

Case Number

Please enter the case number for the proceeding you are applying for intervenor status in.

EB-2024-0198

1. Intervenor Information

Enter an email address to receive a copy of your completed intervention request form:

i. Name of the Intervenor: Small Business Utility Alliance (SBUA)

Have you filed a Frequent Intervenor Form for the current year with the OEB?

No Yes

ii. Name and contact information of no more than two representatives, to be used for official communication purposes.

Representative #1:

First Name: * Kate

Last Name: *Siemiatycki

Email Address: *kate@elsonadvocacy.ca

Phone Number: *416-906-7305

If there are other individuals to be copied on any official communication, please indicate their name and contact information.

Other Contact #1:

First Name: James

Last Name: Birkelund

Email Address: james@birkelundlaw.com

Phone Number: 415-602-6223

Other Contact #2:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

iii. Mandate and objectives of the intervenor: *

Small Business Utility Alliance (SBUA) represents and promotes the interests of small businesses as utility customers before administrative and regulatory bodies.

SBUA's core objectives are to:

1. Ensure fair and reasonable energy costs for small business ratepayers;
2. Promote programs that help small businesses lower their energy bills, including energy efficiency programs;
3. Promote programs that help small businesses reduce their carbon footprint, including energy efficiency programs;

4. Expand and improve the options for small businesses to participate in clean energy, distributed energy, beneficial electrification, energy efficiency, demand response, and other similar opportunities; and

5. Ensure that utility programs and proposals appropriately account for the unique interests and characteristics of small businesses.

Membership of the intervenor and the constituency represented: *

*Please **do not** provide the names of any individuals. If the intervenor is comprised solely of individuals (for example a group of directly affected landowners) provide a general description of who the members are.*

SBUA is made up of over 50 small business ratepayers from regions across Ontario, including Toronto, Ottawa, Chatham-Kent, Wellington, Muskoka, Brant, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Niagara.

In accordance with SBUA's Constitution, the Alliance directs its advocacy to matters that benefit the community of small business ratepayers as a whole and does not represent the individual interests of any specific member.

The types of programs or activities carried out by the intervenor: *

SBUA conducts outreach and education to small businesses on utility issues and acts as a voice for the unique interests of this ratepayer class in regulatory proceedings (including Enbridge DSM proceeding EB-2021-0002). The Alliance has also engaged in research and volunteer projects with University of Toronto students.

iv. Provide a high-level description of the governance structure of the intervenor and how the intervenor's representatives will report to and receive instructions from the intervenor: *

The organization is directed by a Steering Committee with decision-making authority and guided by advisory members with specialized expertise.

2. OEB Proceedings

Please list all OEB proceedings in which you applied for intervenor status in the last 12 months up to a maximum of 10. For each proceeding, indicate whether you were approved or denied intervenor status.*

Since 2021, SBUA has been approved to intervene in the following proceedings:

- EB-2021-0002
- EB-2022-0028

3. Issues

How are you materially impacted by the proceeding? Where the proceeding has an issues list (including a standard issues list), please identify the specific issues from the issues that you expect will be the subject of your intervention. To the extent that you believe an issue that is relevant to and material in the proceeding is missing from the issues list, please describe it here.*

Small business ratepayers are a critical and underrepresented constituency in the design and review of demand side management planning. As a significant portion of commercial ratepayers, small businesses help fund utility programs and should therefore have a voice in how they are designed and implemented.

Moreover, they have unique needs and concerns that diverge from residential and other commercial class members (high proportion of lease holders, significant competing fiscal priorities, frequent lack of in-house energy expertise, frequent small building form, frequently in residential-style premises, etc.). SBUA can efficiently and effectively bring these perspectives to the DSM proceeding in the areas of program design and investment allocation.

In particular, SBUA's participation will be focused on ensuring that the approved DSM programs provide cost-effective, accessible and equitable programs that help small businesses improve energy efficiency and reduce natural gas consumption. This would include an examination of the hearing issues from a small business perspective, including the following:

- The applicant's proposed commercial program and whether the proposed design and spending optimizes natural gas savings in the most cost-effective way for small business ratepayers;
- The applicant's proposed modifications to the DSM framework;
- The availability of residential offerings for small businesses;
- The applicant's proposed natural gas savings goals and whether they meet the direction provided by the OEB in Decision EB-2021-002;
- The impact of the proposed shareholder incentives on cost-effectiveness for ratepayers;
- The findings of the 2024 Achievable Potential Study and recommended impacts on the DSM plan and framework; and
- The applicant's proposed approach to calculating avoided costs and whether it meets the direction provided by the OEB in Decision EB-2021-0002.

4. Policy Interests

To the extent that you primarily represent a policy interest (as opposed to, for example, ratepayers in a rates proceeding or directly impact landowners in a leave to construct proceeding), please identify the policy interest(s) in question, how they relate to the issues list (where there is an issues list), and why that interest is relevant to and material in the proceeding.*

5. Hearings

The OEB holds written, oral and electronic hearings. If you believe that there is a good reason for having a specific form of hearing, please identify and explain.*

SBUA understands that this proceeding will be guided by the OEB's 'Major Rates Application Procedures' and as such an oral hearing will take place. The Alliance supports this procedure given the high level of complexity and significant number of affected parties likely to participate in the proceeding.

6. Evidence

Do you intend to file evidence in the proceeding? If you are unable to answer this question at this time, please indicate. If you are able to confirm at this time that you intend to file evidence in the proceeding, please provide the following:*

SBUA expects to seek to submit evidence by expert witnesses from the Green Energy Economics Group, who were previously qualified as experts by the OEB in the most recent DSM proceeding (EB-2021-0002) and who are members of the DSM Stakeholder Advisory Group.

SBUA requests an opportunity to provide a detailed evidence proposal at a later date, including a detailed description of the proposed evidence and a cost estimate.

7. Coordination with Other Intervenorors

It is the OEB's expectation that intervenors will make reasonable efforts to coordinate their intervention with any other intervenors with similar interests. To the extent you are able to answer at this time, please describe how you intend to coordinate your intervention with other intervenors with similar interests to avoid duplication of effort.*

The Alliance will coordinate with other intervenors and participants as much as possible to the extent that they share SBUA's objectives. This could include other rate payer groups, as well as policy organizations.

8. Cost Awards

Please indicate if you are applying for cost award eligibility. If you are applying for cost award eligibility, please identify the reasons as to why you believe that you are eligible for an award of costs, addressing the OEB's cost eligibility criteria set out in section 3 of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.*

SBUA intends to apply for recovery of its reasonable costs for participating in this proceeding. SBUA is eligible for such a cost award as it "primarily represents the direct interest of consumers" in accordance with s. 3.03(a) of the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.