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ONE Nicholas Street, Suite 1204, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7B7

Tel: (613) 562-4002. Fax: (613) 562-0007. e-mail: piac@piac.ca. <http://www.piac.ca>

Michael Buonaguro
Counsel for VECC
(416) 767-1666

March 27, 2012

VIA MAIL and E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)
Submission of VECC Interrogatories EB-2012-0015
Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.

Please find enclosed the interrogatories of VECC in the above-noted proceeding. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Michael Buonaguro
Counsel for VECC
Encl.

cc: Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.
Ms. Sylvester

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15 (Schedule B), as amended;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by

Thunder Bay Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc. (Thunder Bay) for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable distribution rates to be effective May 1, 2012 to reflect the recovery of costs for deployed smart meters.

Information Requests of the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

VECC Question # 1

Reference: Application, 2. Status of Implementation of Smart Meters, Page 4

Preamble: As at November 30, 2011, Thunder Bay has installed 49,440 meters for nearly 100% completion with the exception of a small number of customer refusals and installation-related technical issues.

- a) Please confirm the remaining meters to be installed by customer class to reach 100% completion.

VECC Question # 2

Reference: Application, Smart Meter Program Status, Page 4

- a) Please summarize the types of meters installed for each rate class.
- b) Please complete the following table to show the average installed cost per meter type based on 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 capital costs from the smart meter model.

Class	Type of Meter	Quantity	Meter Cost	Installation	Installed Cost	Average Cost
Residential						
GS<50 kW						

- c) Please provide average costs by meter type for each customer class based on total capital costs.

VECC Question # 3

Reference: Application, Smart Meter Program Status, Page 4

- a) Please discuss if any meters were installed by Thunder Bay staff and if so, please provide meter quantities by year by customer class and associated costs. Please advise if these costs are included in this application.
- b) Please discuss the incremental internal labour costs incurred by Thunder Bay to deploy smart meters that are included in this application. Include the cost, number of positions (permanent vs. contract, full-time vs. part-time), position type and work activities.

VECC Question # 4

Reference: Procurement of Smart Meters and Installation Services, Page 4

- a) Please provide a status update on unit testing and system integration and qualification testing in preparation for cutover to live data transfer with the MDM/R and explain any variances from the project plan.
- b) Please provide a status update on Time of Use billings. Please explain any operational challenges, schedule changes and if applicable provide Thunder Bay's assessment if these issues are resolved.

VECC Question # 5

Reference: Application, Page 9

Preamble: Thunder Bay indicates that in its 2009 Cost of service application it received approval to increase its Smart Meter Funding Adder (SMFA) to \$1.97 per month per metered customer.

- a) Please provide a summary of all Board approvals for Thunder Bay's SMFA and include the OEB file number.
- b) Thunder Bay's SMFA has a sunset date of April 30, 2012. Please explain the interest charges on Sheet 8 of the smart meter model that go beyond this date.

VECC Question # 6

Reference 1: Application, Page 9

Preamble: Thunder Bay proposes a uniform SMDR per metered customer based on an average number of metered customers January to November 2011.

- a) Please provide the calculation for average number of metered customers.
- b) Please provide the rationale for a uniform SMDR per metered customer given the Board's Guideline G-2011-0001 (Page 19) states, "The Board views that, where practical and where data is available, class specific SMDRs should be calculated on full cost causality."

VECC Question # 7

Reference 1: Smart Meter Model (V2_17)

Preamble: Thunder Bay completed the Smart Meter Model provided by the OEB and used the data to arrive at a proposed uniform Smart Meter Incremental Rate Rider and a proposed uniform Smart Meter Disposition Rate Rider.

Reference 2: Board Guideline G-2011-0001, Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery – Final Disposition, dated December 15, 2011, Page 19

Preamble: The Guideline states, "The Board views that, where practical and where data is available, class specific SMDRs should be calculated on full cost causality."

- a) Please complete a separate smart meter model by rate class.
- b) Please re-calculate the rate riders based on customer class cost information calculated in part (a).
- c) Please provide a table that summarizes the total Smart Meter Rate Adder Revenue collected by customer class.
- d) If Thunder Bay is unable to calculate the rate riders based on full cost causality, please calculate the rate riders based on the cost allocation methodology proposed in PowerStream's application EB-2011-0128.

VECC Question # 8

Reference: Board Guideline G-2011-0001, Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery – Final Disposition, dated December 15, 2011, Page 19

Preamble: The Guidelines state, "The Board also expects that a distributor will provide evidence on any operational efficiencies and cost savings that result from smart meter implementation."

- a) Please summarize Thunder Bay's operational efficiencies and cost savings.

VECC Question # 9

Reference: Board Guideline G-2011-0001, Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery – Final Disposition, dated December 15, 2011, Page 17

Preamble: Guideline G-2011-0001 states at page 17: "Costs for other matters such as CIS changes or TOU bill presentment may be recoverable, but the distributor will have to support these costs and will have to demonstrate how they are required for the smart meter deployment program and that they are incremental to the distributor's normal operating costs." Sheet 2 of the smart meter model shows \$10,000 in costs under 2.6.3 Costs for TOU rate implementation, CIS system upgrades, web presentation, integration with the MDM/R, etc.

- a) Please indicate how these costs are incremental to Thunder Bay's normal operating costs.