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Our File # 339583-000232

By electronic filing

March 15, 2016

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli

**Re: Consultation to Develop a Regulatory Framework for Natural Gas Distributors'
Cap and Trade Compliance Plans**
Board File #: EB-2015-0363

We are writing to seek intervenor status and cost award eligibility in this Consultation on behalf of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters ("CME").

1. CME and its Interest in this Consultation

CME is Canada's leading business network. Its members represent 75% of manufactured output in the Province of Ontario, and 90% of all exports. CME is a not-for-profit organization funded by membership fees and revenues from the services it renders to Federal and Provincial Governments and Agencies to foster the development of national and international markets for its members. About 85% of CME's 1,400 Ontario-based member companies are Small to Medium sized business Enterprises ("SMEs") with 500 employees or less. The views of these businesses should be considered in this Consultation.

CME's mandate and objectives, its membership and the constituency it represents, and the types of programs and activities by which it carries out its mandate, are described on CME's website, www.cme-mec.ca. CME's priority objectives related to Energy and the Environment are summarized in Attachment 1.

Natural gas is a significant source of energy for the manufacturing sector. As a result, CME members are vitally concerned with the supply and price of natural gas, including all matters pertaining to its transmission, distribution and storage.

The outcome of this Consultation will have potential consequences for CME members served by Ontario's natural gas utilities.

2. Nature and Scope of CME's Intended Participation

CME intends to participate actively in this Consultation for the purpose of:

- (a) Assuring that all relevant facts are placed in evidence for the Board's consideration;

- (b) Making submissions on the issues which the Consultation raises; and
- (c) Such further and other matters as counsel may advise and the Board permits.

3. Request for Cost Eligibility

CME intends to seek a cost award in this Consultation on the grounds that its ability to participate is dependent upon a determination that it is eligible for such an award. In many prior Consultations, the Board has determined that CME is eligible for a Cost Award.

4. BLG's Representation of CME

Borden Ladner Gervais ("BLG") represents CME under the auspices of a written retainer agreement executed by Ian Howcroft, Vice-President of CME's Ontario Division. BLG's mandate is to represent the interests of manufacturers in those Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") proceedings which are likely to have an impact on the reliability, quality of service, and/or rates for electricity and natural gas distribution services provided to manufacturers. Paul Clipsham, Director of Policy – Ontario Division of CME, is the individual with whom BLG liaises.

5. CME Contacts

If the relief sought in this letter is granted, then CME requests that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

<p>Paul Clipsham Director of Policy – Ontario Division Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters 55 Standish Court, Suite 620 Mississauga, ON L5R 4B2</p> <p>Tel (289) 566-9538 Fax (905) 672-1764 email paul.clipsham@cme-mec.ca</p>	<p>Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Barristers & Solicitors 100 Queen Street Suite 1300 Ottawa ON K1P 1J9</p> <p>Main Fax: (613) 230-8842</p>	<p>Vincent J. DeRose Tel (613) 787-3589 email vderose@blg.com</p> <p>Emma Blanchard Tel (613) 369-4755 email eblanchard@blg.com</p>
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Please contact the undersigned if the Board requires any further information in connection with these requests.

Yours very truly,

Vincent J. DeRose

enclosure

c. Paul Clipsham and Ian Shaw
OTT01: 7517071: v1

Attachment 1

About CME and Its Representation in OEB Proceedings

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (“CME”) is Canada’s leading business network. It represents more than 10,000 leading companies nationwide and through various initiatives, touches more than 100,000 companies from coast-to-coast, engaged in manufacturing, international trade, and service-related industries. More than 85% of its members are Small to Medium sized Enterprises (“SMEs”). In Ontario, CME has about 1,400 members representing about 75% of manufactured output and about 90% of all exports.

One of CME’s priorities is to improve the business climate for manufacturers. Initiatives pertaining to Energy and the Environment fall within the scope of this objective and include efforts by CME to ensure that its members enjoy continued access to a reliable and cost competitive supply of energy and electricity across Canada.

In this context, CME seeks an Ontario electricity system for its members which is reliable, affordable, cost effective and economically sustainable with electricity prices for Ontario manufacturers which are competitive with electricity prices available to manufacturers located elsewhere.

Similarly, CME seeks a secure supply of natural gas at burner-tip prices in the plants of Ontario manufacturers which are competitive with such prices for manufacturers located elsewhere.

For further information on CME, please visit their website at www.cme-mec.ca.

CME’s authorized representative in proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board (the “Board” or “OEB”) is Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (“BLG”) represented by Vincent J. DeRose and Emma Blanchard, with support from other BLG associates. BLG’s representation of CME in proceedings before the Board is pursuant to a written retainer agreement executed on behalf of CME by Ian Howcroft, Vice-President – Ontario Division of CME.

BLG’s mandate is to represent the interests of manufacturers in those OEB proceedings which are likely to have an impact on the rates which Ontario manufacturers pay for utility services. Paul Clipsham, Director of Policy – Ontario Division of CME, is the individual with whom BLG representatives liaise.