

Elson Advocacy

November 20, 2024

BY RESS

Ms. Nancy Marconi

Registrar

Ontario Energy Board

2300 Yonge Street, Suite 2700, P.O. Box 2319

Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Marconi:

**Re: Proposed Amendments to the Distribution System Code
EB-2024-0092**

We are writing on behalf of Environmental Defence to request participant status and costs eligibility in the above matter.

Nature of Interest in the Review

Environmental Defence seeks participant status and costs eligibility as a leading environmental organization that represents both the public interest in environmental protection and the interests of consumers whose energy bills can be reduced through measures that benefit the environment and lower energy bills.

Environmental Defence has been granted intervenor status, participant status, and costs eligibility in over 60 proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board over the past decade. Environmental Defence's energy consultant, Jack Gibbons, has approximately 40 years of experience with Ontario energy regulation and Ontario Energy Board matters. Environmental Defence's energy counsel, Kent Elson, has approximately 15 years of experience with Ontario Energy Board matters. Environmental Defence is well-positioned to provide constructive comments on the proposed amendments to the Distribution System Code.

Environmental Defence wishes to review and make comments on the Report to the Minister, the proposed amendments to the DSC and the OEB's rationale for those amendments. Those comments would likely explore issues such as the impacts on existing ratepayers, whether the cost-savings associated with more dense development are accounted for, whether/how the rules allow for opportunities to reduce connection costs via distributed energy resources, and whether/how the new rules may impact the sizing of infrastructure in new developments to address anticipated demand from electrification.

Environmental Defence has participated in many OEB proceedings relating to the DSC and has made submissions on the issue of electricity connections charges for housing developments in regulatory proceedings in the past. We would bring this experience forward in this proceeding.

Relief re Participant Request Deadline

Environmental Defence requests that this participant request be accepted despite the deadline having passed. This would not prejudice any of the parties or cause delay as we are still at a very early stage in this proceeding and the deadline passed only one business day ago.

Grounds for Eligibility and Need for Funding

Environmental Defence is eligible for an award of costs under section 3.03(a) and (b) of the Practice Direction on Costs Awards as it represents “an interest or policy perspective relevant to the Board’s Mandate,” including environmental protection, and the “direct interest of consumers” whose energy bills can be reduced through measures such as appropriate rate design, integrated resource planning, and reduced transmission losses.

Environmental Defence has no funding to participate in this process without an award of costs eligibility.

Further Details Regarding Environmental Defence

Environmental Defence is a frequent intervener. Its frequent intervener form may be found at the following link: <https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record/804452/File/document>.

Requests for Evidence and Addresses of Representative

Environmental Defence requests that electronic copies of the pre-filed materials and all other documents in the proceeding be delivered to the following consultant and counsel:

Electronic copies to:

Jack Gibbons
 Ontario Clean Air Alliance
 160 John Street, Suite 300
 Toronto, Ontario M5V 2E5
 Tel: (416) 260-2080 ext. 2
 E-mail: jack@cleanairalliance.org

Electronic copies to:

Elson Advocacy

Kent Elson

Amanda Montgomery

1062 College Street, Lower Suite

Toronto, Ontario M6H 1A9

Tel: (416) 906-7305

Fax: (416) 763-5435

E-mail: kent@elsonadvocacy.ca/amanda@elsonadvocacy.ca

We also request that the above individuals be listed on the participants' list under Environmental Defence.

Address of Environmental Defence

Environmental Defence's full name and address is:

Environmental Defence Canada Inc.

33 Cecil Street, 1st Floor

Toronto, Ontario M5T 1N1

Tel: (416) 323-9521

Fax: (416) 323-9301

However, please send correspondence and any other materials to both Jack Gibbons and to counsel as the authorized representatives.

Service on other Parties

Environmental Defence requests the Board's directions as to whether this letter should be served on any other parties.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if anything further is required.

Yours truly,



Kent Elson