

Ontario Energy Board  
P.O. Box 2319, 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4  
Attention: Board Secretary  
E-mail: boardsec@oeb.ca

**January 11, 2018**

**Re: Hydro One Remote Communities Inc Rate Application (EB-2017-0051)**

To whom it may concern:

Poplar Hill First Nation is in the process of transferring local distribution service from our Independent Power Authority (IPA) to Hydro One Remote Communities Inc ("H1RCI"). Through the 22 First Nation Partnership ("FNLP"), our community is an owner in Opiikapawiin Services LP ("OSLP"), which has been mandated by FNLP to assist our community and other FNLP communities with local distribution issues and to prepare them for grid connection under the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project.

OSLP is intervening in H1RCI's current rate application (EB-2017-0051) in order to advance key community issues relevant to H1RCI service. For the benefit of the Board, I would like to highlight several of the key issues with respect to H1RCI service.

- Affordability of electricity.
- Customer Service.
- Reliability of service – interruptions to service have a significant and unique impact to the well-being of our communities.
- The importance of safety, the environment, and supporting local economies.
- Uncertainty created by the complex funding arrangements between H1RCI and INAC
- Standard A should not apply to band managed facilities – OSLP is following up with Ontario and Canada regarding Regulation 442.01 and the provision of government electricity subsidies related to band managed facilities.

The OEB should strongly consider the unique and truly vulnerable circumstances of remote First Nations communities and challenges faced by H1RCI in operating its business. I look forward to monitoring this proceeding through OSLP and hope that these issues will be addressed.

If required and available, I may participate at any in-person hearing to further represent the needs of my community.

Meegwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Strang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chief Jacob Strang  
Poplar Hill First Nation