

**Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.**

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other  
charges beginning May 1, 2017**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1  
February 16, 2017**

Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. (Welland Hydro) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on December 15, 2016 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Welland Hydro charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2017.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on January 18, 2017. Each of Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe), the School Energy Coalition (SEC), and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility.

No objection was received from Welland Hydro.

Energy Probe, SEC and VECC are approved as intervenors. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. Energy Probe, SEC and VECC are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Cost eligible intervenors should be aware that the OEB will not generally allow the recovery of costs for the attendance of more than one representative of any party, unless a compelling reason is provided when cost claims are filed.

## Issues List

It is the OEB's expectation that parties will be best positioned to identify issues relevant to Welland Hydro's application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories. Welland Hydro, OEB staff and the intervenors shall develop and OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list for the OEB's consideration. The OEB will approve an issues list prior to the settlement conference.

## Interrogatories

At this time, provision will be made for written interrogatories. The OEB will review the single test year application both in the context of the projects and programs that are requested for the test year and from the perspective of the distributor's plans for the subsequent four years until the next scheduled rebasing application.

Parties should examine the value presented by the proposed investments as opposed to focussing only on the costs. Parties should also assess the fit between the applicant's plans and its stated objectives, and consider how the plans contribute to positive outcomes for customers, in particular those outcomes that arise from the asset management decisions reflected in the applicant's distribution system plan. The OEB will consider the entire five year distribution system plan to assess the planning and pacing proposals of the applicant and whether the test year requests are appropriately aligned with the distribution system plan. The OEB will also consider productivity and benchmarking results in assessing cost forecasts, bill impacts and distributor performance.

Parties should not engage in detailed exploration of items that do not appear to be material. Parties should use the materiality thresholds documented in Chapter 2 of the Filing Requirements as a guide. In making its decision on cost awards, the OEB will consider whether intervenors made reasonable efforts to ensure that their participation in the hearing was focused on material issues.

Parties should consult sections 26 and 27 of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure regarding required naming and numbering conventions and other matters related to interrogatories.

## Presentation Day

Following the settlement conference, provision will be made for the presentation of any settlement proposal filed by Welland Hydro, whether full or partial, and for the

presentation of any unsettled issues to be adjudicated by the OEB. Welland Hydro's presentation is intended to summarize and provide any salient information for the OEB's consideration in reviewing the settlement proposal. With respect to any unsettled issues, the presentation should focus on how the issues relate to the business conditions Welland Hydro anticipates over the next 5 years, the planning it has undertaken to address system needs and customer preferences, and its proposal regarding how the costs of distributing electricity ought to be recovered from customers through the rates they pay, taking into consideration the OEB's policies. The purpose of the presentation is not to provide an opportunity for cross-examination by the parties, but rather for Welland Hydro to present any settlement and any remaining issues in the case.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. OEB staff shall request any relevant information and documentation from Welland Hydro that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **February 27, 2017**.
2. Intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from Welland Hydro that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **March 1, 2017**.
3. Welland Hydro shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on all intervenors and OEB staff by **March 15, 2017**.
4. OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list, or, alternatively, shall advise the OEB in writing that the parties and OEB staff have been unable to reach an agreement on a draft issues list by **March 21, 2017**.
5. A Settlement Conference among the parties and OEB staff will be convened on **April 3, 2017** starting at 9:30 a.m., at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto. If necessary, the Settlement Conference will continue on **April 4, 2017**.

6. Any settlement proposal arising from the Settlement Conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **April 19, 2017**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing.
7. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties within 7 days from when a settlement proposal is filed.
8. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the Settlement Conference, Welland Hydro shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by **April 5, 2017**. In that event, parties shall file and serve on the other parties by **April 7, 2017** any submissions on which issues shall be heard in writing, and for which issues the OEB should hold an oral hearing.
9. The OEB is setting a tentative date of **April 28, 2017** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 2300 Yonge Street, 25<sup>th</sup> floor, Toronto for Welland Hydro to present to the OEB any settlement proposal and a summary of any unsettled issues in the case. OEB staff will, at the direction of the OEB, confirm or amend this date in subsequent correspondence.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2016-0110, be made in searchable / unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Georgette Vlahos at

[georgette.vlahos@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:georgette.vlahos@ontarioenergyboard.ca) and OEB Counsel, Ian Richler at [ian.richler@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:ian.richler@ontarioenergyboard.ca).

