

***Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc./  
Hydro du Grand Sudbury Inc.***

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Telephone (705)675-7536 Fax (705)671-1413*

January 22, 2010

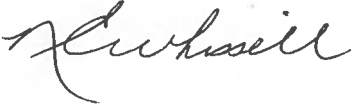
Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Re: Board File No.: EB-2008-0230 Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc. – 2009 Rate  
Rebasing Application, Intervenor Cost Submissions

Dear Ms. Walli:

Pursuant to the Decision of December 1, 2009 in the above noted proceeding, please find attached Greater Sudbury's submissions with respect to Intervenor Cost submissions received.

Sincerely,



Nancy Whissell  
Acting Vice President – Corporate Services  
[nancyw@shec.com](mailto:nancyw@shec.com)

cc: All Intervenors

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*,  
S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B);

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by Greater Sudbury  
Hydro Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable rates  
and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective  
July 1, 2009.

## **INTERVENOR COST SUBMISSION COMMENTS**

**DELIVERED JANUARY 22, 2010**

### **Background**

On December 21, 2009 the Board issued Procedural Order 8. In that Order the Board directed all Intervenors to file with the Board and forward to Greater Sudbury their respective cost claims by January 15, 2010.

In this Order Greater Sudbury was instructed to file with the Board and forward to intervenors any objections to the claimed costs by January 22, 2010.

This submission represents Greater Sudbury's comments and objections with respect to the Intervenor Cost Submissions received in this Application.

### **Comments and Observations**

Greater Sudbury cannot and does not comment on or provide any opinion on the quality of work performed by Intervenors that is included in the Cost Submissions received from Intervenors.

The only mechanism available to Greater Sudbury to assess the reasonableness of the cost submissions received from Intervenors is to perform a cost and time comparison amongst the Intervenors' Cost Submissions and compare that information to data that is available to Greater Sudbury with respect to work load indicators.

In the attached analysis, Greater Sudbury presents for the Board's consideration, a comparison of the average Intervenor hours and costs included in the cost submissions received and a series of cost versus work load measurements to determine the appropriateness of charges received.

	Consumers Council of Canada	Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition	School Energy Coalition
Interrogatories Submitted	6	49	21
Final Argument Submitted # pages	8	34	35
Preparation hours	43.80	60.25	111.00
Final Argument hours	23.10	29.50	41.00
Total Hours Charged	71.40	104.75	183.30
Total Claim Submitted excluding expenses	\$ 23,562.00	\$ 31,517.50	\$ 60,355.00
<b><u>Cost Claim Analysis and Comparison</u></b>			
<b><u>Cost</u></b>			
Average Hourly Cost	\$ 330.00	\$ 300.88	\$ 329.27
Cost for preparation/interrogatories	\$ 14,454.00	\$ 18,128.20	\$ 36,548.85
Average Cost per interrogatory	\$ 2,409.00	\$ 369.96	\$ 1,740.42
Cost for final argument	\$ 7,623.00	\$ 8,876.05	\$ 13,500.03
Cost per page	\$ 952.88	\$ 261.06	\$ 385.72

The intervenor cost claims range from \$23,645.77 to \$60,413.68 excluding GST. Total hours range from 71.40 hours to 183.30 hours.

The combined preparation hours for Consumers Council of Canada and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition is less than the hours submitted by School Energy Coalition.

Consumers Council of Canada submitted the least number of interrogatories and the shortest final argument. Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition submitted the highest number of interrogatories and their final report was comparable in length to that of the School Energy Coalition. School Energy Coalition did not submit a second round of interrogatories.

Based on the available data, Greater Sudbury is unable to rationalize why the cost submission for School Energy Coalition is more than two and one half times that of Consumers Council of Canada and almost two times that of Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition. There may in fact be valid reasons for the discrepancy but based on the limited information provided, it appears that the cost submission received from School Energy Coalition is significantly in excess of the costs received by the other intervenors.

Based on the number of interrogatories and the length of the final argument submitted by Consumers Council of Canada, the average cost per interrogatory is significantly in excess of the other intervenors.

If Consumers Council of Canada and School Coalition have additional information that would assist in understanding the apparent discrepancy in their total cost submission versus that of Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition, they should provide that additional information to the Board for the purpose of evaluating their cost submission.

In the absence of any further clarification or justification for their cost submission, Greater Sudbury would advise the Board that in its opinion, the cost submission for School Energy Coalition should be significantly reduced to a level that is more in line with the costs submitted by Vulnerable Energy Coalition.