

Scott Stoll Direct: 416.865.4703 E-mail:sstoll@airdberlis.com

September 7, 2018

SENT VIA EMAIL, COURIER AND RESS

Ms. Kirsten Walli Board Secretary **Ontario Energy Board** 2300 Yonge Street 27th Floor, P.O. Box 2319 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli

Re: EB-2018-0235 Request for Intervenor Status – IGPC Ethanol Inc. and Integrated Grain

We are counsel to Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative Inc. ("IGPC").

Please find attached the request for Intervenor Status of IGPC.

If there are any questions, contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP

Scott Stoll

SAS/ar Encl.

cc. Bruce Brandell (EPCOR) Britt Tan (EPCOR) Patrick Welsh (Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP)

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Filed: September 7, 2018 EB-2018-0235 IGPC Intervenor Request Page 1 of 4

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c.15 (Schedule B);

AND IN THE MATTER OF an application by EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership for an Order or Orders pursuant to section 36 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* approving or fixing just and reasonable rates and other charges for the sale, distribution, transmission and storage of gas commencing October 1, 2016, October 1, 2017 and October 1, 2018

INTEGRATED GRAIN PROCESSORS CO-OPERATIVE INC. NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR INTERVENOR STATUS

- Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative Inc. and IGPC Ethanol Inc. (together, "IGPC") hereby apply for intervenor status in this proceeding.
- IGPC owns and operates an ethanol facility in the Town of Aylmer. There are more than 700 members, farmers and individual members of the local community that comprise IGPC. IGPC employs more than 65 employees. The ethanol facility is completing an expansion that will increase the need for natural gas during the fall of 2018 and beyond.
- IGPC is the largest customer of the Applicant, EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership ("EPCOR"), and therefore is directly impacted by this Application. IGPC is the sole customer in EPCOR's Rate 6 class.
- 4. IGPC reserves its rights to file evidence, cross-examine witnesses, make submissions and otherwise fully participate in this proceeding.
- 5. This Application seeks changes to, and finalization of, rates commencing in October 1, 2016. IGPC is supportive of the change to a fixed rate structure for Rate 6.

- 6. During the prior rate proceeding filed by Natural Resources Gas Ltd., EB-2016-0236, the Applicant's predecessor, Rate 6 was proposed to receive significant annual reductions in distribution rates (excluded PGTVA and other variance accounts). IGPC estimates that such a reduction would have resulted in more than \$500,000 in total distribution rate savings for IGPC. Rates have been interim since October 1, 2016 and IGPC opposes any relief that diminishes the amount or in any way restricts, defers, prohibits or extinguishes its rights to recover its overpayment to EPCOR since October 1, 2016.
- 7. In EB-2016-0351, EPCOR made representations to this Board and customers, including IGPC, that costs of providing distribution service would be reduced as a result of its purchase of the assets of NRG. However, in the present Application EPCOR is seeking a percentage increase in costs. IGPC relied upon the prior proposed rate reduction and the assurance of lower costs, among other factors, for supporting the transfer to EPCOR.
- 8. IGPC notes that EPCOR (and its predecessor NRG) were last before this Board for a cost of service review in EB-2010-0018. Given the length of time since rebasing, the change of ownership, the extended duration of interim rates and potential changes in rates and rate structures, IGPC recognizes that EPCOR and its customers find themselves in a unique situation.
- 9. IGPC would note that this Application is comprised of several disparate issues including:
 (a) percentage rate increase; (b) effective dates; (c) change to a fixed rate for Rate 6; and
 (d) disposal of the PGTVA account. Certain of these issues, such as the PGTVA, IGPC expects will be less contentious than others. As such, IGPC is of the view that certain issues may be more easily and quickly resolved than others allowing parties to resolve the straightforward issues and focus efforts on the more difficult issues.

Filed: September 7, 2018 EB-2018-0235 IGPC Intervenor Request Page 3 of 4

- As such, IGPC suggests that a prehearing issues conference/settlement conference may benefit the consideration of this Application in a timely, efficient manner. At this time IGPC does not have any preference on whether there is a written or oral hearing.
- 11. IGPC notes that certain rates have been requested effective October 1, 2018 which is less than 1 month from the date of this submission. IGPC request that current rates remain interim until at least the Board has finally considered this matter.
- 12. IGPC will not be seeking a cost award.
- 13. All communications in respect of this proceeding should be in English and copied to:

Mr. Jim Grey Chief Executive Officer Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative Inc. 89 Progress Drive, P.O. Box 205 Aylmer, ON N5H 2R9

Tel: (519) 765-2575 Email: jgrey@igpc.ca Mr. Scott Stoll Aird & Berlis LLP Barristers and Solicitors Brookfield Place 181 Bay Street, Suite 1800 Toronto, ON M5J 2T9

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Filed: September 7, 2018 EB-2018-0235 IGPC Intervenor Request Page 4 of 4

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Dated: September 7th, 2018

AIRD & BERLIS LLP

Scott A. Stoll - LSUC No. 45822G

(Counsel for Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative Inc.)

- TO: Ontario Energy Board Board Secretary 2300 Yonge Street 27th Floor, P.O. Box 2319 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 Email: <u>boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca</u>
- AND TO: **EPCOR Utilities Inc.** 2000 – 10423 – 101 St. NW Edmonton, AB T5H 0E8

Bruce Brandell, Director Commercial Services Tel: (780) 412-3720 Email: bbrandell@epcor.com

Britt Tan, Legal Counsel Email: <u>btan@epcor.com</u>

AND TO: Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP Barristers & Solicitors 1 First Canadian Place, Suite 6300 Toronto, ON M5X 1B8

> Patrick Welsh Tel: (416) 862-5951 Email: <u>pwelsh@osler.com</u>

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