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September 15, 2015

BY EMAIL AND COURIER

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: File Number EB-2015-0004, Hydro Ottawa Limited - Application for 2016-2020 Distribution Rates (the "Application"), Hearing Process

We are writing on behalf of Rogers Communications Partnership, TELUS Communications Company and Quebecor Media Inc. (the "**Carriers**") further to Procedural Order No. 7 which indicated that a settlement proposal relating to this matter should be filed by September 15, 2015 and that "the settlement proposal should outline the terms of any settlement and should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing". The Carriers have not received the settlement proposal but understand that it will identify the pole attachment rate as an issue that has not been settled. The Carriers have no information on what, if anything, the Applicant and intervenors (other than Allstream Inc., which filed a letter on this issue on September 4, 2015) intend to state regarding the process for the pole attachment rate issue.

The Carriers do not oppose cross examination, but do not believe cross examination is required, given the existing evidentiary record in this proceeding. They are, however, of the view that the process would benefit from both written and oral argument from the Applicant <u>and</u> intervenors (regardless of whether or not cross examination takes place). More specifically, the Carriers propose that the process provide for the filing of written argument by the Applicant and intervenors on October 9, 2015, and that the Applicant and intervenors have the opportunity to present oral argument on October 16, 2015. Alternatively, should the Board determine that cross examination is <u>not</u> required, the date for filing written argument could be set at September 30, with oral final argument by the Applicant <u>and</u> intervenors on October 2, 2015. Either of these schedules would make effective use of the existing scheduled hearing dates. The filing of written submissions in



Page 2

advance of oral argument, as well as oral argument by the Applicant and intervenors, would also provide the Board with a more fulsome opportunity to hear all parties and assess the issues relating to the determination of the pole attachment rate.

Sincerely,

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Leslie J. Milton

cc Applicant and other interested parties