



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay

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May 29-12

VIA EMAIL AND MAIL ONLY

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

Attention: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary
(Boardsec@Ontarioenergyboard.ca)

**Notice of Intent to Participate by Northwestern Ontario Municipal
Association
(NOMA)**

Re: Policy Review of Micro-Embedded Generation Connection Issues (EB-2012-0246)

Intent to Participate

In response to the Ontario Energy Board invitation, dated May 15, 2012, to participate in the consultation process that is being initiated by the Board regarding Policy Review of Micro-Embedded Generation Connection Issues (EB-2012-0246), 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 earlier participation in the Board's review of the Integrated Power System Plan (EB-2007-0707), its comments on the draft Supply Mix Directive and, most recently, on two of the consultation initiatives directed to the Board's Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity; namely, Regional Planning on Electrical Infrastructure (EB-2011-0043), and Developing Guidance for the Implementation of a Smart Grid in Ontario (EB-2011-0004). NOMA has a substantial interest in this consultation proceeding because:

1. Members of NOMA have recent experience with micro-embedded generation connections within their jurisdiction.
2. NOMA represents the municipal communities throughout the Northwest Region;
3. NOMA understands and can speak to the direct interests of the ratepayers in the Northwest Region (population approximately 250,000); and

4. 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 micro-embedded generation and transmission/distributions in the region.

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

NOMA also has an interest in the connection of renewable energy generation facilities in the Northwest region.

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. Common Voice Northwest (CVNW); 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, CVNW 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.

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.

Pursuant to the Board's *Revised Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, NOMA may be ineligible by reason of the criteria contained in section 3.05(i). However, NOMA pleads and relies on section 3.07 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and submits this consultation presents a special circumstance in which the Board should grant cost eligibility to NOMA. Specifically, this consultation relates to the role NOMA's member municipalities have in land use planning and development more generally within their jurisdiction.

NOMA in particular represents the direct interest of ratepayers throughout the Northwest Region. The process to connect micro-embedded generation within their communities impacts those ratepayers who 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. A reliable, affordable and renewable 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 process of connecting micro-embedded generation positively impacts 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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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 in a cursive style.

Ron Nelson