

November 16, 2016

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, Ont.
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: EB-2016-0276 – Hydro One Networks Inc. MAADs Application to Purchase Orillia Power Distribution Corporation

I am a consultant to the Consumers Council of Canada (“Council”). I have been instructed by my client to intervene in the proceeding to consider the Application to the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB” or “Board”) by Hydro One Networks Inc. to purchase Orillia Power Distribution Corporation. The OEB’s order in this proceeding will ultimately impact the rates that residential consumers pay for the delivery of electricity. The outcome of this application could also impact future applications to the OEB.

On October 17, 2016, the Council filed with the Board pursuant to Rule 22.03 of the Ontario Energy Board’s Rules and Practices and Procedure, a document describing the Council, its mandate and objectives, membership, the constituency represented, and the types of activities the Council carries out. In addition, we provided a list of the individuals authorized to represent the Council in Board proceedings.

The nature and scope of the Council’s intended participation in the proceeding will be:

1. To assess the Application and the impact of the proposed purchase on the residential ratepayers of the two utilities including whether the proposed rates are just and reasonable;
2. To determine whether the application of the OEB’s policies and guidelines regarding mergers and acquisitions is appropriate in this case; and
3. To participate in the various stages of the proceeding which may include an interrogatory process, a technical conference, a settlement conference and an oral hearing.

The Council intends to ask for an order of costs in this proceeding. The Council has participated in many electric utility applications over a long period of time. In all of those proceedings the Council has been recognized as being eligible for an award of costs. In the absence of an award of costs the Council would be unable to participate in this proceeding.

Copies of all correspondence related to this proceeding and hard copies of the Applicant’s evidence should be sent to:

Julie Girvan
62 Hillside Ave. E.

Toronto, ON
M4S 1T5
jgirvan@uniserve.com

Please let us know if any further information from the Council is required at this time.

Yours truly,

Julie E. Girvan

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Cc: Ken Whitehurst, Consumers Council of Canada
Erin Henderson, Hydro One
Michael Engelberg, Hydro One
Mark Rodger, BLG
Grant Hipgrave, Orillia Power Distribution Corporation