

May 29, 2012

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

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 Associated Chambers of
Commerce (NOACC)**

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 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 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). Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce has a substantial interest in this consultation proceeding because:

1. Members of NOACC have recent experience with micro-embedded generation connections.
2. NOACC represents the member businesses of the individual Chambers of Commerce throughout the Northwest Region;
3. NOACC understands and can speak to the direct business interests of the ratepayers in the Northwest Region (population approximately 250,000); and
4. 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 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.

NOACC also has an interest in the connection of renewable energy generation facilities in the Northwest Region.

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. 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.

The NOACC, NOMA, 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, 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.

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.

All of the businesses and commercial interests of the members of NOACC are not ineligible by reason of any of the criteria contained in section 3.05 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* and efficiency gained by the collaborative representation in the Proceeding should allow for costs to be granted given the diversity of membership.

NOACC in particular represents the direct interest of the business interests 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.

NOACC represents a public interest in seeking to ensure the process of connecting micro-embedded generation positively impacts businesses in the Northwest Region and the industries that they supply with goods and services.

For Purposes of Notice:

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Harold Wilson

200 Syndicate Avenue S., Suite 102

Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1C9

Telephone: 807-624-2626

Fax: 807-622-7752
Email: harold@tb-chamber.on.ca

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);
jcyr@wmnlaw.com
807 625 8880
- 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).
nmelchio@mnlaw.com
807 625 8883

The regular mail and courier contact information of the law firm of Weiler, Maloney, Nelson is:

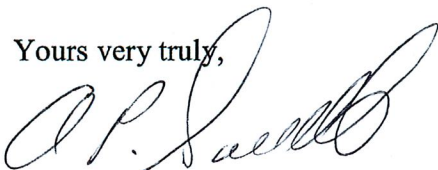
1001 William Street
Thunder Bay, ON

- P7B 6M1

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

Respectfully submitted,

Yours very truly,



Andrew Scribilo
President, NOACC