***PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE***

***LE CENTRE POUR LA DEFENSE DE L’INTERET PUBLIC***

## ONE Nicholas Street, Suite 1204, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7B7

Tel: (613) 562-4002. Fax: (613) 562-0007. e-mail: piac@piac.ca. http://www.piac.ca

Michael Janigan

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Counsel for VECC

June 28, 2014

 **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)**

**Notice of Intent to Participate**

**EB-2014-0158 ECPA, 2010 Review**

Please find enclosed the Notice of Intent to Participate of VECC in the above-noted proceeding. VECC is also requesting an award of costs.

Yours truly,



Michael Janigan

Counsel for VECC

email: Ms. Martine Band

 martine.band@ontarioenergyboard.ca

**EB-2014-0158**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**Consultation on the Effectiveness of Part II of the Energy Consumer Protection Act 2010**

**NOTICE OF INTENT to PARTICIPATE**

**OF THE**

**VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION**

To: Ms. Kirsten Walli

Board Secretary

And to: Ms. Martine Band

**IDENTITY OF THE INTERVENOR AND ITS MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) hereby expresses its intention to intervene and participate in the above-mentioned proceeding. VECC consists of the following organizations:

1. The Federation of Metro Tenants Association (FTMA)
2. The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens’ Organizations (OCSCO)

2. The Federation of the Metro Tenants Association (the “FTMA”) is a non-profit corporation composed of over ninety-two affiliated tenants associations, individual tenants, housing organizations, and members of non-profit housing co-oops. In addition to encouraging the organization of tenants and the promotion of decent and affordable housing, the Federation provides general information, advice, and assistance to tenants. The address is:

500-27 Carlton Street

Toronto, ON

M5B 1L2

3. The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens’ Organizations (“OCSCO”) is a coalition of over 160 senior groups as well as individual members across Ontario. OCSCO represents the concerns of over 500,000 senior citizens through its group and individual members. OCSCO’s mission is to improve the quality of life for Ontario’s seniors. OCSCO’s address is:

 333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 406

Toronto, ON

M3H 1T2

1. The coalition of the FMTA and OCSCO under the name VECC has the specific mandate of intervening in proceedings to advocate on behalf of the interests of Ontario’s vulnerable consumers with respect to energy issues, primarily through intervention in regulatory proceedings at the Ontario Energy Board.
2. Although the organization is not itself a member of VECC, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) in Ottawa assists in the representation of the interests of vulnerable consumers by ensuring the availability of competent representation and consultant support to the VECC participation. PIAC also provides independent research and support regarding issues associated with access to valuable public services and consumer protection within those services.

**INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT VECC IN THIS PROCEEDING**

1. The name and address of the agent authorized to receive documents on behalf of VECC is:

Mr. Michael Janigan

Counsel

Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)

One Nicholas Street, Suite 1204

Ottawa, Ontario

K1N 7B7

(613) 562-4002 extension 26 (office)

(613) 562-0007 (fax)

mjanigan@piac.ca

34 King Street East, Suite 630

Toronto, Ontario

M5C 2X8

bharper@econalysis.ca

1. In order to mitigate costs VECC requests only electronic copies of the materials. VECC may request paper copies of some or all of the materials should this become necessary. VECC requests electronic copies of the application and any additional supporting materials be sent to Mr. Janigan, at his e-mail address.

**GROUNDS**

8. VECC has long been engaged in advancing the interests of ordinary and vulnerable consumers in the restructuring of the energy industry. This restructuring has brought with various problems associated with the solicitation of energy commodity supply contracts and their subsequent effect when executed. These include lack of transparency, supplier misrepresentation and unconscionable transactions.

**INTERESTS**

1. VECC seeks to ensure that the interests of vulnerable consumers can be protected against sharp practice on the part of suppliers of products and service in the energy field and that enforcement of the legislation is swift and effective in providing a deterrent to marketplace misconduct.
2. VECC has previously been approved as an intervenor in numerous proceedings including its recent engagement in EGD’s Open Bill proceeding and settlement which engaged a suite of similar consumer protection issues.

**INTENTION TO SEEK COST AWARDS**

1. VECC will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding and believes that, as a coalition representing the direct interests of consumers, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (Section 41) and its’ Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Section 3.03).
2. VECC’s members do not have access to the direct funding required to retain appropriate legal and consulting support for its intervention in OEB proceedings. Accordingly VECC relies on PIAC to provide legal support and retain qualified consultants on the basis that PIAC can recover the related fees and disbursements from the Board based on the Board’s Practice Direction on Cost Awards at the prevailing Cost Award Tariff.
3. VECC has made a filing pursuant to sec. 3.03.1 of the Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

**Dated at OTTAWA, July 28, 2014**