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**COURIER** 

April 2, 2015

File No.: 129316.1017

Ms. Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board Yonge-Eglinton Centre P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700 Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: wpd White Pines Wind Inc. (the "Applicant")

EB-2013-0339

Enclosed please find the Applicant's Objection to the Cost Claims of the Intervenors with respect to the above-noted matter.

Yours truly,

Ingrid Minott

IM/dl

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IN THE MATTER of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O.
1998, c. 15, Schedule B, (the "OEB Act");

AND IN THE MATTER of an Application by wpd White
Pines Wind Incorporated for an Order or Orders granting
Leave to Construct a new 69 kV transmission line and
Associated facilities in Prince Edward County, Ontario.

## APPLICANT'S OBJECTION TO THE COST CLAIMS OF THE INTERVENORS

### 6 INTRODUCTION

- 7 wpd White Pines Wind Incorporated ("wpd White Pines" or the "Applicant") filed an
- 8 application with the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board") on September 18, 2013 under
- 9 sections 92 and 96 of the OEB Act (the "Application") for leave to construct electricity
- transmission facilities including an underground 69 kV transmission line with a length of 28
- 11 km. Pursuant to its Decision and Order in this proceeding dated March 19, 2015 (the "White
- 12 Pines Decision and Order"), the Board granted the Applicant leave to construct the
- transmission facilities described in the Application.
- On March 26, 2015, as directed by the Board in the White Pines Decision and Order, the
- 15 Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County ("APPEC"), Al S. Warunkiw and Gordon
- 16 Gibbons (each an Intervenor and collectively, the "Intervenors") each submitted cost claims
- in respect of the proceedings. APPEC submitted a claim of \$16,572.58, inclusive of taxes and
- 18 disbursements, for legal/consultant/other fees. Mr. Warunkiw's claim consists of
- 19 legal/consultant/other fees in the amount of \$2,458.88, inclusive of taxes and
- 20 disbursements. Finally, Mr. Gibbon's claim comprises legal/consultant/other fees of
- \$3,792.28, inclusive of taxes and disbursements.
- 22 These brief submissions are prepared by the Applicant, in accordance with the White Pines
- 23 Decision and Order, in response to the cost claims filed by the Intervenors. For the reasons

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- 1 that follow, the Applicant asserts that the costs claimed for each of APPEC, Mr. Warunkiw
- 2 and Mr. Gibbons should be reduced by fifty percent (50%).

## 3 **SUBMISSIONS**

## 4 The Intervenors' Filing of Irrelevant Interrogatories

- 5 The Applicant submits that a significant portion of the fees claimed by the Intervenors relate
- 6 to matters that were outside the scope of the Board's jurisdiction in the proceedings. In
- 7 Procedural Order No. 1 dated March 6, 2014, the Board clearly laid out the scope of its
- 8 jurisdiction on an application for leave to construct transmission facilities under section
- 9 96(2) of the OEB Act. In particular, the Board stated that its jurisdiction was limited to a
- 10 consideration of: 1) the interests of consumers as it relates to the prices, reliability and
- 11 quality of electricity services; and 2) the promotion of the use of renewable energy sources.<sup>1</sup>
- 12 Further, the Board expressly stated that it did not have jurisdiction to address issues relating
- 13 to the Applicant's wind generation facility itself, nor to environmental issues.<sup>2</sup>
- 14 Notwithstanding the Board's clear statement of its jurisdiction under section 96(2), the vast
- majority of the interrogatories filed by each of the Intervenors pursuant to Procedural Order
- 16 No. 1 were outside the scope of the Board's jurisdiction. In particular,
- Of the 42 interrogatories filed by APPEC, 26 were outside the scope of the Board's jurisdiction;
- Of the 27 interrogatories filed by Mr. Warunkiw, 26 were outside the scope of the Board's jurisdiction; and
- Of 20 interrogatories filed by Mr. Gibbons, 11 were outside the scope of the Board's jurisdiction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Procedural Order No. 1 in EB-2013-0339 dated March 6, 2014, pp. 1-2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Procedural Order No. 1, p. 2

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- 1 Similarly, the evidence filed by the Mr. Warunkiw pursuant to Procedural Order No. 2
- 2 dated May 9, 2014 contained largely irrelevant information for the purpose of the
- 3 proceedings. Specifically, Mr. Warunkiw's evidence consisted of vague and unsupported
- 4 material relating to construction vibration, tourist activity interruption and the perceived
- 5 health effects of the proposed transmission facility. These are not matters that section 96(2)
- 6 of the OEB Act permits the Board to consider on an application for leave to construct.

# 7 APPEC's Submissions were Out of Scope

- 8 In addition to filing numerous irrelevant interrogatories, in the Application's view, a large
- 9 number of the issues raised by APPEC in its final submissions, filed pursuant to Procedural
- Order No. 4 dated July 18, 2014, were outside the scope of the proceedings and therefore
- 11 support a reduction in the costs claimed by APPEC. In particular, APPEC's submissions
- 12 pertaining to the following issues, among others, were outside the scope of the proceedings:
- Environmental concerns regarding the route of the transmission line and its impact
- on the Milford Black Creek Valley Provincially Significant ANSI (see paragraphs 7-
- 15 8);
- Concerns regarding the protection of heritage properties and landmarks, including
- 17 Maypul Layn (see paragraphs 15, 22(iii) (iv), 24-25 and 28);
- Concerns regarding the lack of geological and hydrological studies (see paragraphs
- 19 10(v) (vi) and 22(i);
- Concerns about property damage and compensation to property owners (see
- 21 paragraphs 24 and 25; and
- Concerns about the perceived lack of public consultation regarding the transmission
- line (see paragraphs 15-28 and 30).

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- 1 The Applicant's submission that the matters identified above were outside the scope of the
- 2 Board's jurisdiction is consistent with the Board's finding in the White Pines Decision and
- 3 Order, where the Board stated that "the matters raised by APPEC are beyond the scope of
- 4 the legislation pertaining to this application."3 In light of the Board findings, it is the
- 5 Applicant's position that the Board should reduce the costs claimed by APPEC to account
- 6 for the fact that a considerable amount of time was spent by APPEC to prepare submissions
- 7 about matters that APPEC was well aware were outside the scope of the proceedings.

#### 8 CONCLUSION

- 9 In circumstances where the Intervenors raised matters that were outside the scope of the
- 10 proceedings, despite being notified at the outset of the Board's limited jurisdiction on an
- application for leave to construct transmission facilities pursuant to section 96(2) of the OEB
- 12 Act, the Applicant submits that such blatant disregard for the proceedings warrant a
- 13 reduction in the amount of costs claimed by each Intervenor. Given that it is impossible to
- 14 assess the time spent on relevant matters as compared to the time spent on irrelevant
- 15 matters, the Applicant submits that the costs claimed by each Intervenor should be reduced
- 16 by fifty percent.

### ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

DATED at Toronto, Ontario, this 2nd day of April, 2015

wpd White Pine Wind Incorporated

by its counsel

Stikeman Elliott LLP

Patrick Duffy Ingrid Minott

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Decision and Order in EB-2013-0339 dated March 19, 2015, p. 7