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BY EMAIL and RESS

March 3, 2016
Our File No. OG20160001

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

Attn: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2016-0004 – Community Expansion – OGA Evidence Deadline

We are counsel for the Ontario Geothermal Association. We are writing this letter to request an extension of the deadline for OGA to file evidence.

The Ontario Geothermal Association plans to file evidence providing a comparison of natural gas expansion vs. serving those same communities with environmentally preferred options such as geothermal. The evidence is expected to show both the impacts on carbon emissions, and the economic implications. The intent of the evidence is to assist the Board in building the Ontario government's policy goal of a low-carbon future into the natural gas expansion tests, both for the proposed projects and going forward.

OGA filed a timely request for intervention and costs eligibility on February 22nd, and is awaiting the Board's response. Members have been working to put together a package of evidence in the meantime, but are unable to get to the meat of the work until they have confirmation of their status in the proceeding. Given their limited resources, the decision on costs eligibility is of particular importance.

OGA did provide input on the proposed issues list, as did a number of other parties. Many of the comments, including those of OGA, deal with the issues OGA wishes to address. The Board's decision on the issues list will certainly clarify the allowed scope of the OGA's evidence.

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It is difficult to finalize the scope of the evidence, and put together the actual evidence package, until the Board's issues list decision has been released.

This is all particularly challenging for OGA, which has never before participated in a Board proceeding. While the assistance of experienced counsel, and the advice of the HVAC Coalition, are helpful, in the end the evidence has to be prepared by OGA members, who are new to this.

OGA therefore requests that its deadline for filing evidence be extended to seven days after the later of a) the Board's decision on OGA's intervenor request and cost eligibility, and b) the Board's decision on the issues list for this proceeding.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours very truly,
JAY SHEPHERD P. C.

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cc: Martin Luymes, OGA (email)
Interested Parties