

13 May 2015

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge St., 27th Floor
Toronto, ON
M4P 1E4

Attn: Ms Kirsten Walli,
Board Secretary

By electronic filing and e-mail

Dear Ms Walli:

Re: EB-2015-0029, EB-2015-0049 – Union and Enbridge 2015-20 Gas DSM

We are in receipt of Procedural Order No. 1 in this matter and have two concerns arising from the timing and sequence of procedural steps.

The first concern is with the sequence of the technical conference and the filing of intervenor evidence. Technical conferences have served a valuable purpose by allowing for clarification and follow up of utility interrogatory responses. Indeed, the clarification of responses is a purpose explicitly recognized in the procedural order. In our experience, that is best done before intervenors embark on production of evidence that will rely upon utility responses.

We ask the Board to consider moving the technical conference to follow the issuance of utility responses, allowing the intervenors several days to review the IRs before submitting their lists of questions for clarification in the technical conference.

The second, more significant concern, is with respect to the time allowed for the production of intervenor evidence. This hearing covers a six year period, includes a major reorientation of program emphasis, a doubling of budgets to total in excess of \$750 million over the period, corresponding customer expenditures in the billions of dollars, and is comprised of two distinct utility filings. The topic list includes at least a dozen significant areas and is the first case since the Board issued its new DSM guidelines. GEC expects to file evidence addressing a number of issues and much of our evidence will be built upon analysis of information that will only be available once the utilities have responded to our interrogatories and responded to questions of clarification. The Procedural Order allows two weeks for the production of intervenor evidence following the filing of utility responses. In contrast, Procedural Order 3 in the EB-2012-0337 Union Gas Industrial DSM hearing granted intervenors three weeks to produce evidence concerning a single contested issue, for a single utility, and for only part of a budget of under \$30 million.

DSM is a highly detailed and data intensive topic. We are concerned that the short time allotted for the preparation of our evidence will seriously undermine our ability to adequately respond to the evidence and in a manner most helpful to the Board. We ask the Board to consider extending that period by an additional two weeks following the response of the utilities to interrogatories and questions at the technical conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Poch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Poch".

David Poch
Cc: all parties