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## Delivered via Courier and Email

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street P.O. Box 2319, Suite 2700 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 Fax: (416) 440-7656 Email: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca

Dear Ms. Walli:

## Re: EB-2013-0339 - wpd White Pines Wind Incorporated - Application for Leave to Construct an Electricity Transmission Line and Associated Facilities

We are counsel to Mr. Gordon Gibbins, a property owner whose property on Royal Road will be in very close proximity to the proposed transmission line and associated facilities including the proposed substation. Mr. Gibbins has direct and relevant concerns regarding the serious potential for damage to the buildings located on his property, all five of which are of considerable historical interest and are designated as such. On behalf of Mr. Gibbins we are writing to request that this case be conducted by way of an oral hearing and that Mr. Gibbins be granted Intervenor Status in accordance with the Notice of Application (the "Application") and the Ontario Energy Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

As the authorized representatives of our client, we would like to receive copies of all evidence filed by the Applicant and any other communications sent in this matter. Please forward these to the attention of Graham Andrews at the address above or via email at <u>gandrews@gillespielaw.ca</u>.

We note that the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") intends to proceed by way of written hearing unless there is good reason why an oral hearing is necessary. Mr. Gibbins believes that an oral hearing is essential for the proper determination of the complex nature of the contested issues in this Application and he will wish to test the evidence presented by the Applicant in cross-examination as he believes there are significant gaps in the evidence presented at this stage. In order that the public interest is properly served with regard to the reliability and quality of the electricity service provided by the transmission line and whether or not the transmission line construction and operation will be done in a manner consistent with the policies of the Government of Ontario, Mr. Gibbins wishes to have the option of raising issues, of presenting his position and seeking clarification through cross-examination at an oral hearing regarding, but not limited to, the following issues on which further evidence is required:

- incomplete and/or inaccurate documentation regarding the route of the transmission line;
- incomplete and/or inaccurate documentation regarding the construction of the transmission line and whether or not the said line can/will be able to be constructed underground along its length;
- incomplete documentation regarding the ongoing maintenance and deconstruction of the transmission line at the end of its expected utility;
- easements required from landowners along the proposed route of the transmission line;
- the land acquisition agreement that forms part of this Application;
- the lack of consultation with neighbouring property owners, including Mr. Gibbins, and the potentially serious impact on residences and other buildings, some of which have heritage designation, along the proposed route of the transmission line including those not subject to easements;
- the proximity of the substation to residential dwellings; and
- the accuracy of the location of the 69 Kv power line as depicted in the Application.

Though not a final and binding list of those issues what may be raised, the issues noted above are clearly within the jurisdiction of the Board. For example, the impact that the incomplete documentation regarding the transmission route raises significant questions regarding, amongst others the exact easements that may be required, the answers to which will have a direct bearing on the quality and reliability of the electricity service provided such as necessitating a revised route over alternate easements. Additionally, an oral hearing is appropriate and desirable because the necessary conclusions on the above issues will require determinations of witness and evidence credibility, which will affect the outcome of the hearing. Where credibility issues are at stake, the necessity of an oral hearing in order to cross-examine witnesses becomes evident. Further, were the hearing to proceed by way of written interrogatories, the amount of written submissions required would likely cause a delay to the proceedings and would likely not be as transparent to the other members of the community who may wish to become involved as intervenors or submit letters of comment.

Mr. Gibbins intends to seek an award of costs for the reasons discussed above.

We look forward to the response of the Ontario Energy Board to this request. If there are any questions arising from this request please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

## ERIC K. GILLESPIE PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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Eric K. Gillespie EKG/ga

cc I. Minott, Stikeman Eliott LLP, counsel for wpd White Pines Wind Incorporated