



PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE  
LE CENTRE POUR LA DÉFENSE DE L'INTÉRÊT PUBLIC

March 19, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2018-0336 –EPCOR Natural Gas LP (ENGLP) Five year Customer Incentive Rate Plan  
Request for participation and cost awards**

---

Please find attached the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) Notice of Intervention and request to be eligible for an award of costs with respect to the above-noted proceeding.

We have also directed a copy to the Applicant as well as their counsel via email.

Yours truly,

*John Lawford*

Counsel for VECC

EPCOR - Bruce Brandell - [bbrandell@epcor.com](mailto:bbrandell@epcor.com)  
Counsel - Richard King - [rking@osler.com](mailto:rking@osler.com)

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

**An application by EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership pursuant to section 36 of the Act for an order or orders approving or fixing just and reasonable rates and other charges for the sale and distribution of gas to be effective January 1, 2020.**

**NOTICE OF INTERVENTION  
OF THE  
VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION**

To: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

And to: **Mr. Bruce Brandell, Director Commercial Services EPCOR Utilities Inc.**

**IDENTITY OF THE INTERVENOR AND ITS MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) hereby expresses its intention to intervene and participate in the above-mentioned proceeding. VECC consists of the following organizations:
  - (a) The Federation of Metro Tenants Association (FMTA)
  - (b) The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations (OCSCO)
2. The Federation of the Metro Tenants Association (the "FMTA") is a non-profit corporation composed of over ninety-two affiliated tenants associations, individual tenants, housing organizations, and members of non-profit housing co-ops. In addition to encouraging the organization of tenants and the promotion of decent and affordable housing, the Federation provides general information, advice, and assistance to tenants. The address is:

500-27 Carlton Street  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 1L2
3. The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations ("OCSCO") is a coalition of over 160 senior groups as well as individual members across Ontario. OCSCO represents the concerns of over 500,000 senior citizens through its group and individual members. OCSCO's mission is to improve the quality of life for Ontario's seniors. OCSCO's address is:

333 Wilson Avenue, Suite 406  
Toronto, ON  
M3H 1T2

4. The coalition of the FMTA and OCSCO under the name VECC has the specific mandate of intervening in proceedings to advocate on behalf of the interests of Ontario's vulnerable consumers with respect to energy issues, primarily through intervention in regulatory proceedings at the Ontario Energy Board.
5. Although the organization is not itself a member of VECC, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) in Ottawa assists in the representation of the interests of vulnerable consumers by ensuring the availability of competent representation and consultant support to the VECC participation.
6. VECC is a frequent intervenor in Board proceedings. Our annual information filing can be found on the Board's website at:  
[http://ontarioenergyboard.ca/oeb\\_Documents/Intervenor\\_Filings/VECC\\_2014\\_annual\\_intervenor\\_filing20140605.pdf](http://ontarioenergyboard.ca/oeb_Documents/Intervenor_Filings/VECC_2014_annual_intervenor_filing20140605.pdf)

**INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT VECC IN THIS PROCEEDING**

7. The name & address of the agent authorized to receive documents on behalf of VECC is:

John Lawford  
Counsel, Regulatory and Public Policy  
Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)  
2-285 McLeod Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 1A1  
613- 562-4002 ext. 25  
[jlawford@piac.ca](mailto:jlawford@piac.ca)

PIAC Office: 613-562-4002 (Donna Brady) Ext. 21

8. VECC requests that all correspondence and documentation also be electronically copied to VECC's consultants:

Mark Garner (project manager)  
647 Broadway Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4G 2S8  
647-408-4501 (office)  
[markgarner@rogers.com](mailto:markgarner@rogers.com)

9. To mitigate costs VECC requests only electronic copies of the materials. VECC may request paper copies of some or all of the materials should this become necessary. VECC requests electronic copies of the application and any additional supporting materials are sent to Mr. Garner at his respective e-mail address.

## **GROUND FOR THE INTERVENTION**

10. VECC has been active in the protecting the interest of low income consumers for over 15 years. We have appeared to the Board in numerous applications by natural gas and electricity distributors, electricity transmitters and power producers. As such we have developed a wide gamut of experience and information about distribution.
11. VECC has also been a participant in the past proceedings of the Applicant, including those applications of the predecessor utility NRG. VECC was a party to ENGLP's most recent application and a signature to the settlement agreement approved by the Board.

## **INTERESTS OF THE INTEVENOR**

12. VECC is intervening in order to ensure that consumer interests and in particular the interests of the low-income and vulnerable users of natural gas are fully represented in the determination of just and reasonable rates.
13. The Applicant proposes to use an incentive formula to adjust rates for four years subsequent to the establishment of 2020 rates. VECC intends to scrutinize all aspects of this proposal. In addition VECC notes that Applicant is responding to commitments made in the most settlement agreement approved by the Board with respect to a system integrity study and the issue of whether there is an ongoing need to purchase locally produced gas at a premium cost.

## **INTENTION TO SEEK COST AWARDS**

14. VECC will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding and believes that, as a coalition representing the direct interests of consumers, it meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Ontario Energy Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Section 41) and its' Practice Direction on Cost Awards (Section 3.03).
15. VECC's members do not have access to the direct funding required to retain appropriate legal and consulting support for its intervention in OEB proceedings. Accordingly VECC relies on PIAC to provide legal support and retain qualified consultants on the basis that PIAC can recover the related fees and disbursements from the Board based on the Board's Practice Direction on Cost Awards at the prevailing Cost Award Tariff.

**DATED AT TORONTO, MARCH 19, 2019**