



**EB-2014-0080**

**Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.**

**Application for electricity distribution rates beginning  
November 1, 2015.**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1  
August 6, 2015**

Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd. (Hearst Power) filed a complete cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on June 8, 2015 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Hearst Power charges for electricity distribution, to be effective November 1, 2015.

A Notice of Hearing (Notice) was issued on July 15, 2015. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility.

No objection was received from Hearst Power.

I approve VECC as an intervenor. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. I have also determined that VECC is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

Cost eligible intervenors should be aware that the OEB will not generally allow the recovery of costs for the attendance of more than one representative of any party, unless a compelling reason is provided when cost claims are filed.

**Issues List**

It is the OEB's expectation that parties will be best positioned to identify issues relevant to Hearst Power's application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories, and following a teleconference. Hearst Power, OEB staff and the intervenors shall develop

and OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list for the OEB's consideration. The OEB will approve an issues list following the teleconference.

## **Interrogatories**

At this time, I am making provision for written interrogatories. The OEB will review the single test year application both in the context of the projects and programs that are requested for the test year and from the perspective of the distributor's plans for the subsequent four years until the next scheduled rebasing application.

Parties should examine the value presented by the proposed investments as opposed to focussing only on the costs. Parties should also assess the fit between the applicant's plans and its stated objectives, and consider how the plans contribute to positive outcomes for customers, in particular those outcomes that arise from the asset management decisions reflected in the applicant's distribution system plan. The OEB will consider the entire five year distribution system plan to assess the planning and pacing proposals of the applicant and whether the test year requests are appropriately aligned with the distribution system plan. The OEB will also consider productivity and benchmarking results in assessing cost forecasts, bill impacts and distributor performance.

Parties should not engage in detailed exploration of items that do not appear to be material. Parties should use the materiality thresholds documented in Chapter 2 of the Filing Requirements as a guide. In making its decision on cost awards, the OEB will consider whether intervenors made reasonable efforts to ensure that their participation in the hearing was focused on material issues.

Parties should consult sections 26 and 27 of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure regarding required naming and numbering conventions and other matters related to interrogatories.

I consider it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Provision is being made for written interrogatories and a teleconference, unless the Board orders otherwise during the course of the proceeding. The Board may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. OEB staff shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hearst Power that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **August 13, 2015**.
2. Intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hearst Power that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **August 17, 2015**.
3. Hearst Power shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on all intervenors and OEB staff by **September 8, 2015**.
4. A non-transcribed teleconference will be held **September 16, 2015** starting at 9:30 a.m. to clarify any matters arising from the interrogatories only. Parties intending to participate are to notify Hearst Power, and copy all parties, of the topic areas for questioning by **September 14, 2015**.
5. OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list, or, alternatively, shall advise the OEB in writing that the parties and OEB staff have been unable to reach an agreement on a draft issues list by **September 18, 2015**.
6. Hearst Power shall file any material arising from the teleconference, as agreed by parties to the teleconference, by **September 28, 2015**.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2014-0080, be made in searchable / unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at [www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/](http://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/). Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry). If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Martha McOuat at [Martha.McOuat@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:Martha.McOuat@ontarioenergyboard.ca) and OEB Counsel, Maureen Helt at [Maureen.Helt@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:Maureen.Helt@ontarioenergyboard.ca).

**ADDRESS**

Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Attention: Board Secretary

E-mail: [boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca)  
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)  
Fax: 416-440-7656

**DATED** at Toronto, August 6, 2015

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**By delegation, before: Kristi Sebalj**

*Original signed by*

Kristi Sebalj  
Registrar

**Schedule A**  
**Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.**  
**EB-2014-0080**

**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

August 6, 2015

**APPLICANT**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Hearst Power Distribution  
Company Ltd.**

**Jessy Richard**

General Manager  
Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.  
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**INTERVENORS**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Vulnerable Energy  
Consumers Coalition**

**Michael Janigan**

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**Schedule A**  
**Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.**  
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**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

**August 6, 2015**

**Vulnerable Energy  
Consumers Coalition**

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