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October 15, 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-2013-0157
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited

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: Melissa Casson, Regulatory Manager

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
North Bay Hydro Distribution Limited (NBHDL) for an order or orders
approving or fixing just and reasonable
distribution rates to be effective May 1, 2014 to reflect the
recovery of costs for deployed smart meters.

Information Requests of the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)

VECC Question # 1

Reference: Appendix J, Page 1

Preamble: The cost recovery is based on actual audited costs incurred to the end of 2012, actual costs to June 2013 and forecasted costs for the remainder of 2013 and 2014.

- a) Please provide the percentage of audited costs.
- b) Please provide a breakdown of 2013 costs between actual (to June 2013) and forecast.
- c) Please provide a breakdown of 2013 smart meter installations by customer class between actual (to June 2013) and forecast.

VECC Question # 2

Reference: Appendix J, Page 5

Preamble: The evidence states “Util-Assist also worked closely with Sensus to evolve their collector system to handle the geographic challenges of NBHDL’s service territory.”

- a) Please discuss if the geographical challenges of NBHDL’s service territory are similar to the other District 9 distributors.

VECC Question # 3

Reference: Appendix J, Page 3

Preamble: The application states “NBHDL incurred smart meter OM&A costs in 2012 and has on-going and forecasted costs related to smart meters throughout 2013 and 2014, however, NBHDL has absorbed these costs in the normal business operations of the company and is not seeking cost recovery for these costs.

- a) Please explain the nature of the on-going OM&A costs and where they are absorbed in normal business operations.

VECC Question # 4

Reference: Appendix J, Page 5

Preamble: The application states “Util-Assist helped with MDM/R integration in 2011 and continues to work with NBHDL today on process efficiency improvements.”

- a) Please discuss any process efficiency improvements and cost savings and indicate how the savings are reflected in the current application.

VECC Question # 5

Reference: Appendix J, Page 4

Preamble: NBHDL indicates in its 2011 Decision and Order (EB-2010-0102), NBHDL received approval from the Board to continue the 1.47 per metered customer per month smart meter funding adder.

- a) Please confirm the date the \$1.47 SMFA ceased.

VECC Question # 6

Reference: Appendix J, Page 8

Preamble: NBHDL states “Fortunately through this period technology evolved and Sensus developed a more portable TGB which became known as a Metro. This technology became the solution in rugged terrain. Some of the Metro locations were in remote areas and the electrical distribution grid had to be extended in some situations to provide service.

- a) Please provide a breakdown and explanation of the costs in this application by year to extend the electrical distribution grid (based on the cost categories from the smart meter model).

- b) Please provide other distributors that NBHDL is aware of that are using portable TGB (Metro) technology.

VECC Question # 7

Reference: Appendix J, Page 8

Preamble: The evidence states “Based on experience, if RIS drops below 98%, NBHDL loses TOU quality billing data on remote meters resulting in cascading problems with routine billing processes. Over the past six months the collector system has stabilized and performed very reliably.”

- a) Please discuss how often the RIS drops below 98% by year and the number of meters affected.

VECC Question # 8

Reference: Appendix J, Page 8

Preamble: NBHDL researched the effort required and costs associated with the mass deployment and concluded that the most cost-effective approach to install the required meters was to utilize a third-party contractor.

- a) Please provide the cost differential between a third-party contractor and other options.

VECC Question # 9

Reference: Appendix J, Page 8

Preamble: The application indicates NBHDL staff was used on difficult installations where there were access problems, safety concerns or significant customer issues.

- a) Please provide the number and percentage of residential and GS<50 kW smart meter installations that were difficult installations.
- b) Please provide the incremental cost by customer class for difficult installations and include the calculation.

VECC Question # 10

Reference: Appendix J, Page 8

- a) Please complete the following table to show the average installed cost by meter type and customer class.

Class	Type of Meter	Quantity	Installed Cost	Average Costs
Residential				
GS<50 kW				

VECC Question # 11

Reference: Appendix J, Page 20

Preamble: The evidence states “With regards to rate class allocation NBHDL has determined the average installation cost of a Residential smart meter is \$96.90 and the average installation cost of a General Service < 50 kW smart meter is \$226.01.

- a) Please provide the calculations to support the average installation costs referenced above.

VECC Question # 12

Reference: Appendix J, Page 20

Preamble: NBHDL states that when these values are applied to 21,045 installed Residential smart meters and 2,629 installed General Service < 50 kW smart meter the resulting rate class weighed smart meter costs are 77% Residential and 23% General Service < 50 kW.

- a) Please explain what the 21,045 installed residential and 2,639 GS<50 kW installed smart meters is based on.

VECC Question # 13

Reference 1: Appendix J, Appendix 2 Smart Meter Model (V4)

Preamble: NBHDL completed the Smart Meter Model to calculate the proposed Smart Meter Disposition Rate Rider (SMDR) and proposed Smart Meter Incremental Rate Rider (SMIRR).

Reference 2: Board Guideline G-2011-0001, Smart Meter Funding and Cost Recovery – Final Disposition, dated December 15, 2011, Page 19

Preamble: The Guideline states, “The Board views that, where practical and where data is available, class specific SMDRs should be calculated on full cost causality.

- a) Please discuss if NBHDL kept records by class and if accounts 1556 and 1555 are segregated by rate class? If not, why not?
- b) Please complete a separate smart meter revenue requirement model by customer class based on full cost causality by rate class. Please provide live smart meter models.
- c) Please summarize the updated SMDRs and SMIRRs by customer class based on the results of part (c).
- d) Please provide the SMFA amounts collected by rate class.

VECC Question # 14

Reference: Appendix J, Smart Meter Model, Tab 2 Smart Meter Costs

- a) For 2013, 174 residential and 826 GS<50 kW smart meter installations are shown. Please confirm the type of meters and quantity of each to be installed by customer class.
- b) Please provide an explanation of costs in 2012 for 1.5.6 Other AMI Capital – Other Equipment.
- c) Please specify the costs in 2011 for 2.5.6 Other AMI Expenses.
- d) Please explain why NBHDL does not show costs for capital and OM&A costs beyond minimum functionality (1.6.3 & 2.6.3) related to costs for TOU rate implementation, CIS system upgrades, web presentation, integration with MDM/R when these costs were incurred.