

From: [Office of the Registrar](#)
To: [Jessy Serrao](#)
Cc: [Thomas Eminowicz](#)
Subject: Intervention Form: EB-2023-0195 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:35:50 AM

From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:14 AM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Cc: dbrady@piac.ca
Subject: Intervention Form: EB-2023-0195 - Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

Intervention Form

Case Number:

EB-2023-0195

Intervenor Name:

Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

Mandate and Objectives:

The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) is an unincorporated coalition of two major Ontario organizations.

VECC was formed in 1999 with the intent of representing the interests of residential consumers in matters of energy regulation and policy where those consumers, by reason of age, income, tenure or place of residence, language, literacy, or other infirmity may experience greater hardship than other residential consumers as a result of increased rates or policies that place demands on customers. These same consumers may have difficulty, or lack the resources to ensure that their voice is heard by regulators and policy makers deciding upon energy issues.

VECC has intervened in hundreds of OEB hearings since the date of its formation in 1999, and shares in the credit for the efficacy of the intervenor participation process in affecting decisions that have advanced the public interest and resulted in reductions in utility demands and just and reasonable rates.

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency

Represented:

The Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) is an unincorporated coalition of two major Ontario organizations, the Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations and the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, facilitated by the assistance of a national non-profit corporation and registered charity, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations (FMTA) is a Toronto non-profit corporation composed of over ninety-two affiliated tenants associations, plus thousands of 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, referrals and assistance to tenants.

The Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations (OSSCO) is a provincial organization and a registered charity. Founded in 1986, its mission is to improve the quality of life for Ontario's seniors by encouraging seniors' involvement in all aspects of society, by keeping them informed on current issues, and by focusing on programs to benefit an aging population. OSSCO offers education programs, policy and research, information, referral, counseling, research materials, 2 outreach and support, self-help and volunteer programs. OSSCO's membership includes over 140 organizations and individuals representing 500,000 senior citizens from across Ontario. OSSCO is community-based and not-for-profit and includes organizations representing seniors, ethnocultural, health, native, recreational, retiree, disability and women's organizations. OSSCO members are kept informed of the activities of VECC through the organization web site.

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

PIAC is not a member organization of the VECC coalition, but facilitates the work of VECC, largely by ensuring that representation and research support is available to VECC, and by assuming administrative responsibilities associated with filings and other Board requirements. Because PIAC is not a law firm, it cannot provide legal services. Legal services to VECC are provided by counsel who are not employees/agents for PIAC but recommended by PIAC for VECC retainer as a result of their regulatory experience with energy issues and regulation.

Governance Structure:

VECC representation is mainly provided by counsel and consultants retained by VECC through the facilitation of PIAC. PIAC is only the facilitator and administrator in the arrangement. As well, in any VECC intervention, counsel instructions are the province of VECC, not PIAC.

VECC engages legal counsel and consultants to assist in its representation before the Board. Representatives:

Representatives:

Mark garner

markgarner@rogers.com

Bill Harper

bharper.consultant@bell.net

Other Contacts:

John Lawford

jlawford@piac.ca

Frequent Intervenor Form:

OEB Proceedings:

EB-2021-0004 EB-2021-0009 EB-2021-0011 EB-2021-0027 EB-2021-0039 EB-2021-0041
EB-2021-0052 EB-2021-0110 EB-2021-0147 EB-2021-0148 EB-2021-0149 EB-2021-0181
EB-2021-0212 EB-2021-0243 EB-2022-0013 EB-2022-0016 EB-2022-0018 EB-2022-0019
EB-2022-0022 EB-2022-0024 EB-2022-0028 EB-2022-0043 EB-2022-0044 EB-2022-0049
EB-2022-0053 EB-2022-0056 EB-2022-0067 EB-2022-0072 EB-2022-0096 EB-2022-0133
EB-2022-0184 EB-2022-0200 EB-2023-0106 EB-2023-0109

Issues:

The Applicant is seeking to recover a gross revenue deficiency of \$102.2 million. This includes a proposed increase in operating costs of over 19% in the first year of the rate plan as compared to the last Board approved amount and rising to an amount over 38% in the final year of the plan. On a per customer basis the increase is in excess of 44% during the plan term. The rate proposal also includes a significant increase in capital spending during the term of the plan. In addition, despite a significant increase in customers Toronto Hydro is forecasting a reduction in load growth.

Policy Interests:

The Application includes a proposed custom rate framework which would adjust rates in a manner not congruent with the Board's established IRM policies.

Hearings:

We recommend the inclusion of a process to allow the parties to attempt to settle the issues and present any settlement to the Board. Until interrogatories and other discovery is complete and the result of any allowed settlement are assessed, we believe it is premature to decide upon either a written or oral hearing

Evidence:

At this time VECC does not intend to file evidence in this proceeding. As VECC reviews the application in its entirety and has had the opportunity to coordinate with other like-minded intervenors it may reassess the need to intervenor evidence.

Coordination with Other Intervenors:

VECC will coordinate with other intervenors with similar interests, where appropriate, to promote responsible participation in the proceeding.

Cost Awards:

VECC applies for recovery of its costs reasonably incurred in the course of its intervention in this matter. VECC's members are customers of the Applicant and eligible for an award of costs pursuant to section 3.03(a) of the Practice Direction. VECC has participated in many proceedings before the Board and has been found to be eligible for recovery of its reasonably incurred costs.

Language Preference:

English.