



Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers  
32 Seneca Road  
Leamington, Ontario  
N8H 5H7  
(519) 326-2604 / 1-800-265-6926  
(519) 326-7842 Fax  
[www.ontariogreenhouse.com](http://www.ontariogreenhouse.com)

October 21, 2014

Ontario Energy Board  
Attn: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary  
P.O. Box 2319  
27<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

### **RE: Annual Filing Requirements of the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers**

On April 22, 2014, the Ontario Energy Board ("Board") announced the completion of the first phase of the intervenor framework review. As a result, the Board published an amended version of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Practice Direction on Cost Awards April 24, 2014. The following information is provided in response to the filing requirements for parties that frequently apply for intervenor status and cost award eligibility in Section 3.03.1 in the Practice Direction.

#### Mission and Objectives

The Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers ("OGVG") was formed in 1967 and represents 218 members who produce greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers and bell peppers on 2,398 acres in Ontario.

**OGVG Vision:** That our producers have continual opportunity to succeed.

**OGVG Mission:** To recognize and prioritize producer needs, allocate appropriate resources, and implement solutions to advance the interests of growers.

**OGVG Mandate:** To provide market access for producers and ensure the opportunity for economic success.

#### Membership and Constituency

The Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector is a major contributor to the Ontario economy, generating over \$783 million in farmgate receipts and accounting for 12,000 jobs annually. Given the nature of greenhouse production systems, OGVG members are heavily reliant on energy, particularly natural gas. Over one third of greenhouse production costs are energy-related and as such rate increases and pricing adjustments serve to threaten the global competitiveness of the sector.

Over the past 20 years, the greenhouse sector has shown consistent growth expanding at a compounded average of 6.1% per year. This growth has increased recently with an additional 480 acres being put into

production in the last three years. Expectations are that growth will continue into the future provided that the business climate in Ontario is supportive. In fact, in evidence filed by Union Gas in its 2013 rate case, the greenhouse sector was shown to be the fastest growing sector of Union's business markets exhibiting a doubling of volume between the 2007 Board-approved and the 2013 Forecast volumes.<sup>1</sup> OGVG members' natural gas consumption is important to Union Gas and greenhouse production in general is important to the Ontario economy.

#### Our Programs and Activities

OGVG lobbies for, and conducts research on behalf of, the Ontario greenhouse vegetable growers. OGVG also promotes greenhouse vegetables through various media and tradeshow.

#### Authorization of Representation

In its efforts to contribute to the Ontario Energy Board's public interest mandate, OGVG recognizes the importance of experienced representation. OGVG hereby appoints and authorizes DR QUINN & ASSOCIATES LTD. (DRQ) to represent our interests and act on our behalf in Board proceedings. DRQ and its principal, Dwayne Quinn, have served the Board and other intervenors for several years in numerous proceedings and has been serving our members for the past 2 years.

#### Intervenor Status and Cost Award Eligibility Information

As a not-for-profit organization, OGVG does not have other funding sources to ensure experienced representation to participate in and assist the Board with these regulatory proceedings. OGVG has retained professionals who have experience representing intervenor interests and, OGVG respectfully submits, have assisted the Board in previous proceedings in an efficient and responsible manner.

#### Summary

We trust this information is of assistance to the Board and meets the annual filing requirements as contemplated in the Revised Practice Directions. Should additional information be required, please contact the undersigned or its representative, Dwayne Quinn and we would be happy to add to this filing.

Sincerely,



Don Taylor, Chair OGVG

c. Dwayne Quinn, DR QUINN & ASSOCIATES LTD.

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2010-0210 Exhibit C1, Tab 2, Page 7, Table 1