

**IN THE MATTER** of the *Ontario Energy Board Act 1998*, Schedule B to the *Energy Competition Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15;

AND IN THE MATTER OF a generic proceeding initiated by the Ontario Energy Board on its own motion to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that do not currently have access to natural gas.

**NOTICE OF INTERVENTION**  
**OF THE**  
**ONTARIO GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION**

1. The Ontario Geothermal Association (“OGA”) hereby applies for intervenor status in this proceeding, and requests that the Board allow recovery of its reasonably incurred costs of its participation.

**General Interest of the Intervenor**

2. The OGA is an association established in 2009 to represent the interests of Ontario designers, drillers, installers, equipment manufacturers and distributors of geothermal energy systems. Geothermal energy systems, sometimes also called “ground source heat pumps”, tap the temperature differential between the ambient air and the ground to heat and cool buildings in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner. Geothermal energy systems do not emit or generate greenhouse gases.
3. The OGA is an affiliated member of the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute (“HRAI”), the national association for manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors in the HVACR industry.
4. The intervenor’s members have an interest in the expansion of natural gas service to new communities in Ontario because geothermal energy systems may be a more environmentally friendly and/or cost-effective option than natural gas in some or all of those communities.

**Issues to be Addressed**

5. OGA’s intended participation will focus on the first of the three issues listed in the Notice of this proceeding, and will include, by way of example:
  - (a) How should the system expansion economic tests factor in environmental impacts, including the internal and external costs of greenhouse gases?

- (b) What amendments, if any, should be made to the economic tests to consider alternatives to natural gas expansion, including both the economics of those alternatives and environmental impacts?
  - (c) To what extent, if any, should the appropriateness of subsidies by existing ratepayers be assessed against the economics of alternative energy sources, and if so how should that be done?
6. OGA intends generally to represent the interests of local, provincial and national geothermal businesses, and their present and future customers, in the proceeding.

**The Intervenor's Intended Participation**

7. The OGA intends to participate in any pre-hearing procedures, including interrogatories or technical conferences, and settlement conferences. OGA also intends to participate in any oral hearing of this matter, and in written or oral submissions, as well as any other parts of the process that the Board should order.
8. The OGA currently expects that it may file evidence relating to the economics and environmental impacts of alternatives to natural gas expansion, particularly geothermal energy systems, and the appropriate ways to assess any given expansion in light of those alternatives.

**Nature of Hearing Requested**

9. Until interrogatories have been answered, we believe it is premature to assess whether a written or an oral hearing is more appropriate in this proceeding.

**Counsel/Representative**

10. The OGA requests that a copy of all documents filed with the Board by each party to this proceeding be served on the Applicant, and on the Applicant's counsel, as follows:

(a) OGA:

Ontario Geothermal Association c/o HRAI  
2350 Matheson Avenue,  
Suite 101  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L4W 5G9

Attn: Martin Luymes, Co-ordinator  
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(b) OGA's counsel:

**JAY SHEPHERD PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION**  
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### Costs

11. The OGA is a new intervenor before the Board. This proceeding is unique in that substantial subsidies have been proposed for long-term investments in a technology that generates greenhouse gases. Economic and environmental issues are thus intertwined. The OGA is participating primarily to ensure that the Board has complete information on the alternatives to that expansion, and the ways that those alternatives can and should be factored into specific expansion decisions. While the OGA's involvement is to serve the interests of its members, it is also intended to serve the public interest by providing the Board with a complete record on important economic and environmental factors.
12. In many proceedings it may be inappropriate for the OGA to be held eligible for costs, as the members have commercial interests to protect. In this proceeding, and notwithstanding the current wording of the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards, OGA asks the Board to exercise its discretion to order that OGA be awarded recovery of its reasonably incurred costs of participation. While OGA's members' commercial interests are undoubtedly affected by the issues in this generic hearing, the impact on the members' commercial interests is secondary to the impact on ratepayers and the environment of the issues under consideration.
13. As a relatively small, environmentally beneficial industry, the OGA has limited resources to participate in proceedings of this type. It is submitted that providing costs reimbursement will allow the OGA to participate fully, to maximize its assistance to the Board.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the OGA this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2016.

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Jay Shepherd  
Counsel, Ontario Geothermal Association