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April 21, 2011

BY COURIER, EMAIL AND RESS

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Haldimand County Hydro Inc.
Request for Intervenor Status
Board File No.: EB-2011-0063**

We are counsel to Haldimand County Hydro Inc. ("HCHI").

Further to the Board's Notice of Application and Written Hearing dated April 1, 2011, Haldimand County Hydro Inc. is requesting status as an intervenor in this proceeding. The formal request and basis for the intervention are attached to this letter. A copy of this request has been delivered to the Applicant and Applicant's counsel and will be filed on the Board's RESS.

If there are any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP



Scott A. Stoll
SS/hm

cc: L. Payne, Haldimand County Hydro Inc.
Jeong Tack Lee, Grand Renewable Wind LP
George Vegh, McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Kristyn Annis, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

THE MATTER of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O.
1998, c.15, Schedule B;

AND IN THE MATTER of an Application by Grand Renewable
Wind LP for an Order or Orders granting Leave to Construct new
Transmission Facilities within Haldimand County, Ontario

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION
OF
HALDIMAND COUNTY HYDRO INC.

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- 1) The proposed transmission line is located within the service area of Haldimand County Hydro Inc. ("**Haldimand County Hydro**"), the licensed electricity distributor serving customers in Haldimand County. Haldimand County Hydro owns and operates its electricity distribution system, which is supplied through the Hydro One Networks Inc. transmission system, over 83 road km of underground cable and 1,570 road km of overhead primary conductor.
- 2) The Applicant is proposing that of the 18 kilometres (out of 19 kilometres) of the proposed 230kV transmission line within a Haldimand County municipal right-of-way in which Haldimand County Hydro currently has existing facilities.
- 3) Haldimand County Hydro is intervening in order to ensure that its interests as a licensed distributor, within whose service territory the proposed transmission line will be located, as well as those of its customers, are fully represented in determining whether to grant the Leave to Construct and if so, upon what conditions.
- 4) Haldimand County Hydro is not opposed to the wind project but has serious concerns relating to the proposal to locate transmission lines on a pole line along the municipal road in the Haldimand County right-of-way. Areas of the Leave to Construct Application of interest to Haldimand County Hydro are as follows:
 - a) **Overhead Transmission Lines.** Haldimand County Hydro is opposed to overhead transmission lines located along roadways, except approximately perpendicular roadway crossings, in Haldimand County. If the Board decides that the Applicant has the right to build a 230kV transmission line within the municipal road right-of-way, then Haldimand County Hydro would request that the Board order the transmission line to be built underground.
 - b) **Co-existence incompatibility and congestion.** Haldimand County Hydro's distribution lines are either already present along the roadways contemplated by the Applicant for the proposed tie line or will be needed in the future. The need for distribution lines to serve Haldimand County Hydro's current and future load customers, or distribution connected distributed generators, is dynamic as opposed to transmission lines where the future need is static. As such, this proposal could impact Haldimand County Hydro's ability and cost to connect future customers.
 - c) **Practices in other Provinces.** Haldimand County Hydro has no experience co-existing with transmission lines along municipal rights-of-way. From preliminary research on similar issues in other jurisdictions, it appears that transmission lines are not allowed along roadways at all in some jurisdictions.¹

¹ For example, see a September 30, 2005 report entitled "*Effects of High Voltage Transmission Line In Proximity of Highway*" which was prepared for the Ministry of Transportation in British Columbia. This report includes a survey

- d) **Staff Safety.** Haldimand County Hydro is concerned for the safety of its employees working on its lines adjacent to, or on, the same poles as a high voltage transmission line. Such work may occur during all types of circuit and weather conditions, day and night, and Haldimand County Hydro's safety concerns include the risk of induction from the transmission lines. Further, the need to be able to complete such work may require significant expenditures by Haldimand County Hydro for additional equipment and training.
- e) **Public Safety.** Energized overhead transmission lines may fall onto nearby distribution lines due to vehicle accidents or other causes. This creates a risk of extremely high voltage being transmitted to residential or other customers during the brief time before the circuits are automatically interrupted. Overhead transmission lines located on private property away from roadways and underground transmission lines are not subject to the same risk of vehicular accidents or similar incidents.
- f) **Roadway Width.** Although overhead transmission lines may be appropriate along a major transportation corridor like Highway 401, sized with such a purpose in mind, they are no more appropriate along rural roads than they would be along residential subdivision roads in an urban setting. Once again, preliminary research on similar issues in other jurisdictions suggests that the transmission right-of-way itself should "... be 19.8m for a 238kV Line ..." and "These right-of-way distances would be measured from the edge of travel lanes."²
- g) **Reliability of Distribution Supply.** Any damages to a transmission pole, which also supports a distribution circuit, necessitating its replacement, will extend the duration of distribution customer service interruption until the transmitter can respond. Further, Haldimand County Hydro expects that work on de-energized distribution lines will necessitate the installation of additional temporary grounds due to the significant induction from a parallel transmission line, thereby extending work time.
- h) **Avoidance of Pole Lines on both sides of Roadways.** Haldimand County Hydro is opposed to having overhead lines of any sort on both sides of a roadway. The use of a single side of the right-of-way for electricity distribution and telecommunication lines is consistent with joint use agreements across Ontario, and Haldimand County Hydro has itself ensured that cooperative single line construction has occurred with other distribution utilities and telecommunication providers. If it is not appropriate for

of "Utility Policies from other Provinces and States" and suggests transmission lines are not allowed along roadways at all in some jurisdictions, including Quebec.

http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/publications/eng_publications/electrical/transmission_line_study.pdf.

² Ibid.

distribution lines to coexist on transmission poles,³ then Haldimand County Hydro would have little choice but to have lines running along both sides of municipal roads.

- 5) At this stage, Haldimand County Hydro has no preference as to an oral or written hearing.
- 6) Haldimand County Hydro reserves its full rights to review the evidence, cross-examine witnesses, lead evidence and make submissions.
- 7) The following are the names of Haldimand County Hydro Inc's. Authorized representatives and its counsel.

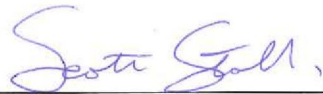
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³ For example, the above referenced report states "BC Hydro policy would not permit placing a distribution circuit (25kV or less) on the same structure as 138kV and higher voltages. The distribution line would have to be on the other side of the highway."

DATED at Toronto, this 21st day of April, 2011.

HALDIMAND COUNTY HYDRO INC.
by its counsel



Scott A. Stoll.

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