

January 17, 2016

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, Ont.
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2016-0003 Regional Planning and Cost Allocation Review

On January 7, 2016, the Ontario Energy Board (“Board”) issued a letter initiating a policy consultation aimed at ensuring the cost responsibility provisions for load customers in the OEB’s Transmission System Code (“TSC”) and Distribution System Code (“DSC”) are aligned and facilitate regional planning and the implementation of regional infrastructure plans. This consultation will build on the changes to the TSC cost responsibility rules that were finalized in August, 2013 related to regional infrastructure planning as well as review the amended approach to cost allocation proposed in Phase 2 of Hydro One’s Leave to Construct application (EB-2013-0421). The review will also determine whether the DSC should be amended to better align with the TSC in relation to the apportionment of costs for upstream transmission investments. The results of this consultation will consider the need to appropriately amend the TSC and DSC related to cost allocation.

The Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”) is seeking intervenor status in this consultation. The Council is a public-interest entity which represents the interests of residential consumers in Ontario. The results of this consultation will have a direct impact on residential consumers. Specifically, the cost allocation issues to be considered in this consultation may impact the distribution and transmission rates that consumers ultimately pay.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this consultation. The Council is of the view that it is eligible for a cost award as it primarily represents the direct interests of consumers in relation to the services that are regulated by the Board. On August 18, 2015, the Council filed with the Board pursuant to Rule 22.03 of the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules and Practices and Procedure, a document describing the Council, its mandate and objectives, membership, the constituency represented, and the types of activities the Council carries out. In addition, we provided a list of the individuals authorized to represent the Council in Board proceedings.

For well over a decade the Council has regularly participated in Board consultation processes. In those processes the Board has determined the Council to be eligible for an award of costs. In the absence of an award of costs the Council would be unable to participate in this consultation. The Council intends to participate in all stages of the consultation.

The Council is requesting all correspondence and evidence related to this consultation (both electronic and hard copies) be sent to:

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Please let us know if any further information from the Council is required at this time.

Yours truly,

Julie E. Girvan

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Cc: Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada