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**SENT BY EMAIL**

November 26, 2008

Dear Mr Vegh,

**RE: SON Community Hearing Day – Purpose and Structure**

As you know, SON has requested that a “community Hearing Day” be held in one of the Saugeen Ojibway communities to allow its members to speak to aspects of the IPSP of particular importance to them. We anticipate that we will seek to reschedule this session upon the resumption of the oral evidentiary phase of the IPSP review.

Further to our previous discussions and the Board’s October 2<sup>nd</sup> Order, I am writing to propose a process and structure for a community hearing day that would be effective from SON’s perspective.

**1. Purpose and Scope**

From our perspective, the purpose of the community hearing day is to allow SON members to provide to the Board their perspective on the IPSP and the issues it raises for their territory, rights and interests, and way of life.

We expect that comments will relate primarily to the various projects anticipated and planned for in the IPSP in the area identified by SON as its traditional territory. These comments will be grounded in SON members’ collective experience and understanding respecting their connection to and use of their territory.

We will not seek to present formal or technical evidence at the community hearing relating to the possible impacts of the IPSP or specific energy related projects on SON rights and interests.

SON is not seeking this session to elicit comments respecting the adequacy of OPA’s “enhanced” consultation efforts. SON will adduce such evidence in the normal course through written evidence and a witness panel if it decides it is necessary to do so.

## 2. Format of the Sessions

It is our view that to be successful, the community hearing session must be structured to create an environment that is culturally appropriate and conducive to community participation and engagement. We propose an informal, "open mic" format rather than a formal witness panel format.

We propose that cross-examination of community members by counsel for OPA or intervenors not be allowed. However, questions from the Board panel members would be appropriate and could be used to clarify comments or encourage elaboration.

It is our understanding that the session would be transcribed. It may also be necessary for translation services to be provided to enable some SON community members to speak in their own language. SON representatives will work with OEB staff on resolving these technical matters.

## 3. How comments will inform Board's decision

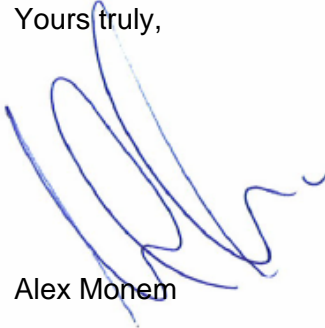
Our position is that comments from the community hearing sessions will provide the Board with an understanding of the perspective of the SON community on aspects of the IPSP that affect their territory. We expect that this perspective will provide useful context for the decisions the Board will make in these proceedings.

We appreciate that comments made during the session will not be subject to written interrogatory or cross-examination. We expect that the Board will take this into consideration in determining the weight to give to this evidence.

We should emphasize that the adequacy of OPA's consultation efforts will not be the subject of the community hearing session. Rather, the session is aimed at allowing SON members to provide their perspective on the IPSP and the issues it raises for their territory, rights and interests, and way of life. That perspective is not in dispute between SON and the OPA in these proceedings.

We look forward to your response, and hope to quickly come to agreement on these issues.

Yours truly,



Alex Monem

cc: Chief Randall Kahgee, Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation  
Chief Ralph Akiwenzie, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation  
David Crocker, Davis LLP  
James Harbell, Stikeman Elliott  
Arthur Pape, Pape Salter Teillet