

July 20, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2016-0160 – Hydro One Networks Inc. – Transmission Rates 2017 and 2018

I am a consultant to the Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”). I have been instructed by my client to intervene in the proceeding to consider the Application to the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) by Hydro One Networks Inc. – Transmission (“HON”) for approval of transmission rates for the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018. The OEB’s order in this proceeding will ultimately impact the rates that residential consumers pay for the delivery of electricity.

On June 18, 2015, the Council filed with the Board, pursuant to Rule 22.03 of the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, a document describing the Council, its mandate and objectives, membership, the constituency represented, and the types of activities the Council carries out. In addition, we provided a list of the individuals authorized to represent the Council in Board proceedings.

The nature and scope of the Council’s intended participation in the proceeding will be the following:

1. To test the Applicant’s evidence, the proposed revenue requirements and the rate proposals for the two year period;
2. To assess any other proposals that have been set out in the Application that may impact Ontario electricity ratepayers; and
3. To participate in the various stages of the proceeding which may include an interrogatory process, a technical conference, a settlement conference and an oral hearing.

HON has requested an oral hearing to deal with its Application and the Council supports this request. The Council is of the view that an oral hearing is preferable to a written process given the complexity of many of the issues that will be considered in this proceeding.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this proceeding. The Council has participated in many electricity rate applications over a long period of time. In all of those proceedings the Council has been recognized as being eligible for an award of costs. In the absence of an award of costs the Council would be unable to participate in this proceeding.

Copies of all correspondence related to this proceeding and hard copies of the Applicant’s evidence should be sent to:

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Please let us know if any further information from the Council is required at this time.

Yours truly,

Julie E. Girvan

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CC: Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada
HON, Regulatory Affairs