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October 10, 2002

Paul Pudge, Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Mr. Pudge,

**RE: Revised Electronic Business Transaction (EBT) Standards**

This letter is written on behalf of the EBT Standards Advisory Committee to recommend to the Ontario Energy Board (the "Board"), for its consideration and authorization, revised EBT Standards, as described below. At the Committee meeting on September 26, 2002 there was unanimous agreement to recommend to the Board approval of the revised Standards with one abstention.

The proposed implementation of the revised standards is staged in order to give priority to the correction of a significant problem that has arisen in the settlement process among retailers and distributors. The solution to this problem that the industry has developed is a long-term solution and largely involves a revision to the Invoice Settlement Detail (ISD) EBT. This is identified as Global Issue 686 on the Master Issues List. The attached diagram provides more detail but the key milestones are: by December 9, 2002 all retailers and the Hubs will support both the existing ISD and the new one and associated changes, to be identified as "version 2.1(a)" of the Standards; and, by April 7, 2003 all trading partners will be using the new ISD and the will have moved to "version 2.2" of the Standards. The remaining changes to the Standards, which are mainly of a minor nature, will be phased in to complement the new ISD implementation. The Committee asks the Board to agree to have the precise dates determined by the EBT Working Group and made public on the Board's website, as appropriate. The intention is to set an annual cycle during which any Standards revisions would occur and to fit the implementation of the current recommended changes into such a cycle. Finally, the Board is asked to set an implementation deadline of November 30, 2002 for the measures described in the four emergency Bulletins that were previously approved on a "best-efforts" basis.

The Standards consist of the following components: the text describing the standards, including transactions diagrams (the original standards document, authorized in June 2000); the XML Schemas that prescribe the format for the transactions; the Implementation Guides (IGs) for each transaction; several Protocols which set out the technical requirements for secure transfer of data by EBT; addenda to the EBT Standards text which reflect the revisions and resolutions in the Issues List; and, four emergency Bulletins. The revisions for which authorization is now sought are: revised schema and IGs for the Invoice Settlement Detail and Simple Types EBTs; a new addendum (#4) consisting of a consensus document produced by the Working Group which outlines the proposed solution to Global Issue 686; and, minor ancillary changes.

The EBT Advisory Committee recommends that, following authorization, the Board post the this letter and the revisions pertinent to the implementation of the revised ISD on the Board's website. The implementation schedule for the other Standards changes and the implemented revisions will be posted on the advice of the EBT Working Group.

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson  
Chair  
EBT Standards Advisory Committee

Attach.