



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

February 9, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: EB-2020-0061 - Wellington North Power Inc. (WNP) 2021**

The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) is the only intervenor in the above-noted application of Wellington North Power (WNP). VECC generally seeks to be involved in all distribution rate applications even those of smaller utilities. It is our belief that consumer advocacy and alternative points of view are an essential part of the Board's determination of the public interest.

In Procedural Order No. 1 the Board allowed for a settlement conference. VECC is a strong supporter of these conferences as they provide an efficient way for parties to assist in finding a fair and reasonable outcome. However, where the proceeding has only a single party, as in this case, the practical dynamics of a single party in a settlement conference can be problematic.

In the past the Board has addressed this challenge by either eliminating the settlement conference (often going directly to written hearing) or by designating a section of Board Staff as a party to the proceeding. In our experience the latter process has worked efficiently and provided the Board the benefit of settlement negotiations.

VECC therefore respectfully asks that the Board assign a section of Board Staff as a party in the WNP cost of service proceeding and for their participation as such in the upcoming settlement conference.

On another note please note that the E-mail address listed in Procedural Order No. 1 for John Lawford should be [jlawford@piac.ca](mailto:jlawford@piac.ca) and not [jlawford@piac.com](mailto:jlawford@piac.com)

Yours truly,

*John Lawford*  
Counsel for VECC

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WNP - Counsel - Michael Buonaguro - [mrb@mrb-law.com](mailto:mrb@mrb-law.com)