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January 14, 2020

**VIA RESS AND COURIER**

Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4  
Attention: Registrar

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution  
Board File No.: EB-2019-0255**

We are counsel to Anwaatin Inc. (**Anwaatin**) in the above-referenced proceeding (the **Proceeding**). We recently became aware of the Board's December 19, 2019, letter to potential stakeholders interested in the Proceeding and, as a result of the intervening holiday period, were not immediately able to confirm our instructions from Anwaatin's members. We received instructions today to participate and request cost eligibility in the Proceeding.

**Intent to Participate**

Anwaatin has reviewed the details of the consultation as reflected in the December 19, 2019, letter, as well as the draft *Guidelines for Potential Projects to Expand Access to Natural Gas Distribution* (the **Guidelines**) issued by the Board. Anwaatin would therefore like to participate in the Proceeding and provide brief comments on the Guidelines. We are aware of the January 15, 2020, deadline for the submission of such comments and confirm that Anwaatin is in a position to meet that deadline. Anwaatin's participation in the Proceeding is being led by Aroland First Nation, with requested input from neighbouring First Nations.

**Request for Costs**

Anwaatin is, in accordance with s. 3.03(b) of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*, eligible to seek an award of costs as Anwaatin is a party that primarily represents an interest or policy perspective that is relevant to the Board's mandate and to this proceeding. Anwaatin represents the interests of a unique and otherwise unrepresented set of Indigenous energy consumers in Ontario and is committed to ensuring that they are served through access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern natural gas service. It has recently intervened in

the Board's EB-2018-0329 and EB-2018-0264 proceedings to support access to natural gas for Indigenous rightsholders when efficient.

Anwaatin requests an award of costs in this Proceeding given that its comments and participation serve a direct interest and policy perspective that is relevant to the Board's mandate and pressing for Ontario's energy consumers. The Board has granted Anwaatin cost eligibility in several prior Board proceedings (including those mentioned above).

The Board has waived elements of the normal cost award eligibility process and has not allowed for rate-regulated natural gas distributors, from whom any cost awards in this Proceeding will be recovered, to object to cost eligibility requests. Anwaatin therefore submits that no party would be prejudiced by granting Anwaatin eligibility to recover its reasonably incurred costs of participation. Anwaatin therefore requests cost eligibility in the Proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that ends in a small arrowhead pointing to the right.

Lisa (Elisabeth) DeMarco