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January 5, 2011

Ms. Kirsten Walli Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street Suite 2700 Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Board Files EB-2010-0377, EB-2010-0378 and EB-2010-0379

We represent the Council of Canadians, and write to indicate its intention to participate in the above noted consultation, and to request cost eligibility. Please find our request for the cost eligibility attached hereto.

Sincerely,

Steven Shrybman

SS:nss cope 343 Encl.

cc: Rate Regulated Natural Gas Distributors



### **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF: Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity; Board File EB-2010-0377; EB-2010-0378; and EB-2010-0379

# NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE AND APPLICATION FOR COST ELIGIBILITY

#### BY

#### THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

- 1. The Council of Canadians (the "Council") herein;
  - i) serves notice of its intention to participate in these policy review initiatives; and applies for
  - ii) a determination that it is eligible for a cost award in this matter.

## Membership, Interest in the Proceeding and the Grounds for Intervention

- 2. The Council was founded in 1985 and incorporated as a federal not-for-profit organization on August 11, 1986. It has members in every province and territory more than 26,000 reside in Ontario and many participate in the 17 local chapters of the Council active in Ontario. The Council is primarily sustained by volunteer energy and financial contributions from its members.
- 3. Since its inception, much of the Council's work has focused on the eroding capacity of governments to perform effectively as regulators, service providers (including energy services) and stewards of natural resources, including energy and water.
- 4. Of particular concern is the encroachment of trade agreements<sup>2</sup> into areas of domestic policy and law that had never before been the subject of international trade rules. Much of this framework on 'trade' law is now in place, but proposals to expand these rules are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Council Chapters are located in Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk, Brockville, Cambridge, Chatham-Kent, Grey-Bruce, Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Niagara Region, Northumberland County, Ottawa, Peel Region, Peterborough-Kawarthas, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> These agreements are both international- for example, those negotiated under the auspices of the World Trade Organization - and domestic, as in the case of the Agreement on Internal Trade.

now being advanced in various venues, including under the Agreement on Internal Trade and a proposed free trade agreement with the European Union.

- 5. In this new context the challenges of ensuring Canadian energy security take on a new dimension. This requires planners and regulators to be informed of the constraints imposed by trade, services, investment and procurement agreements so that potential pitfalls can be avoided, and to preserve future policy and regulatory options.
- 6. The Council has established a leadership role in promoting the strengthening of sovereign and democratic control of energy so that the energy service needs of Canadians may be met in a manner that effectively meets pressing environmental challenges in a just and equitable way. To this end, the Council has authored or commissioned and published numerous research studies and reports, and convened many community, national and international seminars, conferences and meetings to facilitate informed discussion and debate about these issues.<sup>3</sup>
- 7. A primary commitment of the Council is the promotion of a "made in Canada" energy security strategy that is consistent with meeting climate change and other environmental imperatives.
- 8. For these reasons the Council and its members have a substantial interest in this consultation which has two dimensions. First, the Council of Canadians represents the direct interests of its members and energy consumers with respect to prices and the adequacy, reliability, quality and security of energy supply and services. Second, the Council of Canadians also represents the public interest, and the interests of its members and other Canadians who share a commitment to the management of natural resources, including energy resources, and to the delivery of services, including energy services, in a manner that respects the public trust and Canadian sovereignty.
- 9. If granted intervener status and deemed eligible to apply for costs, the Council will work with other interveners to avoid overlap and duplication of effort. That being said, as identified here, the Council's interests in this proceeding are likely to be distinct from the primary concerns that will shape the participation of other interveners.
- The Council is without the resources needed to participate in this proceedings if it is 10. deemed ineligible to seek a cost award.

#### **Contact Information**

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See for example the information available on the Council's web site at www.canadians.org.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Council of Canadians

Steven Shrybman

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