

March 5, 2017

Ms. Lynn Anderson  
Vice President Applications  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Anderson,

**Re: APPLICATION FILE NUMBER: EB-2016-0085**

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the members (the "Members") of the Strathallan Beach Association ("SBA"). The SBA is an association representing the 23 property owners within Strathallan Woods ("SW"). SW is located on the north side of Big Bay Point road within the Township of Innisfil. The Members' residences are serviced insofar as their electricity needs are concerned by InnPower.

By OEB notice to each of the SBA Members, we all were advised that InnPower has applied to the OEB to increase its electrical distribution residential rates by \$10.69 per month retrospective to January 1st, 2017 for a five-year period. The SBA Members urge the OEB to deny this request from Innpower. Furthermore, we also believe that Innpower's request for increasing commercial class (increase of approximately \$238.73 per month) also be denied. We believe that these requests do not reflect the best interests of the consumer. These increased costs will drive commercial businesses to leave this area and will ultimately pass on additional financial burdens to the consumers.

There are at a minimum two significant reasons motivating the Members to request the OEB deny the application and its requested electricity distribution rate increase:

- 1) Innpower for whatever reason failed to align itself and merge together with Barrie Hydro, Enersource, Horizon Utilities, Hydro One Brampton and PowerStream to become Acentra. The aforementioned merger (the "merger") proceeded on the basis that as North America's second largest utility, its residents would be the beneficiaries of an immediate reduction of power rates of approximately \$40.00 per year, have access due to size of state of the art technology pertaining to the power industry, avoid redundancies, duplication of costs, and enhance significantly service to its customers. In

that the OEB supports and mandates a consumer-centric strategy for utilities within the Province of Ontario, the merger dovetails perfectly within this strategy to the benefit of all of the customers within the merged areas.

As SBA Members, over the past number of years we have not seen any increased benefits from InnPower that reflect a need for a rate increase. If anything, our Members and local corporate consumers will be receiving a lower value from InnPower than our neighbours (less than 1 km away) that are being serviced by Acentra.

2) Coincidentally, last week, the Ontario Government introduced legislation, the effect of which is to reduce hydro rates in the GTA by 25% this year (Inclusive of the HST rebate already approved). This was done in recognition of the need to make electricity more affordable for consumers. Thus the InnPower application flies in the face of the merger in which InnPower declined for own purely altruistic reasons to participate in and as well reflects a strategy within the senior management of InnPower directly contrary to the position espoused by Ontario's Premier- that is taking every effort within the Government's control to reduce hydro rates for Ontario's residents.

Yours truly

Strathallan Beach Association

per: Schuyler Sigel - Secretary

Cc: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary