



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

December 20, 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: EB-2019-0255 - Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution  
Request for Intervention and eligibility for cost awards**

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We are receipt of the Board's letter of December 19, 2019 seeking comments on its draft Guidelines for Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution (Draft Guidelines). As requested the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) is writing to indicate their intent to participate and to seek participant status in the above-noted proceeding. VECC is seeking cost award eligibility.

VECC is a well-known participant in both natural gas and electricity related proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board. VECC is currently an intervenor in the Leave- to- Construct proceeding of the Town of Marathon seeking to expand natural gas service to a number of northern Ontario communities. VECC was also an intervenor in the Board's proceeding EB-2016-0004, the Generic Proceeding on Community Expansion. VECC led evidence with respect to methods of encouraging expansion in that proceeding.

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.

If granted participant status we ask that the following persons be included in the Board's list of agents authorized to receive documents on behalf of VECC:

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Yours truly,

*John Lawford*

Counsel for VECC