

## **Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

Ontario AgriCentre 100 Stone Road West, Suite 206, Guelph, Ontario N1G 5L3 Tel: (519) 821-8883 • Fax: (519) 821-8810 • www.ofa.on.ca

March 14, 2016

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700 Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Re: EB-2015-0043 Rate Design for Electricity Commercial and Industrial Customers

Dear Kristen,

Further to my email of December 4, 2015 and direction from OEB dated December 7, 2015, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) submits this request for intervenor status and requests cost award eligibility in EB-2015-0043 Rate Design for Electricity Commercial and Industrial Customers.

The OFA is the largest voluntary farm organization in Canada, advocating the interests of over 36,000 farm members, rural county and regional federations, and affiliated agricultural sector commodity groups.

OFA members have a substantial interest in this proceeding, including all issues that affect rates and services available to them. Energy represents a leading agricultural cost of production and ensuring affordable, sustainable and reliable energy options for Ontario farm businesses is very important.

While the OFA understands that rural farm businesses and communities are at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to energy options in Ontario, we also recognize the importance of adapting to changes in energy supply, business practices and revenue recovery for expanding and maintaining distribution infrastructure.

In light of these factors, we feel that is important to participate in the commercial and industrial rate design project. Our intended participation includes providing agricultural sector and rural community perspectives to the review, and generally representing the interests of our farm business membership.

Reimbursement of reasonable costs

In accordance with s. 3.03(b) of the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards, OFA is eligible to seek an award of costs in this proceeding as a non-profit industry association.



The OFA believes that as a federation representing the direct interests of individual farmers, farm businesses, regional federations and commodity organizations, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure and the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

Representative

The OFA designates the below representative related to documentation and participation in the proceedings.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture Attn: Ian Nokes 100 Stone Road West, Suite 206 Guelph, ON N1G5L3 Phone: 519-821-8883 ext.253 Fax: 519-821-8810 Email: ian.nokes@ofa.on.ca

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, March 14, 2016

Original signed by

(htm)

Neil Currie General Manager Ontario Federation of Agriculture