



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

December 4, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Ms. Christine Long  
Board Secretary and Registrar  
2300 Yonge Street  
Ontario Energy Board  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL)  
2021 Electricity Rates EB-2020-0042  
Response of the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)**

We are in receipt of the letter of NOTL of December 3, 2020 objecting to the intervention of VECC in the above noted proceeding. As noted in our request for intervention VECC is not seeking any change to dates set out in the Board's Procedural Order No.1 issued on November 12, 2020. As such there is no prejudice to the Applicant in our participation in this proceeding.

NOTL has stated that it sent notice of this application to Mr. Mark Garner on behalf of VECC arguing that if Mr. Garner is "any part of VECC" then the request for intervenor and cost eligibility should be denied, but that otherwise they would accept the intervention. With respect, this is incorrect. First, we would point out to NOTL that Mr. Garner, like Ms. Grice (and at other times Mr. Harper) are consultants employed by PIAC on behalf of VECC. They are not employees of either organization and their relationship with VECC and PIAC in no way a matter for NOTL to opine on.

Second, an observant reader of the VECC interventions, including that which we provided in EB-2018-0056, would note that the agent authorized is myself as counsel for VECC. Copies of the application are asked to be provided to our consultants. In that regard, we can find no record of the notice to PIAC of this application. In any event, such issues are administrative and our experience has been that most utilities, acting in good faith, provide notice to all participating parties.

The purpose of public participation is to assist the Board in finding the best results that are in the public's interest. It is not, as implied in this objection, to find a moment to exclude interested parties. Due to COVID 19, the PIAC Offices were closed for a while and there have been some work challenges resulting in some late interventions. VECC has been explicit in request of its interest which is to explore the overearnings of this Utility which follows so shortly after its rate rebasing period.

For these reasons we ask that the Board grant our intervention and cost eligibility as requested in our letter of December 2, 2020.

Yours truly,

*John Lawford*

Counsel for VECC

cc: NOTL - Tim Curtis - [tcurtis@notlhydro.com](mailto:tcurtis@notlhydro.com)