January 25, 2012

Ms Kirsten Walli

Board Secretary

Ontario Energy Board

2300 Yonge Street

Suite 2701

Toronto, Ontario

M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Walli:

**Re: East-West Tie Designation Proceeding – EB-2011-0140**

I am the consultant representing the Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”) in the Ontario Energy Board (“Board”) proceeding to designate an electricity transmitter to undertake the development work for the proposed electricity transmission line between Northeast and Northwest Ontario, the East-West Tie Line.

We are in receipt of the Board’s Procedural Order No. 5, dated January 8, 2013. The Board has, through that order, determined a process and schedule for written interrogatories. The Council is mindful of the Board’s intent to establish a process that allows for a complete record to be established in order to ensure a decision in the public interest, while maintaining one that is fair to all applicants. Furthermore, the Board has indicated that it would not be appropriate for applicants to use the interrogatory process to fill in any gaps in their applications after those applications have been filed.

The Council is interested in assessing which transmitter is best suited to undertake the development of the project in the best interest of Ontario ratepayers. We have reviewed the applications. Although the Board intends to allow for two rounds of submissions, the Council is of the view that it would be helpful, early in the process, for the applicants to comment on the relative merits of the alternate proposals. What we would find helpful is if each of the applicants were to answer the following questions:

1. Please explain why your proposal represents the best option for Ontario ratepayers;
2. Please set out why your proposal represents the best option for Ontario ratepayers relative to the other applications;
3. Please identify any deficiencies in the proposals by the other applicants that may undermine their ability to deliver a cost-effective option for Ontario ratepayers; and
4. Please explain from your proponent's perspective how the Board should determine which applicant is best suited to be the designated transmitter.

Yours truly,

JULIE GIRVAN

Consultant to the Consumers Council Canada

Cc: Joan Huzar ,CCC

 All Applicants and intervenors