

December 27, 2019

Christine Long
Board Secretary and Registrar
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Long:

Re: EB-2019-0255 – OEB Review – Potential Projects to Expand Natural Gas Distribution

I am a consultant to the Consumers Council of Canada ("Council"). I have been instructed by my client to indicate our intent to participate in the Ontario Energy Board's ("OEB's") consultation process regarding potential projects to expand natural gas distribution to communities that are not currently connected to a natural gas distribution system. The Council is a public-interest entity which represents the interests of residential consumers in Ontario. The outcome of this consultation process will ultimately impact natural gas consumers in Ontario

On December 10, 2018, the Council filed with the Board, pursuant to Rule 22.03 of the Ontario Energy Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a document describing the Council, its mandate and objectives, membership, the constituency represented, and the types of activities the Council carries out. In addition, we provided a list of the individuals authorized to represent the Council in Board proceedings.

The nature and scope of the Council's intended participation in this consultation process will be the following:

1. To provide comments on the Draft Guidelines for Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution, issued on December 19, 2019, and on any other issues where the OEB may seek input.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs for its participation in this consultation process. The Council has participated in many natural gas proceedings and consultation processes over a long period of time. In all of those proceedings and consultation processes the Council has been recognized as being eligible for an award of costs. In the absence of an award of costs the Council would be unable to participate in this consultation process.

Copies of all correspondence related to this consultation should be sent to:

Julie Girvan
62 Hillside Avenue East
Toronto, ON
M4S 1T5
jgirvan@uniserve.com

Please let us know if any further information from the Council is required at this time.

Yours truly,

Julie E. Girvan

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CC: Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada