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**BY FAX ONLY**

December 9, 2003

**TO: ALL PARTIES TO PROCEEDING RP-2003-0044**

Dear Sir or Madam:

**RE: Combined Distribution Service Area Amendments Proceeding  
Board File No. RP-2003-0044**

On October 27, 2003, the Ontario Energy Board issued Procedural Order No. 7 in the RP-2003-0044 proceeding. This procedural order provided for the delivery of final oral submissions to the Board on the principles that should guide the Board in determining service area amendment applications. The Board subsequently received motions from Hydro One Networks Inc., Toronto Hydro-Electric System Ltd. and the LDC Coalition seeking a variance or cancellation of Procedural Order No. 7. By Procedural Order No. 8, the Board suspended the dates for argument set out in Procedural Order No. 7, and made provision for the hearing of the motions.

On November 13, 2003, the Board heard the motions and granted them in part. In its ruling, the Board indicated that the oral proceeding would reconvene on December 15, 2003 for the oral testimony of four expert witness panels. The Board, through this letter, hopes to provide some guidance to parties as to its expectations for the remainder of the proceeding. In doing so, the Board reiterates its intention to avoid any unnecessary delay in the completion of the proceeding.

The Board expects that the examination of all the expert witnesses will be completed on or before December 18, 2003. The Board asks that parties streamline their cross-examinations and avoid duplication in their questions to these witnesses. As soon as the testimony of the experts is completed, and no later than December 19, the Board expects to begin to receive oral submissions from the parties on the principles that should guide the Board in determining service area amendment applications. The Board is available to hear those submissions on December 19, 22 and 23, 2003.

The Board reconfirms the procedure established in Procedural Order No. 7 for the delivery of oral submissions. The list of active parties attached to that Procedural Order has been updated to recognize two new intervenors. Both the procedural order and the list of parties are attached to this letter. If you are not on the list and wish to make submissions, please contact the Assistant Secretary immediately.

The Board is available to hear the applications of individual service area amendment applicants from January 8 to January 16, 2004. Applicants are invited to contact our counsel, Jennifer Lea, to

establish a hearing date. Hearing dates outside that time frame will depend on Board panel availability.

Yours truly,

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Paul B. Pudge  
Assistant Secretary

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Encl.

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Contact telephone numbers:  
Paul Pudge, Assistant Secretary, 416-440-7607  
Jennifer Lea, Counsel, 416-440-7631

**LIST OF PARTIES**

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**APPLICANTS**

15

Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd.

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Veridian Connections Inc.

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The South-Western Utilities (ENWIN Powerlines Ltd., Erie Thames Powerlines Corporation, Essex Powerlines Corporation)

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Cooperative Hydro Embrun Inc.

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Hydro One Networks Inc.

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**INTERVENORS**

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Chatham-Kent Hydro Inc.

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Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited

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Power Workers' Union

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Wirebury Connections Inc.

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The LDC Coalition (Hamilton Hydro, Hydro Ottawa, Brantford Power, Hydro Vaughan, Markham Hydro)

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Canadian Niagara Power Inc.

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Great Lakes Power Limited

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Westario Power Inc.

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Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition

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Electricity Distributors Association

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