



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

September 3, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: EB-2020-0048 – Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. (OPUCN) 2021 Rates Cost of Service  
Request for Intervention and eligibility for cost awards**

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Please find attached the Notice of Intervention of VECC in the above-noted proceeding. We have also directed a copy of the same to the Applicant via email.

Yours truly,

*John Lawford*

Counsel for VECC

Cc: OPUCN Margaret Boland - [mboland@opuc.on.ca](mailto:mboland@opuc.on.ca)

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

**Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. (OPUCN)  
2021 Rates Cost of Service Application**

**NOTICE OF INTERVENTION  
OF THE  
VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION**

To: Christine E. Long, Board Secretary  
And to: **Ms. Margaret Boland, Manager of Regulatory Compliance**

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**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  
[lawford@piac.ca](mailto:lawford@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:

Mark Garner (project manager)  
647 Broadway Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4G 2S8  
647-408-4501 (office)  
[markgarner@rogers.com](mailto:markgarner@rogers.com)

and

Bill Harper  
107 Baker Ave  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4C 1X5  
[bharper.consultant@bell.net](mailto:bharper.consultant@bell.net)

9. To mitigate costs VECC requests only electronic copies of the materials. VECC may ask for paper copies of some or all of the materials if this become necessary at some future point. VECC requests electronic copies of the application and any additional supporting materials are sent to its representatives at their respective e-mail addresses.

#### **GROUND FOR THE INTERVENTION**

10. The interest of VECC is to keep electricity distribution rates at or below the rate of consumer inflation. Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. (OPUCN) is seeking to recover a revenue requirement in 2021 of \$27.35 million which is an 8% increase over the last rate plan approved amount of \$25.39 million for 2019. This includes a 17% increase in operating costs since its last rebasing for 2015 rates. The result is a 6.50% increase in rates as between 2020 and 2021 for a medium size residential consumer (750kWh). The Utility's cost per customer will also rise by approximately 6.5% from 2018 (the last year of historical data) as compared to the forecast costs to be recovered in 2021. These changes are significantly greater than the past and prevailing inflation rate would indicate.

#### **INTERESTS OF THE INTERVENOR**

11. VECC is intervening in order to ensure that the interests of electricity consumer, particularly low-income consumers, are fully represented in the delivery of electricity and the determination of just and reasonable rates for that service. VECC intends to scrutinize all aspects of the Applicant's proposal.

#### **INTENTION TO SEEK COST AWARDS**

12. VECC will be requesting an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding and 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).
13. 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 TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020**