



RED SKY MÉTIS Independent Nation

406 East Victoria Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7C 1A5
Phone: (807) 623-4635 Fax: (807) 623-9331
rsmin@tbaytel.net www.rsmin.ca

May 9, 2013

Ms. Kirsten Walli
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD
P.O. Box 2319, 27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4P 1E4

EB-2011-0140 East-West Tie Designation Proceeding

Dear Ms. Walli,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the above mentioned Transmitter designation process and for the invitation to attend the oral hearing sessions held in Thunder Bay on May 2nd and 3rd, 2013. Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN) provides the following for your consideration:

1. Designation Preference: RSMIN is not prepared at this time to identify a preferred Transmitter designation for the EWT. Current workloads and time and financial constraints do not provide an opportunity for RSMIN to obtain the pertinent technical expertise and opinion to appropriately inform a recommendation for a specific submission.

RSMIN recommends a weighted eligibility be provided to those submissions inclusive of Aboriginal participation and partnership, in particular for those promoting economic development for Métis and First Nation communities impacted by the EWT.

2. Consultation:

RSMIN received information regarding the East-West Tie Designation proceedings but as of yet, has not been provided with the opportunity to discuss the process in detail with any representatives of the Crown or more specifically, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA). OPA has consulted with RSMIN on a variety of proposals and policy directives but not specifically for the EWT undertaking. It was our understanding that the meetings we held with OPA (as indicated in May 10, 2012 registry documents regarding OPA Consultation Report) were to discuss the 3 year update to the 30 year plan for electricity in Ontario, FIT and other program updates. It was not made clear to RSMIN that the EWT was a focal point of discussion. Our

correspondence indicated that the consultation was to provide updates to the province's integrated Power System Plan (IPSP).

Upon review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Minister of Energy and OPA dated May 9, 2011, it is clear to RSMIN that OPA met the objectives of the directive but certainly did not exceed them with regard to RSMIN.

The majority of information RSMIN obtained regarding the EWT was through media reports, internet searching and links provided via emails received from OPA. We have not engaged in any detailed discussions regarding the EWT. Representatives from AltaLink and TransCanada have met with RSMIN; NextBridge has sent introductory correspondence indicating their interest in the project. Given the potential size and cost of this undertaking, RSMIN would deem consultation to be a high priority. **RSMIN has NOT been adequately consulted.**

RSMIN has worked extremely hard to increase consultation capacity. Part of the increase is related to an awareness of the multiple pieces of legislation and policy that guide activities in our territory. Additionally, as RSMIN does not receive core funding, we rely on volunteer participation from our community members and the technical expertise of government employees. There is a great variance in capacity amongst Aboriginal communities and organizations that RSMIN believes needs to be considered in consultation activities.

With this in mind, RSMIN recommends that the Consultation Plans developed by the Crown or designate of the Crown include determination of capacity and assurance that process and procedure are thoroughly explained and the unique needs of each community are considered.

Projects of this capacity should have a very detailed Consultation Plan. Provision of information by itself does not constitute consultation. RSMIN recommends the designate and transmitter applicants have a thorough understanding of the Ontario document, *Draft Guidelines for Ministries on Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples, June 2006* and the federal document, *Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation; Updated Guidelines for Federal Officials to Fulfill the Duty to Consult* and that the guidance provided in these documents be reflected in their Consultation Plan and consultation activities. RSMIN believes that the consultation activities and the content within consultation plans should be a weighted factor in determining eligibility criteria.

3. Note regarding the oral presentations in Thunder Bay, Ontario on May 2nd & 3rd, 2013: The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) presented to the panel indicating *"I will be speaking on behalf of the regional rights-bearing Métis community whose traditional territory will be crossed and affected by the proposed East West Tie Project ("EWT")."* As we have indicated previously to both the Ministry of Energy and OPA, amongst others, Red Sky Métis Independent Nation is not represented by MNO or any other political organization. RSMIN maintains a very specific membership connected to ancestral beneficiaries of the Robinson Superior Treaty whereas MNO has different membership criteria. Our documented history in northern Ontario spans from the 1600's to present day. It is important to emphasize that no other organization

represents or speaks on behalf of RSMIN nor do we speak on behalf of any Métis who have not self-identified and been verified as members of the RSMIN community.

4. Environmental:

RSMIN is aware that the Environmental Assessment will potentially capture any concerns and issues regarding protecting our environment. We ask that consideration of the designated transmitter take into account the environmental record of the potential candidates and commitments each applicant is prepared to make regarding environmental protection, conservation and restoration. RSMIN believes these values speak not only to the applicants' integrity, but also to their organizational efficiency, technical capability and financial capacity. RSMIN wishes to ensure that these proceedings capture both the cumulative needs and cumulative impacts of this and other projects, ongoing and proposed, for Northern Ontario.

In part, RSMIN environmental concerns relate to the sustainability of hunting and fishing activities and the ability to continue these traditional practices in the proposed and surrounding project area as they relate to our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

5. The Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011: Northern Ontario faces different issues than Southern Ontario that often is not reflected in initiatives within Ontario. RSMIN recommends that weighted consideration be given to submissions that reflect an understanding and the goals contained within the *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011*.

RSMIN commends the Ontario Energy Board for establishing a new process, opening the market to additional providers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 807-623-4635.

Salute et Meegwetch



Donelda DeLaRonde
Executive Director
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation
Indigenous Métis First Families of Upper Canada

Red Sky Métis Independent Nation™ (RSMIN) represents the descendents of the 84 "half-breeds" who were recognized by the Crown as beneficiaries and annuitants under the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, in concurrence with the First Nation peoples. However, RSMIN is distinct from the First Nation peoples, by ways of our traditional lands, traditions, customs, and practices. Our presence in the Great Lakes area precedes the signing of the Robinson-Superior Treaty by over 200 years. Coureurs de Bois, many of mixed French and Indian ancestry, explored and settled along the northern shores in a land deemed uninhabitable and savage. The combined cultures of the voyageur spirit and their Indian wives provided the basis of the Métis culture that exists to this day.
