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Via RESS

Ms. Christine E. Long
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EB-2021-0180 – OEB Innovation Sandbox 2.0

On September 30, the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) held a virtual stakeholder meeting where OEB staff presented proposals for the OEB Innovation Sandbox 2.0 (“Sandbox 2.0”) design. As part of the presentation, OEB staff requested input on various elements of the Sandbox 2.0 design by October 15. OPG appreciates the opportunity to comment on two of these elements.

Awareness-Raising and Transparency Activities

OPG shares the sentiment of other stakeholders on the lack of understanding and transparency in the design of the current OEB Innovation Sandbox (“Sandbox”). The changes proposed by OEB staff for Sandbox 2.0 in this regard are commendable. The proposed improvements to the website, providing examples of Sandbox projects, and the general initiative to provide more information more often, will be of great benefit to all stakeholders.

Concierge Service

Moving forward, there may be uncertainty surrounding when an innovator should put forth a proposal to the Sandbox or at what stage an innovator should approach an LDC. To that end, OEB staff’s proposal for a “concierge service” presents an intriguing option for innovators to bring forward ideas at various stages in a project’s horizon. The proposed service has potential to provide proponents with more opportunities to engage with the Sandbox and gain greater assistance from OEB staff and partnering organizations.

In terms of the concierge service requiring collaboration with another organization, OPG suggests that the OEB should be prepared to collaborate with relevant organizations pertaining to the scope of the proposed project. For

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example, if an innovator brings forward a project that has potential system benefits, the Sandbox team could consult with the IESO to confirm those benefits or potentially reshape the project to maximize consumer benefit.

Overall, OPG sees great potential in the proposed concierge service and encourages OEB staff to further explore the idea.

In closing, OPG would like to acknowledge OEB staff's efforts in improving the Sandbox, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in this consultation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brenda MacDonald