



October 28, 2013
Ontario Energy Board P.O.
Box 2319 27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street Toronto,
Ontario M4P 1E4

Attention: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary
Regarding: EB-2013-0139 - 2014 Cost of Service Application
Subject: Letter of objection to a settlement conference

Dear Ms. Walli,

On September 24th, Hydro Hawkesbury Inc. ("HHI") received a procedural order outlining dates and steps related to HHI's cost of service application filed on May 30, 2013. Amongst the steps listed, the OEB made a provision for a settlement conference on November 13, 2013 and possibly November 14, 2013. HHI respectfully asks that the OEB reconsider its provision for a settlement conference and proceed instead by way of written hearing. The utility understands that settlement conferences often help to streamline the approval of rates however HHI projects that a settlement conference would result in additional regulatory costs in the amount of \$28,000 for a single day of settlement conference. This amount would be considerably higher for two days of settlement conference. HHI's cost estimate is broken down as such;

Legal representation:

- 2 days to review the application prior to settlement: cost \$11,000
- 1 day of settlement conference: cost \$5,000

(Please note that HHI does not currently have legal representation and a two day review of the application would be necessary in order for a lawyer to fully understand the application. This cost would be required in all hearing format other than a written hearing.)

Deloitte (accounting resource)

- Time, travel and accommodation (as quoted by Deloitte): cost \$8,000

HHI (General Manager and Assistant Manager)

- Travel and accommodations: cost \$2,500

Regulatory Consultant

- Hourly rate for 1 day: cost \$1,500

(Potential increase in intervenor costs)

HHI is of the opinion that there are no issues in its application that would be considered contentious and that warrant a settlement conference. Therefore, HHI respectfully requests that the application proceeds by way of written hearing.

HHI makes every effort to minimize its costs in an effort to help its customers. And HHI strongly feels that incurring \$28,000, (which represents 10% of the utility's OM&A increase since 2010) in additional regulatory costs would only serve to penalize the customer by unnecessarily increasing its bill impacts.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michel Poulin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michel Poulin

General Manager
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