



By E-mail

August 28, 2008

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

Dear Ms Walli,

**Guidelines for the Pre-Approval of Long-Term Gas Supply and/or
Upstream Transportation Contracts ("LTC Guidelines")**

Board File No.: EB-2008-0280
Our File No.: 339583-000003

We are writing to seek participant status and cost award eligibility in this process on behalf of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters ("CME").

CME is Canada's leading business network. Its members represent 75% of manufactured output in the Province of Ontario, and 90% of all exports. Manufacturing is the single largest sector of the economy, representing 17.5% or \$300B of Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") and employing directly, over 1M people in the Province of Ontario.

Board approval of long term contracts for gas supply and/or upstream transportation is an essential component of the delivery of natural gas to CME members. As such, the principles and issues that the Board will consider when evaluating an application for pre-approval of long term supply and/or transportation contracts by Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. ("EGD") or Union Gas Limited ("Union") is of vital interest to CME members.

CME seeks a determination that it is eligible for a Cost Award in this process on the following grounds:

- (i) CME is a not-for-profit organization funded by membership fees and revenues from the services it renders to Federal and Provincial Governments and Agencies to foster the development of national and international markets for its members and to break down trade barriers.

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- (ii) About 85% of CME's 1,200 Ontario-based member companies are Small to Medium sized business Enterprises ("SMEs") with 500 employees or less. The views of these businesses should be considered in these proceedings.
- (iii) CME's ability to actively participate in this proceeding is dependent upon a determination that it is eligible for a Cost Award.
- (iv) In many prior proceedings, the Board has determined that CME is eligible for a Cost Award.

Pursuant to the Board's correspondence of August 22, 2008, CME requests that it be granted participant status and cost award eligibility in this process. We submit that CME members have a substantial interest in this Consultative. If granted participant status and cost eligibility, CME will participate actively and responsibly in this process.

CME asks that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

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Director of Policy
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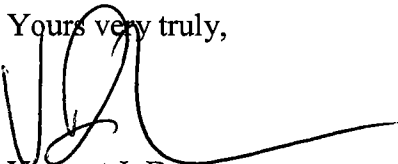
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Please contact the undersigned if the Board requires any further information in connection with the relief requested herein.

Yours very truly,



Vincent J. DeRose

VJD\slc
c. Paul Clipsham (CME)

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