



PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE  
LE CENTRE POUR LA DÉFENSE DE L'INTÉRÊT PUBLIC

January 18, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2016-0137/138/139 Applications for approval of franchise agreements and Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Municipalities of Aran-Elderslie, Kincardine and Township of Huron-Kinloss  
Notice of Intervention of Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)**

Please find enclosed the Notice of Intervention of VECC in the above-noted proceedings. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Janigan', written in a cursive style.

Michael Janigan  
Counsel for VECC

Britt Tan, Legal Counsel, EPCOR Utilities Inc.  
Email only: [btan@epcor.com](mailto:btan@epcor.com)

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD  
IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATIONS BY  
EPCOR SOUTHERN BRUCE GAS INC.  
FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE FOR  
THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE, KINCARDINE AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HURON-KINLOSS  
NOTICE OF INTERVENTION  
OF THE  
VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION**

To: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

And to: **Britt Tan, Legal Counsel EPCOR Utilities**

**IDENTITY OF THE INTERVENOR AND ITS MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) hereby expresses its intention to intervene and participate in the above-mentioned proceeding. VECC consists of the following organizations:
  - (a) The Federation of Metro Tenants Association (FMTA)
  - (b) The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations (OCSCO)
  
2. The Federation of the Metro Tenants Association (the "FMTA") is a non-profit corporation composed of over ninety-two affiliated tenants associations, individual tenants, housing organizations, and members of non-profit housing co-ops. In addition to encouraging the organization of tenants and the promotion of decent and affordable housing, the Federation provides general information, advice, and assistance to tenants. The address is:

500-27 Carlton Street  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 1L2
  
3. The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations ("OCSCO") is a coalition of over 160 senior groups as well as individual members across Ontario. OCSCO represents the concerns of over 500,000 senior citizens through its group and individual members. OCSCO's mission is to improve the quality of life for Ontario's seniors. OCSCO's address is:

333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 406  
Toronto, ON  
M3H 1T2
  
4. The coalition of the FMTA and OCSCO under the name VECC has the specific mandate of intervening in proceedings to advocate on behalf of the interests of Ontario's vulnerable consumers with respect to energy issues, primarily through intervention in regulatory proceedings at the Ontario Energy Board.

5. Although the organization is not itself a member of VECC, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) in Ottawa assists in the representation of the interests of vulnerable consumers by ensuring the availability of competent representation and consultant support to the VECC participation.
6. VECC is a frequent intervenor in Board proceedings. Our annual information filing can be found on the Board's website at:  
<http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oeb/Industry/Regulatory+Proceedings/Applications+Before+the+Board/Annual+Filings+-+Frequent+Intervenors>

**INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT VECC IN THIS PROCEEDING**

7. The name & address of the agent authorized to receive documents on behalf of VECC is:

Mr. Michael Janigan  
Counsel  
Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)  
31 Hillside Avenue, East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4S 1T4  
Mr. Janigan's direct line: 416-840-3907  
[mjanigan@piac.ca](mailto:mjanigan@piac.ca)  
PIAC Office: 613- 562-4002 (Donna Brady) Ext. 21

8. VECC requests that all correspondence and documentation also be electronically copied to VECC's consultants:

Mark Garner (project manager)  
Econalysis Consulting Services  
34 King Street East, Suite 630  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 2X8  
647-408-4501 (office)  
[markgarner@rogers.com](mailto:markgarner@rogers.com)

9. To mitigate costs VECC requests only electronic copies of the materials. VECC may request paper copies of some or all of the materials should this become necessary. VECC requests electronic copies of the application and any additional supporting materials are sent to Mr. Janigan and Mr. Garner at their respective e-mail addresses.

### **GROUNDS FOR THE INTERVENTION**

10. The Applicant is seeking to provide service in currently unserved areas of Ontario. The terms of service and ultimately the rates for these customers may be determined in part by this application. VECC is especially concerned with the ability of low income consumers to meet energy costs which on an annual basis continually exceed the rate of inflation. The Applicant is seeking to depart from the Board's model franchise agreement. Therefore the application has the potential to impact not just the potential customers of this application but also the cost of servicing other franchises served by different utilities.

### **INTERESTS OF THE INTEVENOR**

11. In the proceeding EB-2016-0004 the Board provided guidance with respect to natural gas expansion. This is the first application to be filed under the new framework. As such the practical implementation of the new framework will be set out in these proceedings. VECC also notes that the Applicant proposes changes to the Board's model franchise agreement. These applications may therefore affect not only the potential new customers to be served but also existing customers in other franchises.
12. VECC also notes that unlike a franchise renewal or a new franchise by an existing natural gas service provider the issue as to the rates to be paid by this new provider in these new franchises has yet to be determined.
13. VECC is intervening in order to ensure that the interests of the low-income and vulnerable users of natural gas are fully represented in the determination of natural gas service that is provided under just and reasonable rates.

### **INTENTION TO SEEK COST AWARDS**

14. VECC will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding and believes that, as a coalition representing the direct interests of consumers, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Ontario Energy Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Section 41) and its' Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Section 3.03).
15. VECC's members do not have access to the direct funding required to retain appropriate legal and consulting support for its intervention in OEB proceedings. Accordingly VECC relies on PIAC to provide legal support and retain qualified consultants on the basis that PIAC can recover the related fees and disbursements from the Board based on the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards at the prevailing Cost Award Tariff.

**DATED AT TORONTO, JANUARY 18, 2017**