

March 22, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

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

On March 10, 2016, the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") initiated a consultation to develop a natural gas regulatory framework to support the implementation of Ontario's Cap and Trade program. The framework will guide the OEB's assessment of natural gas distributor's Cap and Trade Compliance Plans, including the cost consequences of these plans and the mechanism for recovery of costs in rates.

The Consumers Council of Canada ("Council") intends to participate in this consultation process. The Council is an organization which represents the interests of residential consumers in Ontario. The outcome of this process will have a direct impact on residential consumers. The Council intends to participate in each of the various stages of this consultation process.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this proceeding. 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 of Practice 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 and consultation processes. The undersigned intends to represent the Council in this review.

For over a decade the Council has regularly participated in Board proceedings and 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 process.

Copies of all correspondence should be sent to me, at 62 Hillside Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M4S 1T5. My telephone number is 416-322-7936 and my e-mail is [jgirvan@uniserve.com](mailto:jgirvan@uniserve.com).

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