Good afternoon:

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) asks to be given intervenor status in the upcoming Hydro One distribution rates hearing EB 2013 0141.

OFA is an association of approximately 35,000 farmers of Ontario’s approximately 45,000 farmers.  These 35,000 farmers are voluntary members of OFA and they expect OFA to represent them on matters of consequence to their farm operations.  Most of these farmers are customers of Hydro One and between them they are the largest users of electricity in rural Ontario.  Jointly they consume in excess of $300 million in power.  As farming is a business subject to small margins (averaging under 5%) that fluctuate substantially from farmer to farmer and year to year, electricity rate increases do affect farm profitability.   And quality of service affects the ability to carry out essential farm operations in a predictable manner.    Accordingly the hearing is of personal and material interest to the members of OFA.

OFA will wish to address the Smart Grid Rate Rider and to represent the interests of Ontario farmers with respect to costs of delivering hydro.

OFA intends to participate in pre-hearing meetings, technical and settlement conferences and will submit interrogatories.

OFA is prepared to participate in either oral or written hearings and has no preference at this time for an oral or a written hearing.

OFA has not selected counsel at this time.   Mr. Ted Cowan will speak for OFA.  However OFA may also wish to introduce a new person as yet not designated to OEB matters.  OFA will participate in English.

Mr. Cowan can be reached at:

By e-mail                              Ted.cowan@ofa.on.ca

Or by phone  at                 416 660 5545

Or by fax at                         519 821 4810

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OFA reserves the right to apply for reimbursement of eligible costs that it may reasonably incur as a result of intervening on behalf of Ontario’s farmers in this hearing.

I have asked for an OEB user ID and will submit this request again to the web site and by letter when the user ID arrives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

With respect and best regards,

Ted Cowan

For the Ontario Federation of Agriculture