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October 14, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Long,

**RE: EB-2020-0026 Halton Hills Hydro Inc. 2021 Rates Application  
Response by Energy Probe to Intervention Objection by Halton Hills**

The following is the response of Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe) to the objection to its application for late intervenor status and cost eligibility in the EB-2020-0026 proceeding, the application by Halton Hills Hydro Inc. to the Ontario Energy Board for the approval of its 2021 rates effective May 1, 2021.

### **The Objection by Halton Hills Hydro**

In its letter to the Board Secretary dated October 13, 2020, Halton Hills Hydro Inc. objected to the intervention request by Energy Probe. Halton Hills Hydro Inc. provides the following reason as justification for its objection.

*“Halton Hills Hydro Inc. objects to the request for Intervenor Status submitted by Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (“VECC”) on October 7, 2020 and Energy Probe Foundation (“Energy Probe”) on October 8, 2020. Halton Hills Hydro Inc. objects based on the grounds that VECC and Energy Probe do not have distinct interests and request the Ontario Energy Board grant intervenor status to only one of either VECC or Energy Probe. If the Ontario Energy Board does grant intervenor status to both VECC and Energy Probe, Halton Hills Hydro Inc. requests the Ontario Energy Board consider limiting cost awards given the size of Halton Hills Hydro Inc. and the five (5) intervenor requests.”*

There is no indication in the letter of objection that Halton Hills Hydro has reviewed the information on the OEB website about Energy Probe or compared it to any similar information by the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC). The letter of Halton Hills does not provide any evidence in support of its claim that Energy Probe and VECC do not have distinct interests.

**Energy Probe Research Foundation** 225 BRUNSWICK AVE., TORONTO, ONTARIO M5S 2M6

## **The Response by Energy Probe**

In its letter of intervention, dated October 8, 2020, Energy Probe explained that its interest is distinct from other intervenors and provided a link to information about Energy Probe on the OEB Website.

<https://www.oeb.ca/industry/applications-oeb/intervenor-information/annual-filings-frequent-intervenors>

To assist the Board in its decision regarding the objection, Energy Probe is providing the following information that is also available on the OEB website.

Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe) is a non-profit environmental and consumer organization which promotes economic efficiency in the use of resources. It has long been one of Canada's leading environmental and public policy research institutes, cited as one of the most effective organizations of its kind by The Canadian Encyclopedia. Energy Probe first took form in 1970 as the Energy Team of Pollution Probe. In 1980, Energy Probe separated from Pollution Probe and became incorporated as the Energy Probe Research Foundation.

It has four main goals:

- 1) to provide the public, media, business, and government with information on resource-related issues;
- 2) to promote sustainable resource use;
- 3) to encourage individual responsibility and accountability; and
- 4) to help Canada contribute to global justice and prosperity.

To inform public opinion, Energy Probe has been a founder of numerous organizations: locally, Ecology House and Lake Ontario Water Keeper; nationally, Friends of the Earth Canada; and internationally, the World Rainforest Movement and the International Rivers Network. Energy Probe has several distinct divisions including Probe International, Environment Probe, Consumer Policy Institute, and the Urban Renaissance Institute.

Energy Probe argues for the break-up of unnatural monopolies, created by political or regulatory decree. Where natural monopolies exist, Energy Probe advocates for regulation that is mandated to protect the interests of consumers.

Energy Probe works to protect all ratepayers by ensuring the integrity of regulatory systems and the strict enforcement of laws. To eliminate biases and conflicts of interest, and to ensure that public- and private-sector interests are treated equally, it advocates independent regulators, who are subject to due process and judicial review, and regulatory processes that require full disclosure of information.

Energy Probe is a non-profit environmental and consumer organization that promotes economic efficiency in the use of resources. It will be representing its many individual residential customer

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supporters who have broad concerns with respect to the overall financial health and operational integrity of our utilities.

**Unlike other intervenors, whose members expect them to argue for lower rates for their particular ratepayer class, Energy Probe's members expect it to argue for equitable rates that optimize results across all ratepayers classes, by eliminating cross subsidies among the various ratepayer classes. This approach – unique to Energy Probe among all intervenors before the Board – fulfills its mandates to promote individual responsibility and accountability (i.e., Energy Probe members don't want to profit at the expense of others) as well as to inform all parties (the general public, business and government among them) in order to promote sustainable resource use.**

As stated in its Letter of Intervention- Energy Probe's interest in this proceeding is the impact on customers of the rates and service charges proposed by Halton Hills Hydro. Energy Probe will focus on the forecasts of capital expenditures, OM&A, loads and revenues, and on the proposed standby charge. This indicates the scope of Energy Probe's substantial interest in the issues in this application.

Energy Probe is aware that Halton Hills Hydro is a relatively small distributor and can not afford substantial regulatory costs. If its intervention is approved, Energy Probe will co-ordinate its intervention effort with VECC to avoid any duplication and to minimize costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Ladanyi  
Consultant representing Energy Probe

cc. David Smelsky (Halton Hills Hydro Inc.)  
Tracy Rehberg-Rawlingson (Halton Hills Hydro Inc.)  
Richard King (Osler Hoskin and Harcourt, LLP)  
Patricia Adams (Energy Probe Research Foundation)  
Roger Higgin (Sustainable Planning Associates Inc.)