



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

April 8, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

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

Dear Ms. Long:

**Re: Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) Request to Participate
EB-2018-0278 Activity and Program-based Benchmarking (APB) Initiative)
Update and Stakeholder Meeting**

Please find attached the request of **Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC)** to participate in and seek cost awards for the proceeding EB-2018-0278. VECC was not a participant in the earlier part of the proceeding.

Yours truly,

John Lawford

Counsel for VECC

Cc: OEB – Veronica Mendes - veronica.mendes@oeb.ca

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD
Activity and Program-based Benchmarking (APB) Initiative
Update and Stakeholder Meeting
REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE AND SEEK COST
OF THE
VULNERABLE ENERGY CONSUMERS COALITION

To: Ms. Christine E. Long, Board Secretary

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 documents 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

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 are sent to its representatives at their respective e-mail addresses.

GROUND FOR THE INTERVENTION

10. VECC has been active in the protecting the interest of low income consumers for over 15 years. We have appeared to the Board in numerous applications by natural gas and electricity distributors, electricity transmitters and power producers. As such we have developed a wide gamut of experience and information about distribution. VECC seeks to participate in this policy

proceeding in order to provide the Board with the benefit of that experience and to protect the interest of energy consumers, especially those suffering from fuel poverty.

INTERESTS OF THE INTEVENOR

11. VECC is intervening in order to ensure that consumer interests and in particular the interests of the low-income and vulnerable users of electricity are fully represented in the determination of just and reasonable rates. VECC has been granted participation status in similar Board policy proceedings.

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.

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