



# Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay Districts

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April 11, 2011

## **VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
Suite 700  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

**Attention:** Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

### **Notice of Intervention by Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)**

Re: Regional Planning for Electricity Infrastructure (EB-2011-0043)

#### **Intent to Participate**

In response to the Ontario Energy Board invitation, dated April 1, 2011, to participate in the consultation process that is being initiated by the Board on Regional Planning for Electricity Infrastructure (EB-2011-0043), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association is requesting recognition as an Interested Party.

#### **Background of Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association**

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) represents the interests of all the municipalities from Kenora and Rainy River in the west to Hornepayne and Wawa in the east. It provides leadership in advocating regional interests to all orders of government and other organizations.

NOMA and the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) have led the creation of a formal coalition of interested organizations to advise them on issues related to Northwestern Ontario. That coalition is known as Common Voice Northwest (CVNW). In turn, Common Voice Northwest has absorbed a NOMA created subcommittee, the Energy Task Force (ETF), as a

research facility with a specific mandate to investigate and make recommendations on issues related to energy issues in the Northwest Region advising NOMA, NOACC, the Township of Atikokan and the City of Thunder Bay on energy issues.

### **NOMA's Substantial Interest**

NOMA intends to build on its participation in CVNW's recent submissions on the draft Supply Mix Directive and on NOMA's earlier participation in the Board's review of the Integrated Power System Plan (EB-2007-0707). NOMA has a substantial interest in this consultation proceeding because:

1. NOMA represents the municipal communities throughout the Northwest Region;
2. understands and can speak to the direct interests of the ratepayers in the Northwest Region (population approximately 250,000); and
3. through the Energy Task Force (ETF: formerly a sub-committee of NOMA) NOMA has created a regional research committee of interested and experienced individuals who by living and working in the northwest are keenly aware of the geographical and technical issues relating to electricity generation and transmission/distributions in the region.

NOMA will be able to provide valuable insight into not only issues related to energy but also to environmental and other social imperatives, including but not limited to social imperatives that are geographical, economic and commercial.

### **Co-operation**

NOMA intends to join with other Interested Parties in the Northwest Region, namely:

1. NOACC, the association of Chambers of Commerce throughout the Northwest Region; NOACC will also be seeking status as an interested Party;
2. the Township of Atikokan, the site of one of the two large thermal generating stations in the Northwest Region; the Township will also be seeking status as an Interested Party; and
3. in particular, the City of Thunder Bay, regional hub of the Northwest, the largest City (population 113,000), and site of the other of the two large thermal generating stations in the Northwest Region; the City of Thunder Bay will also be seeking status as an Interested Party.

NOMA, NOACC, the Township of Atikokan and the City of Thunder Bay have agreed among themselves to co-operate and have, therefore, authorized Weiler, Maloney, Nelson, who are counsel, in this instance, for the City of Thunder Bay, to make submissions in the common interests of all of them.

In addition, NOMA and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) are active in seeking out areas where they have similar interests. Weiler, Maloney, Nelson, on the one hand, as counsel in this instance for the City of Thunder Bay and designated spokespersons for NOMA and Douglas Cunningham, on the other hand, counsel for Nishnawbe-Aski Nation co-operated with one another in the EB-2007-0707 hearings on the IPSP and propose to continue the sharing of information and aligning strategies for submissions that are complementary to one another in the consultation now being undertaken by the Board.

### **Attendance May 12, 2011**

John Cyr and Nick Melchiorre, partners in the law firm of Weiler, Maloney, Nelson, as counsel in this instance for the City of Thunder Bay, will be spokespersons attending the OEB stakeholder meeting on May 12, 2011 for the purposes of speaking on behalf of NOMA and informing NOMA as to the proceedings.

### **Cost Awards**

NOMA will seek designation as a person, under Section 30 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, eligible to receive costs. The basis for the designation would be the representative nature of NOMA throughout the Northwest Region.

NOMA in particular represents the direct interest of ratepayers throughout the Northwest Region. Those ratepayers are often dependent for their livelihood on a single industrial employer in a town, and now depend also on the robust mineral exploration programs in the Northwest Region. The development of adequate electricity system reliability in the Northwest Region is essential for the viability of those industrial plants, for advanced mineral exploration, and certainly for the construction and operation of any mine that reaches production. A reliable and affordable supply of electricity is a necessity for economic wellbeing.

Adequate supply of energy is also essential for an appropriate standard of living in the municipal and First Nation communities throughout the Northwest Region.

NOMA represents a public interest in seeking to ensure the reliability and security of electricity supply for both the ratepayers in the Northwest Region and the industries that employ them.

**For Purposes of Notice, the President and Executive Director of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association:**

Ron Nelson, President

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**and**

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**Spokespersons for NOMA:**

- John A. Cyr, C.S. (Corporate and Commercial Law), Partner in the firm of Weiler, Maloney, Nelson (called to the Bar in 1980, licenced by the Law Society of Upper Canada to practice law in Ontario);  
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- Nicola A. Melchiorre, Partner in the firm of Weiler, Maloney, Nelson (called to the Bar in 2004, licenced by the Law Society of Upper Canada to practice law in Ontario).  
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The regular mail and courier contact information of the law firm of Weiler, Maloney, Nelson is:

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**Consultant to NOMA :**

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Please contact the undersigned should further information or clarification be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RN', written over a horizontal line.

Ron Nelson  
President  
/cr