***PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE***

***LE CENTRE POUR LA DEFENSE DE L’INTERET PUBLIC***

## ONE Nicholas Street, Suite 1204, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7B7

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Michael Janigan

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Counsel for VECC

(613) 562-4002 x26

May 28, 2012

 **VIA 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: EB-2012-0100 – Application by the Smart Metering Entity for Approval**

**of a Smart Metering Charge**

**EB-2012-0211 – OEB Motion to Determine the Appropriate Recovery and Allocation of the Smart Metering Charge**

**Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) - Notice of Intervention**

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

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*Original signed*

Michael Janigan

Counsel for VECC

Encl.

cc. Mr. Brian Rivard, IESO – brian.rivard@ieso.ca

**EB-2012-0100**

**EB-2012-0211**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**AN APPLICATION BY**

**THE SMART METERING ENTITY FOR**

**APPROVAL OF A SMART METERING CHARGE AND**

**A PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE RECOVERY AND ALLOCATION OF THE SMART METERING CHARGE**

**NOTICE OF INTERVENTION**

**OF THE**

**VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION**

To: Ms. Kirsten Walli

Board Secretary

And to: Mr. Brian Rivard, Manager of Regulatory Affairs

and Sector Policy Analysis, IESO

1. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) hereby expresses its intention to intervene and participate in the above-mentioned proceeding. VECC consists of the following organizations:

1. The Federation of Metro Tenants Association (FTMA)
2. The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens’ Organizations (OCSCO)

2. The Federation of the Metro Tenants Association (the “FTMA”) is a non-profit corporation composed of over ninety-two affiliated tenants associations, individual tenants, housing organizations, and members of non-profit housing co-oops. In addition to encouraging the organization of tenants and the promotion of decent and affordable housing, the Federation provides general information, advice, and assistance to tenants. The address is:

500-27 Carlton Street

Toronto, ON

M5B 1L2

3. The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens’ Organizations (“OCSCO”) is a coalition of over 160 senior groups as well as individual members across Ontario. OCSCO represents the concerns of over 500,000 senior citizens through its group and individual members. OCSCO’s mission is to improve the quality of life for Ontario’s seniors. OCSCO’s address is:

 333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 406

Toronto, ON

M3H 1T2

1. The coalition of the FMTA and OCSCO under the name VECC has the specific mandate of intervening in proceedings to advocate on behalf of the interests of Ontario’s vulnerable consumers with respect to energy issues, primarily through intervention in regulatory proceedings at the Ontario Energy Board.
2. Although the organization is not itself a member of VECC, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) in Ottawa assists in the representation of the interests of vulnerable consumers by ensuring the availability of competent representation and consultant support to the VECC participation.
3. The name and address of the agent authorized to receive documents on behalf of VECC is:

Mr. Michael Janigan

Counsel

Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)

One Nicholas Street, Suite 1204

Ottawa, Ontario

K1N 7B7

(613) 562-4002 extension 26 (office)

(613) 562-0007 (fax)

mjanigan@piac.ca

1. VECC would request that all correspondence and documentation also be copied to VECC’s consultant:

Bill Harper

Econalysis Consulting Services

34 King Street East, Suite 1102

Toronto, Ontario

M5C 2X8

bharper@econalysis.ca

1. In order to mitigate costs VECC requests only electronic copies of the materials. VECC may request paper copies of some or all of the materials should this become necessary for the purpose of clarity. VECC requests electronic copies of the application and any additional supporting materials be sent to Mr. Janigan and Mr. Harper at their respective e-mail addresses.
2. VECC notes that the proposed Smart Metering Charge will be yet another addition to consumers’ electricity bills and serve to compound the impacts of ever increasing rates for the distribution and transmission of electricity as well as the commodity itself. VECC is intervening in order to ensure that consumer interests and in particular the interests of the low-income and vulnerable users of electricity are fully represented in the determination of the overall level of smart meter charges and the basis on which they will be recovered from customers.
3. VECC will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding and believes that, as a coalition representing the direct interests of consumers, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (Section 41) and its’ Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Section 3.03).
4. VECC’s members do not have access to the direct funding required to retain appropriate legal and consulting support for its intervention in OEB proceedings. Accordingly VECC relies on PIAC to provide legal support and retain qualified consultants on the basis that PIAC can recover the related fees and disbursements from the Board based on the Board’s Practice Direction on Cost Awards at the prevailing Cost Award Tariff.

**Dated at toronto, May 28, 2012**