

Annual Filing of Frequent Intervenor

Intervenor Name:

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

Mandate and Objectives:

OGVG works to promote and connect its growers with government agencies, consumers, retailers and foodservice operators across North America through various government lobbying events, research, marketing initiatives, trade shows and community activities. OGVG strives to support the Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector and its growers, however possible, to ensure success for today, sustainability for tomorrow, and fresh, nutritious, quality produce for all.

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency Represented:

The Ontario greenhouse vegetable sector is a major contributor to the Ontario economy, generating over \$1.5 billion in farm gate receipts and accounting for approximately 32,000 jobs annually. OGVG, as an organization, represents approximately 170 greenhouse pepper, tomato, and cucumber growers in the province. Given the nature of greenhouse production systems, OGVG members are heavily reliant on energy, particularly natural gas. As much as one third of greenhouse production costs are energy-related and as such rate increases and pricing adjustments serve to threaten the global competitiveness of the sector.

The Ontario greenhouse sector is growing. In its 2022 application to increase the capacity on its Panhandle System Enbridge Gas Inc. noted the continued growth of greenhouse related load on its system, with EGI forecasting that by the winter of 2033/34 over 38% of the total firm demand in the Panhandle System Market will be from greenhouses (EB-2022-0157, Exhibit I.APPrO.6).

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

OGVG is regulated under the Farm Products Marketing Act (the "FPMA"). Under Regulation 417 of the FPMA, OGVG is responsible for licensing all growers, packers and marketers of Ontario greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers. In addition to licensing, OGVG performs a spectrum of services for its members; areas of focus include research, food safety, energy, environment, market performance and marketing. For recent news stories covering OGVG's activities please see:

<https://www.ogvg.com/in-the-news>.

Focus Areas:

Natural Gas – Rates, Natural Gas – Leave to Construct, OEB Consultations – Natural Gas

Governance Structure:

As a member-based organization, a Board of Directors and committees have been put in place to aid in the decision-making process and to ensure the standards of the sector. The Board of Directors also annually reviews, amends as appropriate, and approves the General Regulations for OGVG. Specific to interventions before the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), OGVG's representatives in OEB proceedings take direction from Dr. Robert Petro.

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