



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 Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC)

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 Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) is requesting recognition as an Interested Party.

Background of Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce

The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce is a group comprised of the Chambers of Commerce throughout the Northwest Region.

The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (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.

NOACC's Substantial Interest

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

1. NOACC represents the member businesses of the individual Chambers of Commerce throughout the Northwest Region;
2. NOACC understands and can speak to the direct business interests of the ratepayers in the Northwest Region (population approximately 250,000); and
3. through the Energy Task Force (ETF), NOACC has joined in the creation of 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.

NOACC 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

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

1. NOMA, the association of the municipalities in the Northwest Region; NOMA 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.

NOACC, NOMA, 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, NOACC 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 NOACC 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 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 NOACC and informing NOACC as to the proceedings.

Cost Awards

NOACC 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 NOACC throughout the Northwest Region.

NOACC in particular represents the direct interest of the business interests of ratepayers throughout the Northwest Region. Those ratepayers are often dependent for the success of their own businesses 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 multitude of businesses that supply goods and services to those industrial plants, as well as to advanced mineral exploration work, and certainly for the construction and operation of any mine that reaches production all of which depend on a reliable and affordable supply of electricity for their economic wellbeing.

NOACC represents a public interest in seeking to ensure the reliability and security of electricity supply for both the businesses in the Northwest Region and the industries that they supply with goods and services.

For Purposes of Notice:

Harold Wilson, NOACC Chief Operating Officer

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Spokespersons for NOACC:

- 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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Consultant to NOACC:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Harold Wilson, Chief Operating Officer
N.W. Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC)