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March 29, 2010

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Ms. Kirsten Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Intervention and Cost Eligibility Request on behalf of the
Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN)
Board File No. EB-2010-0060
Consultation on Distribution Revenue Decoupling**

Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP (W+SEL) is environmental legal counsel to the Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN).

REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION

In accordance with section 23 of the Ontario Energy Board (“Board”) *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, and in accordance with the Board’s Letter dated March 22, 2010, we hereby request Intervenor status on behalf of LIEN in the above-noted consultation on energy issues relating to low-income consumers.

INTEREST IN PROCEEDING AND GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION

LIEN is an organization of more than 75 member associations from across Ontario, including, energy, public health, legal, tenant/housing, education and social and community organizations. LIEN is directed by a Steering Committee. In addition to the Steering Committee and Members and Supporting Organizations, over 35 individuals have also indicated their support for LIEN.

As an umbrella organization, LIEN offers the opportunity for one entity to represent the similar interests of many organizations that have come together under LIEN. A description of its organization in greater detail can be found on its website (www.lowincomeenergy.ca). LIEN is a well recognized Intervenor in other Board proceedings, including those concerning CDM and DSM.



LIEN's "mission statement" is in itself a statement of LIEN's interest in this proceeding.

"The Low-Income Energy Network:

- ♦ *aims to ensure universal access to adequate, affordable energy as a basic necessity, while minimizing the impacts on health and on the local and global environment of meeting the essential energy conservation needs of all Ontarians, and*
- ♦ *promotes programs and policies which tackle the problems of energy poverty and homelessness, reduce Ontarians' contribution to smog and climate change, and promote a healthy economy through the more efficient use of energy, a transition to renewable sources of energy, education and consumer protection."*

LIEN intends to participate actively and responsibly throughout the proceeding.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

LIEN intends to participate in this consultation and to comment on the issues and PEG Report referenced in the Board's letter dated March 22, 2010.

COSTS

LIEN requests that the Board find it eligible for costs under section 3.03(a) of the Board's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*. LIEN "primarily represents the direct interests of consumers in relation to regulated services", in particular, low-income consumers. LIEN has been accepted as a party eligible for an award of costs in other proceedings before the Board.

As a not-for profit organization, LIEN's participation in this proceeding is dependent on any cost awards it receives. LIEN intends to coordinate its efforts with other intervenors to avoid duplication where possible.

The names of any analysts or consultants that LIEN retains will be forwarded once finalized.

LIEN respectfully requests an early determination by the Board that it is eligible for an award of costs in this proceeding.

CONTACT INFORMATION

LIEN requests that copies of written materials in electronic or other format concerning this proceeding, be sent to:



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Yours truly,

Paul Manning
*Certified as a Specialist in Environmental Law
by the Law Society of Upper Canada*

cc: LIEN

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