



EB-2015-0110

Wellington North Power Inc.

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other
charges beginning May 1, 2016.**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1
December 15, 2015**

Wellington North Power Inc. (Wellington North Power) filed a complete cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on November 2, 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 Wellington North Power charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2016.

A Notice of Hearing (Notice) was issued on November 23, 2015. Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe) applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility. A late intervention and cost eligibility request was received from the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) on December 9, 2015.

No objections were received from Wellington North Power.

I approve Energy Probe and VECC as intervenors. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. I have also determined that Energy Probe and VECC are 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 Wellington North Power's application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories. Wellington North 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 prior to the Settlement Conference.

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.

Presentation Day

Following the settlement conference, I am making provision for the presentation of any settlement proposal filed by Wellington North Power, whether full or partial, and of any unsettled issues to be adjudicated by the OEB. Wellington North Power's presentation is intended to summarize and provide any salient information for the OEB's consideration in reviewing the settlement proposal and, with respect to any unsettled issues, to focus on how those issues related to the business conditions Wellington North Power anticipates over the next 5 years, the planning it has undertaken to address system needs and customer preferences, and its proposal regarding how the costs of distributing electricity ought to be recovered from customers through the rates they pay, taking into consideration the OEB's policies. The purpose of the presentation is not to provide an opportunity for cross-examination by the parties, but rather for Wellington North Power to present any settlement and any remaining issues in the case.

I consider it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from Wellington North Power that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **January 6, 2016**.
2. Wellington North Power shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on all intervenors and OEB staff by **January 27, 2016**.
3. Following the receipt of responses to interrogatories, OEB staff shall convene a teleconference among the parties to discuss the formation of an issues list. 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 **February 4, 2016**.
4. A Settlement Conference among the parties and OEB staff will be convened on **February 11, 2016** starting at 9:30 a.m., at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor,

Toronto. If necessary, the Settlement Conference will continue on **February 12, 2016**.

5. Any settlement proposal arising from the Settlement Conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **February 26, 2016**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal 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.
6. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties within 7 days from when a settlement proposal is filed.
7. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the Settlement Conference, Wellington North Power shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by **February 19, 2016**.
8. Wellington North Power will present to the OEB any settlement proposal and a summary of any unsettled issues in the case on **March 10, 2016** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the OEB's offices at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto, Ontario.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2015-0110, be made in searchable / unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://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 <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, Jane Scott at

jane.scott@ontarioenergyboard.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at michael.millar@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
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)
Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, **December 15, 2015**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

By delegation, before: Kristi Sebalj

Original signed by

Kristi Sebalj
Registrar

SCHEDULE A
APPLICANT AND LIST OF INTERVENORS
EB-2015-0110
WELLINGTON NORTH POWER INC.
DECEMBER 15, 2015

Wellington North Power Inc.
EB-2015-0110

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

December 15, 2015

APPLICANT

Rep. and Address for Service

Wellington North Power Inc.

Richard Bucknall

Chief Administrative Officer
Wellington North Power Inc.
290 Queen St. W.
Mount Forest ON N0G 2L0

Tel: 519-323-1710

rbucknall@wellingtonnorthpower.com

Raymond Petersen

Finance and Regulatory Supervisor
Wellington North Power Inc.
290 Queen St. W.
Mount Forest ON N0G 2L0

Tel: 519-323-1710

rpetersen@wellingtonnorthpower.com

APPLICANT COUNSEL

James Sidlofsky

Partner
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
40 King Street West
Suite 4100, Scotia Plaza
Toronto ON M5H 3Y4

Tel: 416-367-6277

Fax: 416-361-2751

jsidlofsky@blg.com

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APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

December 15, 2015

INTERVENORS

Rep. and Address for Service

**Energy Probe Research
Foundation**

Randy Aiken

Aiken & Associates
578 McNaughton Ave. W.
Chatham ON N7L 4J6

Tel: 519-351-8624
Fax: 519-351-4331
randy.aiken@sympatico.ca

David MacIntosh

Case Manager
Energy Probe Research Foundation
225 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto ON M5S 2M6

Tel: 416-964-9223 Ext: 235
Fax: 416-964-8239
DavidMacIntosh@nextcity.com

**Vulnerable Energy
Consumers Coalition**

Michael Janigan

Counsel
Public Interest Advocacy Centre
31 Hillsdale Avenue East
Toronto ON M4S 1T4
Tel: 416-840-3907 Ext:
Fax: Not Provided
mjanigan@piac.ca

Mark Garner

Project Manager
Econalysis Consulting Services
34 King Street East
Suite 630
Toronto ON M5C 2X8
Tel: 647-408-4501
Fax: 416-348-0641
markgarner@rogers.com

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APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

December 15, 2015

**Vulnerable Energy
Consumers Coalition**

Bill Harper

Econalysis Consulting Services
34 King Street East
Suite 630
Toronto On M5C 2X8
Tel: 416-348 0193
Fax: Not Provided
bharper@econalysis.ca