



DIRECT LINE: Nick Melchiorre (807) 625-8883
EMAIL: nmelchio@wmnlaw.com

March 3, 2016
Our File No. 65152

Ontario Energy Board
23 Yonge Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Ms. Kristen Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli,

**Re: Hearing - Cost Recovery for Expansion of Natural Gas Services - EB-2016-0004 (the
“Proceeding”);
Request for Extension of Time to File Evidence**

We are counsel for:

- Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (“NOACC”);
- Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (“NOMA”); and
- Common Voice Northwest (“CVNW”);

(collectively the “NOACC Coalition”).

Pursuant to Procedural Order No. 1, the Board directed that any party wishing to file evidence in the Proceeding must file said evidence on or before Friday March 4, 2016.

The NOACC Coalition intends to file evidence in the Proceeding but respectfully requests an extension of time to file its evidence to seven days after the latter of a) the OEB’s decision on the NOACC Coalition’s intervention and cost eligibility request and b) the OEB’s decision on the final Issues List in the Proceeding.

The members of the NOACC Coalition have limited resources to participate fully in this Proceeding, specifically relating to gathering and providing the OEB with evidence. The decision on cost eligibility, in particular, will likely have a profound impact on the scope and breadth of evidence the NOACC Coalition will be able to file with the Board. In addition, it is difficult for the NOACC Coalition to file evidence with the Board without the Board having issued a final Issues List.

Weiler, Maloney, Nelson

1001 William St, Ste. 201 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6M1 • P 807.623.1111 F 807.623.4947 www.weilers.ca

Finally, Ontario Energy Board Staff Comments with respect to the Draft Issues list stated specifically that “Staff believes that the proceeding would benefit from active participation of communities and customers in this generic proceeding”. To this end, active participation of the members of the NOACC Coalition, and specifically those member communities who do not currently have access to natural gas, will likely be enhanced considerably should the Board grant the above noted extension.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours very truly,

WEILER, MALONEY, NELSON

Per: 

Mark P. Mikulasik

MPM/mpm