



Atikokan Hydro Inc.

Application for electricity distribution rates beginning May 1, 2017

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1 February 16, 2017

Atikokan Hydro Inc. (Atikokan Hydro) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on October 4, 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 it charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2017.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on December 29, 2016. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility.

No objection was received from Atikokan Hydro.

VECC is approved as an intervenor. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. VECC is 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 Atikokan Hydro's application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories. Atikokan Hydro, OEB staff and the intervenor 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.

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 Atikokan Hydro that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by February 17, 2017.

2. VECC shall request any relevant information and documentation from Atikokan 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. Atikokan Hydro shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on the intervenor and OEB staff by March 22, 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 24, 2017.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2016-0056, 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, Chris Codd at chris.codd@ontarioenergyboard.ca and OEB Counsel, Ian Richler at 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
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

SCHEDULE A

**Atikokan Hydro Inc.
EB-2016-0056**

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

February 16, 2017

APPLICANT

Rep. and Address for Service

Atikokan Hydro Inc.

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INTERVENORS

Rep. and Address for Service

**Vulnerable Energy
Consumers Coalition**

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EB-2016-0056**

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

February 16, 2017

**Vulnerable Energy
Consumers Coalition**

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