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By electronic filing

November 17, 2011

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street
27th floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms Walli

**Renewed Regulatory Framework for Electricity
Establishment, Implementation and Promotion of a Smart Grid in Ontario
Board File No.: EB-2011-0004
Our File No.: 339583-000098**

We are writing on behalf of our client, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (“CME”), to seek cost award eligibility for the “Smart Grid” segment of the five (5) core initiatives that form the subject matter of this Consultative. The docket number for the “Smart Grid” initiative is EB-2011-0004.

Because of our preoccupation with other matters, we had overlooked, until today, that CME had previously failed to request cost award eligibility in the EB-2011-0004 proceeding. CME has been accorded cost award eligibility in each of the other four (4) initiatives that form the subject matter of this Consultative. CME should be awarded cost award eligibility for the “Smart Grid” segment of this proceeding for the same reasons that it was accorded cost award eligibility in the other four (4) segments. The request for eligibility, its rationale and CME’s contacts are described below.

Request for Cost Award Eligibility

CME seeks a determination that it is eligible for a Cost Award on the following grounds:

1. CME is a not-for-profit organization funded by membership fees and revenues from the services it renders to Federal and Provincial Governments and Agencies to foster the development of national and international markets for its members and to break down trade barriers.
2. About 85% of CME’s 1,500 Ontario-based member companies are Small to Medium sized business Enterprises (“SMEs”) with 500 employees or less. The views of these businesses should be considered in this proceeding.
3. CME’s ability to actively participate in this proceeding is dependent upon a determination that it is eligible for a Cost Award. In many prior proceedings, the Board has determined that CME is eligible for a Cost Award.

CME Contacts

If the relief requested in this letter is granted, then CME requests that further communications with respect to this matter be sent to the following:

Paul Clipsham
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Explanation for Lateness of this Cost Award Eligibility Request

We apologize for failing to submit this request for cost award eligibility by the November 14, 2011 deadline referenced in Attachment B to the Board's letter dated November 8, 2011. Until today, we had been proceeding on a mistaken assumption that CME had already been accorded cost award eligibility all five (5) of the initiatives that form the subject matter of this Consultation.

We respectfully submit that no one will be prejudiced by the lateness of this request by CME for cost award eligibility since all licensed electricity distributors and transmitters have until Monday, November 21, 2011, to submit any objections that they may have to CME's request.

For these reasons, we ask the Board to excuse our failure to make this cost award eligibility request by November 14, 2011.

Proposed Extension of Deadline for Requesting Cost Award Eligibility for an Expert

The Board's November 8, 2011 letter allows eligible participants to seek cost award eligibility for the costs of an expert to prepare a separate report for consideration by the Board in this coordinated Consultation.

We respectfully request that the deadline for eligible participants to determine whether or not to retain an expert be extended to a date following the completion of the two-day Information Session that will commence on December 8, 2011.

We have not yet had an opportunity to fully digest all of the Staff Discussion Papers and related materials posted on the Board's website with respect to the contents of those Discussion Papers. Nor have we had an opportunity to discuss these materials with other stakeholders who share interests similar

to those of CME. Accordingly, we are not yet in a position to determine whether our client, as part of a group of eligible participants, plans to retain an expert.

We suggest that most ratepayer representative participants in the process are unlikely to be in a position to determine whether they should retain an expert until the two-day Information Session has concluded. CME expects that the Information Session will provide ratepayer representatives with a better appreciation of the points raised in the Staff Discussion Papers during the course of the two-day Information Session to be held in December 2011. At that point, they should be able to make an informed decision as to whether they should retain an expert to provide a separate report for the Board's consideration.

Please contact me if the Board requires any further information pertaining to the requests contained in this letter.

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C.P. Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter C.P. Thompson, Q.C.

PCT\slc

c. Paul Clipsham

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