

March 16, 2020

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

Dear Ms Long:

Re: EB-2019-0261– Application by Hydro Ottawa Limited – Distribution Rates 2021-2025

I am a consultant to the Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”). I have been instructed by my client to intervene in the proceeding to consider the Application to the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) by Hydro Ottawa Limited (“Hydro Ottawa”) for distribution rates effective January 1, 2021. The Council is a public-interest entity which represents the interests of residential consumers in Ontario. The Board’s order in this proceeding will ultimately impact the rates that residential consumers pay for the distribution of electricity.

On March 15, 2020, 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 the proceeding will be the following:

1. To test and assess the Applicant’s evidence regarding its proposed rates and charges. The Council’s interest will include an examination of the proposed methodology for setting rates, the proposed revenue requirement, capital spending, cost allocation and rate design, customer engagement, reliability and deferral and variance accounts. The Council will also review any other proposals included in the Application that may impact residential consumers; and
2. To participate in the various aspects of the proceeding which may include an interrogatory process, a technical conference, a settlement conference and a hearing.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this proceeding. The Council has participated in many electricity proceedings over a long period of time, including Hydro Ottawa’s last rate proceeding. In all of those proceedings 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 proceeding.

Copies of all correspondence related to this proceeding and hard copies of the Applicant’s evidence should be sent to the following consultants:

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

Yours truly,

Julie E. Girvan

Julie E. Girvan

CC: Hydro Ottawa, Regulatory Affairs

Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada