PETER C.P. THOMPSON, Q.C. T 613.787.3528 pthompson@blg.com

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP World Exchange Plaza 100 Queen St, Suite 1300 Ottawa, ON, Canada K1P 1J9 T 613.237.5160 F 613.230.8842 blg.com



By electronic filing

September 18, 2014

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street 27<sup>th</sup> floor Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli,

Union Gas Limited ("Union" 2015 Rates Application

**Board File No.:** 

EB-2014-0271

Our File No.:

339583-000003

We are writing this letter to seek intervenor status and cost award eligibility in this proceeding on behalf of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters ("CME").

#### 1. CME and its Interest in this Proceeding

CME is Canada's leading business network. Its members represent 75% of manufactured output in the Province of Ontario, and 90% of all exports. CME is a not-for-profit organization funded by membership fees and revenues from the services it renders to Federal and Provincial Governments and Agencies to foster the development of national and international markets for its members. About 85% of CME's 1,400 Ontario-based member companies are Small to Medium sized business Enterprises ("SMEs") with 500 employees or less. The views of these businesses should be considered in this proceeding.

CME's mandate and objectives, its membership and the constituency it represents, and the types of programs and activities by which it carries out its mandate, are described on CME's website, <a href="https://www.cme-mec.ca">www.cme-mec.ca</a>. CME's priority objectives related to Energy and the Environment are summarized in Attachment 1.

Natural gas is a significant source of energy for the manufacturing sector. As a result, CME members are vitally concerned with all matters pertaining to the supply and price of natural gas, including its purchase, sale, transmission, distribution and storage.

CME was an active participant in the negotiations which led to the Board-approved Agreement setting out a multi-year incentive rate-making mechanism ("IRM") for calendar years 2014 to 2018.



# 2. Nature and Scope of CME's Intended Participation

CME intends to participate actively in this proceeding to assure that the rate relief granted for 2015 is compatible with the terms of the IRM Agreement.

## 3. Request for Written Evidence

CME requests that a copy of any further written evidence upon which the Application is based be provided to its counsel.

# 4. Oral or Written Hearing

An oral hearing, preceded by a written discovery process and a Settlement Conference, is the most efficient way of determining the issues raised by the Application. An oral hearing should be held to determine any issues which cannot be settled.

## 5. Cost Award

CME intends to seek a cost award in this proceeding on the grounds that its ability to participate is dependent upon a determination that it is eligible for such an award. In many prior proceedings, the Board has determined that CME is eligible for a Cost Award.

## 6. BLG's Representation of CME

Borden Ladner Gervais ("BLG") represents CME under the auspices of a written retainer agreement executed by Ian Howcroft, Vice-President of CME's Ontario Division. BLG's mandate is to represent the interests of manufacturers in those Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") proceedings which are likely to have an impact on the rates which Ontario manufacturers pay for utility services. Paul Clipsham, Director of Policy – Ontario Division of CME, is the individual with whom BLG liaises.

## 7. CME Contacts

If the relief sought in this letter is granted, then CME requests that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

Paul Clipsham		Borden Ladner Gervais LLP Peter C.P. Thompson, Q.C.		P. Thompson, Q.C.	
Director of Policy – Ontario Division		Barristers & Solicitors	Tel	(613) 787-3528	
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters		100 Queen Street	email	pthompson@blg.com	
6725 Airport Road		Suite 1300			
Suite 200		Ottawa ON K1P 1J9	Vincent	/incent J. DeRose	
Mississauga, ON L4V 1V2			Tel	(613) 787-3589	
	8 7	Main Fax: (613) 230-8842	email	vderose@blg.com	
Tel	(289) 566-9538				
Fax	(905) 672-1764		Emma Blanchard		
email	paul.clipsham@cme-mec.ca		Tel	(613) 369-4755	
			email	eblanchard@blg.com	



Please contact the undersigned if the Board requires any further information in connection with these requests.

Yours very truly,

Peter C.P. Thompson

PCT\slc

c. Chris Ripley (Union)

Crawford Smith (Torys LLP) Paul Clipsham and Ian Shaw

OTT01: 6532990: v1

#### Attachment 1

# About CME and Its Representation in OEB Proceedings

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters ("CME") is Canada's leading business network. It represents more than 10,000 leading companies nationwide and through various initiatives, touches more than 100,000 companies from coast-to-coast, engaged in manufacturing, international trade, and service-related industries. More than 85% of its members are Small to Medium sized Enterprises ("SMEs"). In Ontario, CME has about 1,400 members representing about 75% of manufactured output and about 90% of all exports.

One of CME's priorities is to improve the business climate for manufacturers. Initiatives pertaining to Energy and the Environment fall within the scope of this objective and include efforts by CME to ensure that its members enjoy continued access to a reliable and cost competitive supply of energy and electricity across Canada.

In this context, CME seeks an Ontario electricity system for its members which is reliable, affordable, cost effective and economically sustainable with electricity prices for Ontario manufacturers which are competitive with electricity prices available to manufacturers located elsewhere.

Similarly, CME seeks a secure supply of natural gas at burner-tip prices in the plants of Ontario manufacturers which are competitive with such prices for manufacturers located elsewhere.

For further information on CME, please visit their website at www.cme-mec.ca.

CME's authorized representative in proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board" or "OEB") is Borden Ladner Gervais LLP ("BLG") represented by Peter C.P. Thompson, Q.C. and Vincent J. DeRose, with support from other BLG associates. BLG's representation of CME in proceedings before the Board is pursuant to a written retainer agreement executed on behalf of CME by Ian Howcroft, Vice-President – Ontario Division of CME.

BLG's mandate is to represent the interests of manufacturers in those OEB proceedings which are likely to have an impact on the rates which Ontario manufacturers pay for utility services. Paul Clipsham, Director of Policy – Ontario Division of CME, is the individual with whom BLG representatives liaise.