



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

May 10, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: EB-2018-0264 –EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership (ENGLP)
South Bruce 2019-2028 Rate Plan
Vulnerable Energy Consumer Coalition (VECC) request for participation and
Eligibility for cost awards**

Please find attached the Notice of Intervention and request to be eligible for an award of costs of VECC in the above-noted proceeding.

Yours truly,

John Lawford

Counsel for VECC

Cc: EPCOR - Bruce Brandell - bbrandell@epcor.com

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

An application by EPCOR Natural Gas Limited Partnership for approval of natural gas distribution rates and charges to charge customers in the municipalities of Arran-Elderslie and Kincardine, and the Township of Huron-Kinloss, effective January 1, 2019

**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_interven_or_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
2-285 McLeod Street,
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 1A1
613-562-4002
lawford@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 Consultant
647 Broadway Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M4G 2S8
647-408-4501 (office)
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 respective e-mail address.

GROUNDINGS 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 rate applications.
11. VECC has also been a participant in the past proceedings of the Applicant, including the Application EB-2016-0137/138/139 establishing the franchise for this Applicant.

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. Among the issues VECC proposes to address are the reasonableness of the revenue requirement proposal of the Applicant including the load forecast, conformity with the Board's Franchise decision EB-2016-0137 and the proposed rate design.

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, MAY 10, 2019