

ECONALYSIS CONSULTING SERVICES

34 KING STREET EAST, SUITE 630, TORONTO,
ONTARIO M5C 2X8

www.econalysis.ca

June 19, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2017-0091 – Union Gas Limited
2016 Disposition of Deferral Account Balances and 2016 Utility Earnings
Interrogatories of the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)**

Please find enclosed the Notice of Intervention of VECC in the above-noted proceeding. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant.

Yours truly,

Mark Garner

Consultant for VECC

Ms. Karen Hockin, Manager Regulatory Initiatives
khockin@uniongas.com

REQUESTOR NAME	VECC
TO:	Union Gas Limited (“Union”)
DATE:	June 19, 2017
CASE NO:	EB-2017-0091
APPLICATION NAME	2016 DVA and Earning Sharing

1.0 EXHIBIT A

1.0-VECC-1

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 1/pg.6

- a) Please amend Table 2 to show the 2015 UDC Costs Incurred.
- b) Please compare and explain the variation for lines 1 through 3 for 2015 as compared to 2016 costs.

1.0-VECC-2

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 1/ pg.7 & Table 1/Appendix A Schedule 2

- a) With respect to the Transportation Optimization Deferral Account (1779-131) please explain the cause of the significant decrease in Base Exchange revenue from 2013 to 2016.

1.0-VECC-3

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab1/pg.10

- a) At the above reference it states: “*The storage requirement for the contract market was calculated using **either** the Board-approved aggregate excess methodology or the 15 times obligated Daily Contracted Quantity (“DCQ”) storage methodology*” (emphasis added). Please explain why one methodology is not consistently used.
- b) What is the difference in storage requirements as between the two methodologies? Is there a material difference?

1.0 – VECC - 4

Reference: Exhibit A /Tab 1/ pg. 15

- a) Please explain the need for the continuation of Account No. 179-120 IFRS Conversion costs.

b) When does Union expect to convert to IFRS accounting standards?

1.0-VECC-5

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 1/pg.22

a) Please explain how Union determined that *“the majority of the NAC volume variance increase incurred in the summer months”*.

1.0-VECC-6

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 1/pg. 33

a) Please provide a breakdown of the \$4.934 million budget overrun for the LCU compressor unit.

b) Please explain what “commissioning” costs are.

1.0-VECC-7

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab1/pg.46

a) Please explain why Union is not requesting the closure of Account No. 179-139 Energy East Pipeline Consultation Costs?

1.0-VECC-8

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 1/pg. 54

a) How many customers were charged penalties for Unauthorized overrun in 2016?

1.0-VECC-9

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab1/pg.53 -60

a) With respect to Account 179-142 (Lobo C/Hamilton-Milton Pipeline) Union states that *“The 2016 actual required return calculation was derived using a capital structure of 64% long-term debt at 3.36%, and 36% equity at the Board-approved rate of return of 8.93%.”* Whereas for Account No 179-144 (Dawn H et al) Union states that: *“The 2016 actual required return calculation was derived using a capital structure of 64% long term debt at 4.0% and 36% common equity”* Similarly for Account 179-149 (Burlington-Oakville) a 4.4% long-term debt rate is used to calculated the required

return. Please explain why different long-term debt rates are used for calculating the required returns on these various accounts.

1.0-VECC-10

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 1/pg.74

- a) Has the Board reviewed the costs of Union's implementation of Cap & Trade/GHG (i.e. Account 179-151) in any other proceeding? If yes please provide the amounts that have been previously approved.
- b) What are the costs related only to the Technology and Innovation group (pg. 74).
- c) Please explain why Union is expending resources on "*the pursuit of new technologies and innovations that could result in GHG emissions reductions in the province*". Specifically why is this activity the responsibility of the gas utility and how does the activity benefit ratepayers?

2.0-VECC-11

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 2/Table 1/pg.3 & Appendix A, Schedule 2 /
Schedule 13

- a) OM&A expenses as between 2015 and 2016 have increased by almost 4% (\$382.9 to \$397.8). This is significantly higher than inflation (CPI) during the same period. What are the main drivers of the increase in OM&A expenses?

3.0-VECC-12

Reference: Exhibit A/Tab 3/pg.8

- a) Given the large increase in unaccounted for gas please explain why using the 2013 allocation of costs to allocate the balance of account 179-141 is proper. Specifically, how does Union understand which classes have caused the unusual /large increase in UFG?

End of document (3/3)