

December 21, 2020

Christine E. Long
Registrar and Board Secretary
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4

Registrar@oeb.ca

**Re: Consultation on the Deferral Account – Impacts Arising from the COVID-19
Emergency – Next Steps
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2020-0133**

Dear Ms. Long:

The Ontario Energy Association (OEA) is writing on behalf of the following member organizations: Alectra Utilities Corporation, Elexicon Energy Inc, Enbridge Gas Inc., Hydro One Networks Inc., Hydro Ottawa Limited, and Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited (collectively, CLD+). We are writing to provide feedback on the proposed next steps set out in the December 17, 2020 letter from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for EB-2020-0133.

We are supportive of this OEB initiative and appreciative of the diligent and significant efforts that OEB staff have made to date to move these issues forward under difficult circumstances.

Timing of Webinar and Reply Comments

The OEB provided for a webinar on January 14, 2021 to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions to London Economics International LLC (LEI) regarding its reports and to OEB staff regarding the Staff Proposal. We believe that time given to the webinar (2.5 hours) is not adequate for the purposes of both allowing LEI and Board staff to present their work in addition to allowing stakeholders sufficient time to ask clarifying questions and engage in discussion.

We would recommend that the webinar take place 9:30 am to 3:30 pm on a date indicated by the OEB. We note that in its June 4, 2020 letter, the OEB had previously scheduled (and subsequently cancelled) a stakeholder meeting beginning July 28, 2020, and continuing July 29, 2020 and July 30, 2020, if necessary, to provide a forum for discussion of the issues in this consultation.

The OEB invited stakeholders to provide written comments on the Staff Proposal by January 25, 2021 and to file reply comments addressing other stakeholders' comments by February 4, 2021, requesting that any such reply comments be kept brief (no more than 5 pages).

Given the number of stakeholders participating in this consultation and scope of materials covered by the research and Staff Proposal, we believe that the deadline for reply



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comments should be extended to February 11, 2021 in the interest of giving participants adequate time to review and efficiently collaborate (if feasible) on reply submissions.

We believe that these recommendations are reasonable and prudent to ensure adequate stakeholder input into the OEB's policy process without hindering the OEB's ability to finalize guidance in the spring 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Brescia", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Vince Brescia
President & CEO