and assistance programs.

As an umbrella organization, LIEN offers the opportunity for one entity to represent the similar interests of many organizations that have come together under LIEN. LIEN is a well recognized Intervenor in other Board proceedings, especially those concerning the issue of Rates.

Furthermore, as a party to the Divisional Court decision *Low-Income Energy Network v. Ontario Energy Board*, which established that the Board has jurisdiction to consider rate affordability, LIEN has an ongoing interest in the Board's resolution of any issues regarding low-income consumers. LIEN has also been an active participant of the Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG) since its inception.

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**c/o Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)**  
425 Adelaide St. West, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Toronto, ON M5V 3C1  
Phone: 416-597-5855 ext. 5167 1-866-245-4182 Fax: 416-597-5821

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LIEN is a project funded by Legal Aid Ontario and supported by ACTO & CELA

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LIEN is specifically concerned about the impact of rising electricity costs on Ontario's low-income households, and feels that the missing piece of a comprehensive energy poverty strategy is a rate affordability program.

### **NATURE AND SCOPE OF INTERVENTION**

Low-income consumers will be affected by this proceeding. LIEN intends to prepare and file a written submission, an oral presentation, and attend the stakeholder forum.

### **COSTS**

LIEN apologizes for the late filing of this intervention and seeks the indulgence of the Board in this matter.

LIEN requests that the Board find it eligible for costs under section 3.03 (a) of the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards. LIEN "primarily represents the direct interests of residential consumers in relation to regulated services." LIEN has been accepted as a party eligible for an award of costs in many other proceedings before the Board.

As a not-for-profit organization, LIEN's participation in this proceeding is dependent on any cost awards it receives. LIEN intends to coordinate its efforts with other stakeholders to avoid duplication where possible.

We request that Mr. Roger Colton, consultant to LIEN, be listed on the intervenors' list under LIEN. Mr. Colton, a U.S. based expert on low-income energy issues, has developed a ratepayer-funded electricity rate affordability program along with a cost estimate for delivering it to Ontario's low-income consumers.

Sincerely,  
Low-Income Energy Network  
Per:



Zee Bhanji  
LIEN Coordinator