

January 21, 2021

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27th floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Via email

Dear Ms. Walli

Re: Release of OEB staff research paper Examination of Alternative Price Designs for the Recovery of Global Adjustment Costs from Class B Consumers in Ontario
Board File #: EB-2016-0201

We are writing to seek intervenor status and cost award eligibility in this proceeding on behalf of Ontario Chamber of Commerce (“OCC”).

1. The OCC and its Interest in this Proceeding

The OCC is the independent, non-partisan voice of Ontario business, with a diverse network of 60,000 members. For more than a century it has supported economic growth in Ontario by advocating for business priorities at Queen’s Park. Its members represent all sectors of Ontario’s economy, from innovative small and medium Enterprises (“SMEs”) to established multinational corporations and industry associations. The views of these businesses should be considered in this proceeding.

The OCC’s mandate and objectives, its membership and the constituency it represents, and the types of programs and activities by which it carries out its mandate, are described on OCC’s website, www.occ.ca.

Low-cost electricity is vital for Ontario businesses to remain economically competitive and provide value to their customers. As a result, OCC members seek an approach to energy planning that balances affordability, transparency, and flexibility.

The OCC wishes to actively participate in this proceeding to review the alternative rate designs being proposed for non-RPP customers, and ensure that any rate changes which the Board approves, in combination with other increases in electricity prices that come as a result of this proceeding, are affordable and capable of sustaining Ontario’s businesses.

2. Nature and Scope of the OCC's Intended Participation

The OCC intends to participate actively in this proceeding for the purpose of:

- (a) Meeting with Board staff to ensure appropriate issues and questions have been identified for the Board's consideration of alternative rate designs; and
- (b) Providing additional input, if necessary, to fully inform the Board on how the OCC's members may be impacted by rate design changes.

3. Request for Evidence

The OCC requests that an electronic copy of the evidence upon which the Application is based be provided to its representative. The OCC does not require a hard copy of this material.

4. Request for Cost Eligibility

The OCC intends to seek a cost award in this proceeding on the grounds that its ability to participate is dependent upon a determination that it is eligible for such an award. Based on your approval of previous cost eligibility applications in a number of other Board consultations, we believe the OCC satisfies all of the requirements set out in the section 3 of Ontario Energy Board's ("OEB") "Practice Direction on Cost Awards" document.

5. Strapolec's Representation of OCC

Strategic Policy Economics ("Strapolec") represents the OCC under the auspices of a written retainer agreement executed by the OCC. Strapolec's mandate is to represent the interests of businesses in those OEB proceedings which may have an impact on the rates which Ontario businesses pay for utility services. Claudia Dessanti, Senior Policy Analyst, OCC, is the individual with whom Strapolec liaises.

6. OCC Contacts

If the relief sought in this letter is granted, then OCC requests that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following individuals. Please take note of the new information highlighted below for ease of reference:

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Please contact the undersigned if the Board requires any further information in connection with these requests.

Yours very truly

Strategic Policy Economics



Marc Brouillette
Principal Consultant
Strapolec Inc.

cc. Claudia Dessanti, OCC