

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998 (the “**Act**”);

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by PUC (Transmission) LP pursuant to s. 92 of the Act for an Order or Orders granting leave to construct new transmission line and station facilities in the city of Sault Ste. Marie.

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by PUC (Transmission) LP pursuant to s. 97 of the Act for an Order granting approval of the forms of the agreement offered or to be offered to affected landowners.

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP pursuant to s. 92 of the Act for an Order or Orders granting leave to construct station facilities and related work at Third Line TS.

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP pursuant to s. 78 of the Act to create a new regulatory deferral account to capture certain costs related to station work.

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP pursuant to s. 74 of the Act for an exemption from Section 11.2.1 of the Transmission System Code from the requirement for Algoma Steel Inc. to pay bypass compensation to Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP.

EB-2023-0360

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

OF

ESSAR POWER CANADA LIMITED

(EPC)

February 20, 2024

A. Application for Intervenor Status

1. Essar Power Canada Limited (**EPC**) hereby requests intervenor status in the matter of the application of PUC (Transmission) LP (**PUC**) and Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP (**Hydro One**) (collectively, the **Applicants**) for an order granting leave to construct new transmission line and station facilities in the city of Sault Ste. Marie, as well as various other related forms of relief, as set out in the Applicants' application filed December 22, 2023 (the **Application**).
2. This notice of intervention is filed pursuant to Rule 22 of the Board's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

B. EPC and Its Interest in the Proceeding

Essar Power Canada Limited

3. EPC is an energy power producer. It has operated an 85 MW Combined Heat and Power (**CHP**) facility (the **Facility**) near Sault Ste. Marie since 2009. The Facility consists of two 375,000 pound-per-hour boilers and a 105 MW turbine. The Facility operates efficiently as a key behind-the-meter generation resource serving Algoma Steel Inc. (**Algoma**) with power and steam. The Facility was designed to use, and currently uses, waste blast furnace and limited natural gas to produce power and steam for use by Algoma. EPC also sells a portion of the power produced to the Independent Electricity System Operator (**IESO**) pursuant to a 20-year power purchase agreement that expires in 2029.

EPC's Interest in the Proceeding

4. EPC has a direct and substantial interest in the proceeding arising from the Facility's position as a critical generation asset in the Northwest region of Ontario. In addition, the outcomes of the proceeding are expected to materially impact EPC's current operations and medium- and long-term strategic planning.
5. EPC's participation in this proceeding will help to ensure that a more comprehensive picture of energy activities in a rapidly growing region of the province is available to the Board as it considers questions of long-term planning importance. EPC can help to ensure that any approval of the current Application is done in a fully informed and strategic way that maximizes long-term benefits for the region and does not strand existing assets or

inadvertently undermine aspects of energy generation and usage in the area that are not the areas of the Applicants' immediate focus in this proceeding.

6. EPC's provides essential energy support to Algoma, one of the region's most significant employers and economic actors. It relies on the power and steam that EPC generates in circumstances where generation and transmission resources in the area are generally limited. EPC's participation in this proceeding will therefore help to ensure that any approved expansion of available energy resources in a fast-growing region of the province does not inadvertently cause negative impacts for the broader system (or specific aspects of it) as transmission and consumption patterns expand and change.
7. EPC similarly is well-positioned to contribute valuable perspectives on questions relating to future demand growth and the generation capacity that will be needed as a result. The Facility is likely to provide an attractive long-term generation option in the area, which could save Ontario electricity customers considerable costs of new-build generation.
8. Accordingly, EPC anticipates that its intervention will focus on testing evidence and providing argument with respect to the following issues where its operations, as well as energy-related activities in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area more broadly, could be affected:
 - (a) Questions relating to the demand and capacity forecasts for Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area as identified in the Application and applicable to this proceeding;
 - (b) Questions relating to the recovery of costs arising from the proposed project and ongoing activities, including questions relating to the use of proposed deferral accounts;
 - (c) Whether the Applicants' proposed approach, as well as the particulars of that approach, are in the long-term interests of energy consumers in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area in terms of the future viability, effectiveness, reliability, safety, and cost-effectiveness of energy services; and
 - (d) Such other issues as may arise and may be relevant to EPC and energy consumers in general.
9. In short, EPC's intervention in this proceeding will provide the OEB will the benefit of a more complete picture of how energy needs in the area under consideration will continue to be met, both for Algoma and for energy customers in general.

C. Nature and Scope of EPC's Intended Participation

10. EPC intends to be an active participant in this proceeding and will act responsibly to coordinate with other intervenors where common issues may arise and be otherwise addressed. EPC otherwise intends to participate actively in order to test evidence in accordance with the stipulated processes and timelines, participate fully, and provide argument should the Board's procedures provide for same. It reserves the right to adduce evidence should the Board's procedures provide for same.

D. EPC's Representatives

11. EPC hereby requests that further communications with respect to this proceeding be sent to the following:

Essar Power Canada Limited

105 West Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 7B4

Attention: Madhu Vuppuluri
Telephone: 212-292-2600
Email: Madhu.Vuppuluri@essarcapital.com

AND TO ITS COUNSEL

Resilient LLP

Bay Adelaide Centre
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Attention: Nicholas Daube
Tel: 416-768-8341
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ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY
SUBMITTED THIS
20th day of February, 2024.

Nicholas Daube

Nicholas Daube
Resilient LLP
Counsel for EPC