

February 19, 2016



VIA Email, Courier and RESS

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
27th Floor 2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Independent Electricity System Operator

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Toronto, ON M5H 1T1
t 416.967.7474
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Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Board File No.: EB-2016-0004
Expansion of Natural Gas Distribution
Independent Electricity System Operator – Request to Participate**

On February 5, 2016, the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) issued a notice stating that it is holding a generic hearing to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that are currently not served. The Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”) respectfully requests to participate in this proceeding.

The IESO is interested in this proceeding because it administers natural gas-fired generation contracts across Ontario. The IESO has both direct and indirect exposure to changes in gas costs, and thus has an interest in any potential changes in gas distribution service territories. As well, the IESO and representatives of remote First Nations Communities in Northwest Ontario have developed a draft Remote Community Connection Plan for electricity. The IESO expects that issues discussed in this proceeding may be relevant this work as well as for the IESO’s other Regional Planning activities in Northwest Ontario.

The IESO will not be seeking any cost awards for its participation in this hearing and asks that all correspondence be addressed to Miriam Heinz, Regulatory Coordinator, at 416-969-6045 or by email at miriam.heinz@ieso.ca.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs