



PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE
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July 11, 2013

VIA MAIL and E-MAIL

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge St.
Toronto, ON
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)
Submission of VECC Interrogatories EB-2013-0141
Hydro One Networks Inc.

Please find enclosed the interrogatories of VECC in the above-noted proceeding. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Michael Janigan
Counsel for VECC
Encl.

cc: Hydro One Networks Inc.

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF

the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15 (Schedule B), as amended;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by

Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) for a mechanistic and formulaic adjustment to distribution rates beginning January 1, 2014 under the Board's 3rd Generation Incentive Regulation Mechanism, and a Smart Grid Rate Rider to recover \$29.3 million in costs for their Smart Grid Program and a change to its Retail Transmission Service rates.

Information Requests of the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

Smart Grid

VECC Question # 1

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 11

Preamble: For 2014, HONI proposes spending of \$15.8 million in OM&A and \$29 million in capital.

- a) Please discuss if HONI is eligible for any smart grid funding and if so, how any funding opportunities have been considered in this application.

VECC Question # 2

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 3

Preamble: HONI indicates it is starting to transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2

- a) Please discuss HONI's geographical strategy to deploy appropriate technologies beyond the Owen Sound area.

VECC Question # 3

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 4

Preamble: HONI provides a list of objectives of its smart grid plan.

- a) Please provide any targets set by HONI for each objective and discuss how they were determined.

VECC Question # 4

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 5

Preamble: HONI states that it elected to take a slower, more measured approach for some of the technologies that resulted in a longer than expected Phase 1 Release 1 duration.

- a) Please compare the time frame/duration of the original Phase 1 Release 1 to the current Phase 1 Release 1.

VECC Question # 5

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 8, Table 2

Preamble: Table 2 provides HONI's 2013 OM&A expenditures approved by the Board.

- a) Please provide a breakdown of OM&A spending to date and a forecast to the end of 2013.
- b) In 2012, HONI underspent on OM&A (\$10.4 M) compared to the Board approved \$20 M. Please discuss the potential for underspending in OM&A in 2013.

VECC Question # 6

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 15

Preamble: The smart grid capital work to be completed in 2013 as part of the Phase 1 Release 2 project is estimated at \$23.9 million.

- a) Please provide a breakdown of capital spending to date and a forecast to the end of 2013.
- b) Please discuss any shift in priorities.

VECC Question # 7

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 13

Preamble: HONI indicates it plans to make enhancements to its Distribution Management System to enable better management of the distributed generation connected to the distribution system.

- a) Please provide further details on the types of enhancements planned.

VECC Question # 8

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 12

Preamble: HONI anticipates the costs to maintain smart grid assets in 2014 to be \$7 million.

- a) Please provide a breakdown of the costs and provide the split between staffing and non-staffing costs.
- b) Please provide a summary of the number of FTE's from 2010 to 2012 actual and 2013 and 2014 projections related to smart grid work.

VECC Question # 9

Reference: Exhibit C, Tab1, Schedule 1, Page 17

- a) As a result of HONI's smart grid work to date, please provide a summary of key lessons learned.