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VIA RESS PORTAL

July 17, 2013

Ms. Kristen Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27th Floor
Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

Re: Proposal to Amend the Licence of the Ontario Power Authority
Board File No.: EB-2013-0192

And

Re: Submissions on Behalf of Northwestern Ontario Associated
Chambers of Commerce Supported by The City of Thunder Bay
and Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
Our File No.: 57695

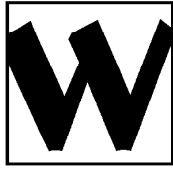
Representation

This letter-form submission is made in response to the Notice issued by the Ontario Energy Board ("Board") June 3, 2013 (the "Notice") initiating a proceeding to amend the licence of the Ontario Power Authority ("OPA"). The Notice included, and invited submissions related to, The Board's proposed amendments to the OPA licence. The amendments at issue are intended to address the OPA's obligations in the regional planning process in Ontario.

Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC), represented by Weiler, Maloney, Nelson in this instance, wishes to file submissions on their own behalf, and in doing so have the support of both the

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City of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA).

1. The OPA’s Obligations in the Regional Planning Process

The first of the Board’s questions in this proceeding is whether the amendments, as proposed, “reflect the OPA’s obligations in the regional planning process” appropriately.

NOACC submits that while the proposed amendments are appropriate with respect to the development of a Regional Infrastructure Plan (RIP) they do not deal adequately with the development of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP). With respect to the requirements related to development of an IRRP the proposed amendments are largely silent.

The interpretation section “X.1” of the proposed amendments, for example, specifically identifies a process, and the criteria for the process, for the development of a Regional Infrastructure Plan but the process for the development of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan is stated without criteria that the process is to be “in accordance with”.

- a. The process related to the planning of a Regional Infrastructure Plan is specified in the interpretation section of the proposed amendments:

“‘regional infrastructure planning process’ means a planning process led by the lead transmitter in accordance with section 3C of the Transmission System Code for the purpose of preparing a Regional Infrastructure Plan for a region;”

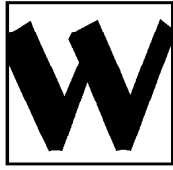
NOACC respectfully submits that the proposed definition of the process for preparation of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan be amended to include criteria for the conduct of the of the process:

“‘integrated regional resource planning process’ means a planning process led by the Licensee in accordance with _____ for the purpose of preparing an Integrated Regional Resource Plan for a region;.”

Content to be inserted into the blank in this framework would be specific criteria that the planning process would need to be in accordance with.

- b. The criteria for an IRRP planning process should include not only involvement of the licensed transmitter(s), licensed distributor(s) and the Licensee but also should address the fact that the definition of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan requires that an IRRP:

“... identifies the appropriate mix of investments in one or more of conservation, generation, transmission facilities or distribution facilities in order to address the electricity needs of a region in the near-, mid-, and long-term.”



c. NOACC respectfully suggests that the definition of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan itself should specify the criteria to be incorporated into the planning process. The criteria that the IRRP planning process should be “in accordance with”, therefore, ought to include involvement of:

- Generators, which the definition of an IRRP identifies as one entity in the “mix of investments” to be considered, and
- customers and other stakeholders whose involvement would seem prerequisite if the an IRRP, as the definition of it requires, is to “address the electricity needs of a region in the near-, mid-, and long term”.

2. The Definition Itself of, “regional planning”

Given the absence in the interpretation section X.1 of the proposed amendments of specific criteria that the IRRP planning process must be “in accordance with” the resulting definition of “regional planning” is correspondingly deficient. The definition of regional planning mandates,

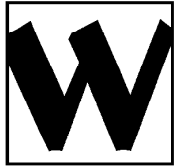
“ ... involving licensed transmitter(s), licensed distributor(s), and the Licensee for the purpose of determining whether a Regional Infrastructure Plan and/or an Integrated Regional Resource Plan is required for a region ...”

In short, there is nothing in the proposed amendments that would necessarily warrant the development of an Integrated Regional Resource Plan, except at the instance of the Licensee itself. Section X.2.1 of the proposed amendments mandates consultation with licensed transmitters and licensed distributors but with no definition as to what the IRRP planning process is to incorporate the Licensee is left with no direction and no criteria upon which “involving” the licensed transmitter(s) and the licensed distributor(s), or any other person for that matter, is to take place.

NOACC respectfully suggests that the consultation mandate in section X.2.1 be clarified to specify a specific obligation to initiate regional planning. The following amendments to the text might be useful:

X.2.1 The Licensee shall, in consultation with licensed transmitters and licensed distributors in a region, carry out its regional planning obligations. The Licensee shall solicit the advice and direction of the lead transmitter as to whether regional planning is necessary and specifically whether an integrated regional resource planning process is required.

Without such revision to the proposed amendments the Licensee has no specific direction or criteria on which it is required to take any steps at all towards the development of an IRRP for any region.



NOACC respectfully suggests that, in addition to specific criteria, set out in the IRRP planning process that the process must be “in accordance with”, the amendments to the OPA licence also be expanded to include a more comprehensive definition of “regional planning”. A more comprehensive definition of regional planning should ensure that the OPA is not left entirely at its own discretion in deciding whether or not an Integrated Regional Resource Plan is ever to be developed for any region.

NOACC submits that the definition of “regional planning” be expanded with components that include:

- a. “involving” generators, customers and other stakeholders in the planning process, and
- b. reference to reasonable timetable for production of both a Regional Infrastructure Plan and an Integrated Regional Resource Plan.

In this last-mentioned component NOACC supports fully the suggestions submitted on behalf of the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters dated July 17, 2013.

3. Costs

NOACC requests that it be awarded costs of participating in this proceeding.

Yours very truly,

WEILER, MALONEY, NELSON

Per:

John A. Cyr

JAC/dl