



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

January 27, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: Hearst Power Distribution Company (Hearst Power) EB-2020-0027 2021 Rates
Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) Request for Intervention and
eligibility for cost awards**

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 as well as their Counsel via email.

Yours truly,

John Lawford

Counsel for VECC

Cc: Hearst Power - Jessy Richard - jrichard@hearstpower.com
Counsel - Michael Buonaguro - mrb@mrb-law.com

2-285 McLeod Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1A1 Tel: 613-562-4002 Ext. 125 www.piac.ca
John Lawford – Direct Telephone 613-447-8125 jlawford@piac.ca

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

**Hearst Power Distribution Company Ltd.
(Hearst Power)
2021 Rates Cost of Service Application**

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

To: Christine E. Long, Registrar
And to: **Mr. Jessy Richard, General Manager, Hearst Power**

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

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. 125
jlawford@piac.ca

PIAC Office: 613-562-4002 (Donna Brady) Ext. 121

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

and

Bill Harper
107 Baker Ave
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 1X5
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 be sent to its representatives at their respective e-mail addresses.

GROUNDS FOR THE INTERVENTION

10. The interest of VECC is to keep electricity distribution rates at or below the rate of consumer inflation. NBHL is seeking to recover a revenue requirement for 2021 that is more than 16% higher than the last Board approved. This includes a 18% increase in operating costs as compared to the last approved amount in 2015. Hearst Power is also seeking a large increase (double the previous year) in its capital budget. The increases will result, if approved, in residential distribution bill impacts that could be as high a 19%.

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.
14. VECC recognizes this is a small utility and will endeavor to keep its costs as low as is possible.

*****END OF DOCUMENT*****