

**IN THE MATTER OF** sections 70 and 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act 1998*, S.O.1998, c.15, (Schedule B);

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** a Board-initiated proceeding to designate an electricity transmitter to undertake development work for a new electricity transmission line between Northeast and Northwest Ontario: the East-West Tie Line.

## **INTERROGETORIES**

NOACC – NOMA Intervenors: (The Northwestern Ontario Associated Chamber of Commerce and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, combined with City of Thunder Bay)

January 30, 2013  
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1    **INTRODUCTION**

2    In its Procedural Order No. 5, dated January 8, 2013, the Ontario Energy Board (the  
3    “Board”) invited all parties, applicants and other intervenors to propose written  
4    interrogatories for the Board’s consideration.

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6    The coalition of Intervenors NOACC, NOMA and the City of Thunder Bay (the NOACC –  
7    NOMA Intervenors) wish to submit draft interrogatories on several issues to the Board for  
8    consideration.

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10   **INTERROGATORIES**

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12       1. Transmission lines by their nature are at risk of permanent faults. There have been  
13       60 forced outages on the existing East West Tie Line between 2006 and 2011,  
14       approximately 12 per year. Over a quarter of these outages have been double-  
15       circuit outages in which both circuits were forced out of service. This does not  
16       include suppression in electrical storm events. Will each proponent indicate which,  
17       if any, features of its proposed design or placement of the new circuits:

- 18           a. will serve to diminish the risk of the same event causing companion faults on  
19                i. each new circuit, and  
20                ii. each existing circuit;  
21           b. in the event that there were to be a fault on a new circuit, will serve to reduce  
22           the impact (as to either extent or duration) of loss of transmission?

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24       2. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its proposed design or  
25       placement of the new circuits will allow municipal or First Nation communities, which  
26       are not connected to the existing East West Tie Line (the “EWT), to connect to the  
27       East West Tie Line in the future?

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- 1       3. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its proposed design or  
2       placement of the new circuits will mitigate the impact of suppression during  
3       electrical storms.  
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- 5       4. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its proposed design or  
6       placement of the new circuits address climatic and topographical feature of the  
7       region through which the Tie passes; including but not limited to sever snow loads,  
8       typically absence of road access, minor earthquakes.  
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- 10      5. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its construction and  
11      maintenance plans for the new circuits will entail skill training and jobs for individuals  
12      living in local municipal and First Nation communities?  
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- 14      6. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its construction and  
15      maintenance plans for the new circuits will engage local suppliers of goods and  
16      services?  
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- 18      7. Will each proponent indicate the features of its proposal that will result in  
19      consultation with landowners, municipalities and First Nation communities, other  
20      than through the environmental assessment process under the Environmental  
21      Assessment Act?  
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- 23      8. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its construction and  
24      maintenance plans for the new circuits will reduce the level of line loss experienced  
25      with the circuits in the existing tie?  
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- 27      9. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its construction and  
28      maintenance plans for the new circuits will represent increased robustness over the  
29      existing circuits in outage rates, risks of cascading failure and conductor galloping  
30      conditions?  
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- 32      10. Is there a level playing field between EWT LP and other proponents?

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11. Will each proponent indicate which, if any, features of its construction and maintenance plans for the new circuits will come into effect if the estimated “in-service” date set out in its proposal for the new circuits is not met?