



Economic Development
Corporation of Wawa

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

96 Broadway Avenue
Wawa, Ontario P0S 1K0
www.edcwawa.ca

Telephone: (705) 856-4419

Fax: (705) 856-2655

April 25, 2008

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Great Lakes Power Limited 2007 Electricity Rate Application
File No. EB 2007-0744**

At the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Wawa Annual General Meeting held in February 2008, Great Lakes Power Limited provided a presentation to our organization outlining its 2007 Electricity Rate Application to the Ontario Energy Board.

The EDC of Wawa is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The organization works with local business, all levels of government and many community partners to facilitate economic stability and growth within the Municipality of Wawa. The EDC of Wawa's primary goal is to assist and attract businesses that will not only thrive in our town but will also help to rebuild our community and regional economy.

Our community is supplied with electricity by Great Lakes Power Limited. Historically, Wawa had some of the most competitive electricity rates for residential, commercial and industrial customers in Ontario. Regardless, the deregulation of the electricity market caused electricity rates in our area to rise to among the highest in the province. This has adversely impacted the local and regional economy. The EDC of Wawa is aware that an alternative approach to setting rates is needed to aid our small Northern Ontario community.

Through the presentation provided to the EDC membership by Great Lakes Power Limited, the Board was made aware that the proposed electricity rates would provide significant savings to classes of business and industrial customers and would provide a mechanism similar to the Rural and Remote Rate Protection allowing Great Lakes Power to continue to invest and provide reliable service to their distribution area. The rates, as proposed by Great Lakes Power, appear to be in the best interest of its business and industrial consumers.

Our local and regional economy is in crisis. Many of the area's major employers have had to shut down, citing electricity costs as one of the main contributing factors. The EDC of Wawa believes that the area needs competitive electricity rates to allow it and other Northern Ontario communities to remain competitive and attract needed investment.

The EDC of Wawa trusts that the Ontario Energy Board will continue to work with Great Lakes Power Limited in a timely and cost effective fashion in finding solutions that will help enable those serviced by Great Lakes to mitigate some of the financial pressures that are negatively affecting our community and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,



Maury O'Neill, MPI
CEO

cc: EDC Board of Directors
Municipality of Wawa