



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

December 19, 2019

VIA E-MAIL

Christine E. Long  
Registrar and Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)  
Notice of Intervention re: EB-2019-0055 – Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.  
Request for Intervention and eligibility for cost awards**

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Please find attached the Notice of Intervention and request for cost eligibility of VECC in the above-noted proceeding. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant.

We apologize for our late filing of same but this was strictly due to an oversight on our part.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lawford', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Lawford  
Counsel for VECC

Cc: NT Power – Laurie Ann Cooledge – [lauriec@nmhydro.ca](mailto:lauriec@nmhydro.ca)  
Michelle Reesor – [mreesor@nmhydro.ca](mailto:mreesor@nmhydro.ca)

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

EB-2019-0055 Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd. (NT Power)  
2020 IRM Distribution Rate Application

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION  
OF THE  
VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION

To: Ms Christine E. Long, Board Secretary and Registrar  
And to: Michelle Reesor, Regulatory Analyst, NT Power

**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  
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:

Bill Harper (project manager)  
107 Baker Avenue  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4C 1X5  
905-883-1727 (office)  
[bharper@consultant@bell.net](mailto:bharper@consultant@bell.net)

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 its representatives at their respective e-mail addresses.

## **GROUNDS FOR THE INTERVENTION**

10. While the Application is based on the Board's Annual IR Index methodology, it also includes updated cost allocation models and proposed revisions to the revenue to cost ratios for some customer classes. VECC is intervening in order to ensure that the residential consumer's interests, and in particular the interests of the low-income and vulnerable users of natural gas service, are fully represented in the determination of just and reasonable rates.

## **INTENTION TO SEEK COST AWARDS**

11. VECC intends to focus its intervention of the proposed cost allocation changes and will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding. VECC 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).
12. 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 OTTAWA, DECEMBER 19, 2019**