



Jay Shepherd

Professional Corporation
2200 Yonge Street,
Suite 1302
Toronto, Ontario M4S 2C6

BY EMAIL and RESS

November 22, 2016
Our File No. 20160061

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

Attn: Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2016-0061 – CNPI 2017 Rates

We are counsel for the School Energy Coalition. This letter is being sent at the request of our clients to support the idea that the oral hearing in this matter be held in the major population centre served by CNPI, Fort Erie and Port Colborne.

The parties have consented to SEC advising the Board that many of the major issues in this proceeding have not settled, and so must be adjudicated after an oral hearing. The parties expect to file a partial settlement agreement, dealing with many minor issues, in due course.

In the meantime, the Board announced in May that it would consider holding hearings on rate proposals in the local areas that are affected. In this particular case, the Board will be aware that at the Community Day in Niagara there were a large number of concerned citizens (as there were in Gananoque). This is a manageable proceeding, in which the oral hearing is not likely to be more than two days, and perhaps can be completed in one day. The combination of strong local concern, and a relatively short oral hearing, may make this case a good opportunity to pilot the plan for local electricity distribution rate hearings.

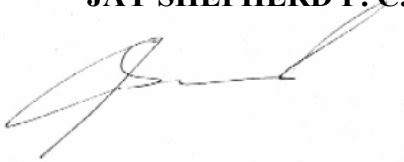
Tel: (416) 483-3300 Cell: (416) 804-2767 Fax: (416) 483-3305
jay.shepherd@canadianenergylawyers.com
www.canadianenergylawyers.com

SEC is therefore writing this letter to indicate to the Board that SEC, as well as intervenors Energy Probe and VECC, all support having the CNPI oral hearing in the Niagara Region. We also recommend that arrangements be made to ensure that live streaming is still available in Gananoque, the other area served.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours very truly,

JAY SHEPHERD P. C.



Jay Shepherd

cc: Wayne McNally, SEC (email)
Interested Parties