

EB-2013-0122

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

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** an application by Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. for an order approving just and reasonable rates and other charges for electricity distribution to be effective January 1, 2014.

## PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2 October 21, 2013

Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc. ("CHEI") filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on May 13, 2013 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that CHEI charges for electricity distribution, to be effective January 1, 2014.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing dated June 28, 2013. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition ("VECC") applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility. No objection was received.

On August 7, 2013 the Board issued a letter requiring CHEI to file as soon as possible specific information related to the updated *Filing Requirements for Electricity Distribution Rate Applications*, dated July 17, 2013.

On August 23, 2013, CHEI filed the updated information.

On September 4, 2013, the Board issued Procedural Order No. 1. The Board approved VECC as an intervenor and determined that VECC was eligible to apply for an award of costs under the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. The Board also made

provisions for written interrogatories and a Settlement Conference, which was scheduled for October 24, 2013 and, if necessary, to continue on October 25, 2013.

Board staff filed its interrogatories on September 13, 2013 and VECC filed its interrogatories on September 18, 2013.

CHEI also filed its responses to Board staff and VECC's interrogatories on October 10, 2013.

On October 10, 2013, CHEI filed a letter with the Board requesting that the Board reconsider its provision for a Settlement Conference and proceed instead by way of a written hearing. CHEI stated that a Settlement Conference often helps to streamline the approval of rates, however, CHEI projects that a Settlement Conference would result in additional regulatory costs in the amount of approximately \$31,000 for a single day. CHEI also indicated that Benoit Lamarche, General Manager of CHEI, will be out of the country until the end of October and that no other person at CHEI has the authority to negotiate on his behalf.

The Board has reviewed CHEI's request and has determined that the Settlement Conference on October 24 to October 25, 2013 will be cancelled. The Board will approve CHEI's request to proceed by way of a written hearing.

Upon review of the responses to the written interrogatories, the Board has decided to make provision for written submissions.

The Board considers it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The Board may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

## THE BOARD ORDERS THAT:

- VECC shall file written submissions by November 15, 2013. Written submissions from Board staff shall be submitted on or before November 13, 2013.
- 2. CHEI may file a written reply submission with the Board by November 29, 2013.

All filings to the Board must quote the file number, EB-2013-0122, be made electronically through the Board's web portal at

https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/, in searchable / unrestricted PDF format. Two paper copies must also be filed at the Board's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <a href="http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry">http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry</a>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Daniel Kim at <a href="mailto:daniel.kim@ontarioenergyboard.ca">daniel.kim@ontarioenergyboard.ca</a> and Board Counsel, Kristi Sebalj at <a href="mailto:kristi.sebalj@ontarioenergyboard.ca">kristi.sebalj@ontarioenergyboard.ca</a>.

## **ADDRESS**

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**DATED** at Toronto, October 21, 2013

## **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary