

June 25, 2015

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2015-0003 –PowerStream Inc. – Rates 2016-2020

I am a consultant to the Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”). I have been instructed by my client to intervene in the proceeding to consider the Application to the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) by PowerStream Inc. (“PowerStream”) for approval of rates for a five-year period beginning January 1, 2016, and ending on December 31, 2020. The Council is a public-interest entity which represents the interests of residential consumers in Ontario. The Board’s order in this proceeding will ultimately impact the rates that residential consumers pay for the delivery of electricity.

On June 23, 2014, the Council filed with the Board, pursuant to Rule 22.03 of the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, a document describing the Council, its mandate and objectives, membership, the constituency represented, and the types of activities the Council carries out. In addition, we provided a list of the individuals authorized to represent the Council in Board proceedings.

The nature and scope of the Council’s intended participation in the proceeding will be the following:

1. To test the Applicant’s evidence and its rate proposals for the five-year rate period;
2. To assess any other proposals that have been set out in the Application that may impact PowerStream’s residential ratepayers; and
3. To participate in the various stages of the proceeding which may include an interrogatory process, a technical conference, a settlement conference and an oral hearing.

On May 7, 2015, PowerStream filed a letter with the OEB indicating that prior to the filing of its application, it attempted to reach a rate-setting settlement with a number of intervenors. No settlement was reached. In that letter PowerStream suggested that given the earlier discovery process had taken place additional interrogatories from intervenors that participated in the negotiation process may not be required. Although the Council is of the view that because of the prior process the number of interrogatories required will be significantly reduced, intervenors should not be precluded from asking additional questions. The Council submits that limiting the rights of some parties to ask questions would be contrary to the principles of procedural fairness. Counsel for the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition is in agreement with our position on this point.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this proceeding. The Council has participated in many electricity rate applications over a long period of time. In all of those proceedings the Council has been recognized as being eligible for an award of costs. In the absence of an award of costs the Council would be unable to participate in this proceeding.

Copies of all correspondence related to this proceeding and hard copies of the Applicant's evidence should be sent to:

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Please let us know if any further information from the Council is required at this time.

Yours truly,

Julie E. Girvan

Julie E. Girvan

CC: Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada
Colin Macdonald, PowerStream Inc.
Tom Barrett, PowerStream Inc.