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January 10, 2019

Ms. Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON
M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli,

**RE: EB-2018-0218 Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie Rate Application
Energy Probe topics for the Technical Conference**

In PO No.3 the OEB asked the that parties intending to participate in the Technical Conference notify Hydro One SSM, with copies to all parties, of the topic areas for questioning by January 10, 2019. The following are the topics for questioning of Energy Probe under the issues set out in the OEB's approved issues list.

Issue B5

Are the parameters of Hydro One SSM's proposed revenue cap plan, and more specifically, the inflation factor with transmission sector-specific weightings, and the proposed base productivity and stretch factors, as supported by Power System Engineering's Total Cost Benchmarking and Total Factor Productivity Study reasonable?

Issue B6

Is the Power System Engineering's sample of comparator utilities for Total Cost Benchmarking and Total Factor Productivity appropriate for Hydro One SSM?

Energy Probe has several questions under these two issues and will use its attached document, "Electricity Power Generation by Canadian Utilities 1950-2017", in support of some of its questions.

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Issue B7

Is Hydro One SSM's proposal to maintain the current approved load forecast and resulting charge determinants for the purposes of setting Uniform Transmission Rates over the entirety of the deferred rebasing period appropriate?

Energy Probe is concerned that the implications of maintaining the current approved load forecast are not clear and has several clarification questions.

Issue C9

Is the level of planned 2019 to 2026 expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning and pacing choices appropriate and adequately explained in the Transmission System Plan? Is Hydro One SSM's asset management process reasonable and has it been adequately supported by its Transmission System Plan?

Energy Probe has several clarification questions regarding the Transmission System Plan.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Energy Probe.

Tom Ladanyi
Consultant to Energy Probe

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