**ADDRESS**

Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Attention: Registrar

E-mail: [registrar@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:registrar@ontarioenergyboard.ca)  
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)  
Fax: 416-440-7656

**DATED** at Toronto, **February 16, 2017**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**By delegation, before: Kristi Sebalj**

*Original Signed By*

Kristi Sebalj  
Registrar  
Office of the Registrar

**EB-2016-0110**

**List of Intervenors**

**Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.**

**February 16, 2017**

**Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.  
EB-2016-0110**

**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

February 16, 2017

**APPLICANT**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Welland Hydro-Electric  
System Corp.**

**Wayne Armstrong**

President & CEO  
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.  
P.o. Box 280, 950 East Main Street  
Welland, ON L3B 5P6

Tel: 905-732-1381  
Fax: Not Provided  
[warmstrong@wellandhydro.com](mailto:warmstrong@wellandhydro.com)

**Welland Hydro-Electric  
System Corp.**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Wayne Armstrong**

President & CEO  
Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.  
P.o. Box 280, 950 East Main Street  
Welland ON L3B 5P6

Tel: 905-732-1381  
Fax: Not Provided  
[warmstrong@wellandhydro.com](mailto:warmstrong@wellandhydro.com)

**APPLICANT COUNSEL**

**John Vellone**

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP  
Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower  
22 Adelaide Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 4E3  
Tel: 16)367-6730  
Fax: 416-367-6749  
[jvellone@blg.com](mailto:jvellone@blg.com)

**INTERVENORS**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.**

**EB-2016-0110**

**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

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**Energy Probe Research  
Foundation**

**Brady Yauch**

Energy Probe Research Foundation  
225 Brunswick Avenue  
Toronto ON M5S 2M6  
Tel: 416-964-9223 Ext: 236  
Fax: 416-964-8239  
[bradyyauch@consumerpolicyinstitute.org](mailto:bradyyauch@consumerpolicyinstitute.org)

**Roger Higgin**

Sustainable Planning Associates Inc.  
15 Malabar Place  
Toronto ON M5B 1A4  
Tel: 416-391-0738  
Fax: Not Provided  
[spainc@rogers.com](mailto:spainc@rogers.com)

**David MacIntosh**

Case Manager  
Energy Probe Research Foundation  
225 Brunswick Avenue  
Toronto ON M5S 2M6  
Tel: 416-964-9223 Ext: 235  
Fax: 416-964-8239  
[DavidMacIntosh@nextcity.com](mailto:DavidMacIntosh@nextcity.com)

**School Energy Coalition**

**Wayne McNally**

SEC Coordinator  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
439 University Avenue  
18th Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 1Y8  
Tel: 416-340-2540  
Fax: 416-340-7571  
[wmcnally@opsba.org](mailto:wmcnally@opsba.org)



**Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.**

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**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

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**School Energy Coalition**

**Jay Shepherd**

Counsel

Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation

2200 Yonge St.

Suite 1302

Toronto ON M4S 2C6

Tel: 416-483-3300

Fax: 416-483-3305

[jay.shepherd@canadianenergylawyers.com](mailto:jay.shepherd@canadianenergylawyers.com)

**Mark Rubenstein**

Counsel

Jay Shepherd Professional Corporation

2200 Yonge St.

Suite 1302

Toronto ON M4S 2C6

Tel: 416-483-3300

Fax: 416-483-3305

[mark.rubenstein@canadianenergylawyers.com](mailto:mark.rubenstein@canadianenergylawyers.com)

**Vulnerable Energy  
Consumers Coalition**

**Michael Janigan**

Special Counsel

Public Interest Advocacy Centre

31 Hillside Avenue East

Toronto ON M4S 1T4

Tel: 416-840-3907

Fax: Not Provided

[mjanigan@piac.ca](mailto:mjanigan@piac.ca)

**Mark Garner**

Project Manager

Econalysis Consulting Services

34 King Street East, Suite 630

Toronto ON M5C 2X8

Tel: 647-408-4501

Fax: 416-348-0641

[markgarner@rogers.com](mailto:markgarner@rogers.com)

**Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.**

**EB-2016-0110**

**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

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February 16, 2017

**Vulnerable Energy  
Consumers Coalition**

**Bill Harper**

Econalysis Consulting Services

34 King Street East

Suite 630

Toronto On M5C 2X8

Tel: 416-348 0193

Fax: Not Provided

[bharper@econalysis.ca](mailto:bharper@econalysis.ca)