



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

Via Email – BoardSec@ontarioenergyboard.ca

Attention: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

February 22, 2016

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Request for Intervenor Status – EB-2016-0004

On behalf of the **Advancing Northwestern Economic Development Through Energy Competitiveness Group** (ANEDTEC), we would ask that the Board consider this request for Intervenor Status for File Number EB-2016-0004.

The details with respect to this request and according to the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure are as follows:

Contact Information

Advancing Northwestern Economic Development Through Energy Competitiveness
40 Broadway Ave, PO Box 500
Wawa, ON
P0S 1K0

Attention: Chris Wray – CAO / Clerk-Treasurer

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Description of how the group is or may be affected by the outcome of the proceeding

Communities along the Highway 17 corridor from Wawa north to Schreiber do not presently have access to natural gas. Energy sources in the region are limited to propane, fuel oil, biomass (wood) and electricity. The use of these fuels can be expensive. Due to the historical lack of access to natural gas, many residential consumers and commercial enterprises rely on electricity for space and water heating at four times the annual cost of consumers in comparable areas with natural gas. Moreover, the existing energy options raise reliability concerns, such as the scarcity of propane during cold winters and frequent and prolonged power interruptions due to system outages. Access to another more affordable and reliable source of energy would provide significant socioeconomic benefits to the region. In addition, providing new natural gas service is consistent with many objectives of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, including facilitating strategic infrastructure investments, regional partnerships, community planning, and environmental leadership.

It is generally understood that expanding natural gas access in areas of the Province that are not currently served, such as our member communities on the North Shore of Lake Superior, will not only assist in attracting new industry and stimulate growth but it will also allow existing businesses to reduce costs and provide consumers with an additional energy choice. In addition, many communities rely on commercial and municipally-owned vehicle fleets for the movement of goods that either drive local economies or serve the needs of citizens. Access to natural gas as a lower cost and cleaner alternative to diesel fuel will assist in lowering transportation costs and emissions, which will in turn benefit all consumers.

ANEDTEC came together as a group of interested communities for the express purpose of working together to establish natural gas service in the region. Therefore, ANEDTEC has a vested interest in this proceeding as mechanisms employed to recover costs for expanding natural gas service will affect work already underway.

Nature and scope of intended participation

ANEDTEC intends to rely on the Draft Issues List provided by the OEB in this proceeding as its initial nature and scope of considerations. ANEDTEC would also like to reserve the right, within the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to introduce new information that may be discovered through the Intervenor process.

ANEDTEC may rely upon a combination of local experience and hired expertise to explore the "draft issues" and other matters and intends to make an appearance at the Oral Hearing.

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Description of the group and membership

ANEDTEC is comprised of the municipalities of Marathon, Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay, Schreiber and Wawa and represents over 11,000 residents and numerous commercial and industrial enterprises. The member communities are all separated by hundreds of square kilometers of Unorganized (Unincorporated) area under the control of the Crown with that same area being home to additional people that are not within the boundaries of the member communities.

Seeking an award of costs

We are seeking the award of costs in this proceeding. It is our belief that our interest qualifies under Section 3.03 of the Practice Direction on Cost Awards. While we understand that Section 3.05(i) states that a municipality or a group of municipalities are not eligible for an award of costs, we also understand that Section 3.07 allows the Board to award costs if in the opinion of the Board the circumstances warrant such award. To that end, we would submit that the Board should allow the award of costs in this proceeding to ANEDTEC due to the active nature of the group in the area of natural gas expansion and because no other organization has shown an interest in the potential ratepayers.

If you have additional questions, you may contact the undersigned at 705-856-2244 (ext. 223).

Best Regards,



**Chris Wray, AMCT
CAO / Clerk-Treasurer
On behalf of the members of ANEDTEC**

Cc: Town of Marathon
Townships of Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay, Schreiber