



The Public Utilities Board
400 – 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0C4
T 204-945-2638 / 1-866-854-3698
F 204-945-2643
Email : publicutilities@gov.mb.ca
Website : www.pub.gov.mb.ca



Régie des services publics
330, avenue Portage, pièce 400
Winnipeg (Manitoba) Canada R3C 0C4
Tél. 204-945-2638 / 1-866-854-3698
Télé. 204-945-2643
Courriel : publicutilities@gov.mb.ca
Site Web: www.pub.gov.mb.ca

February 5, 2014

Myers Weinberg LLP.
Suite 724 Cargill Building,
240 Graham Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0J7

Att: Ms. Jessica Saunders

Re: Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) NFAT Intervention
Whitfield Russell, Senior Legal Counsel and
Deadline to File MMF Evidence

The Public Utilities Board (PUB) is in receipt of MMF's January 30, 2014 correspondence which includes requests:

- To increase the approved MMF budget for further funding of Whitfield Russell Associates (WRA);
- To increase the approved MMK budget to facilitate the involvement of senior legal counsel ; and
- To extend the deadline for the filing of MMF's consultants' reports.

MMF has explained how it initially underestimated the scope of work and budget that would be required for its consultant, WRA. Likewise, MMF may have underestimated the volume of work for legal counsel and the requirement of assistance from senior counsel. Lastly, the deadline to file the MMF evidence cannot be met, partly due to the extensions afforded Manitoba Hydro in the filing of its materials, and therefore time extensions are sought for MMF's consultants.

Manitoba Hydro, in its February 3, 2014 letter, provided a submission in response to MMF's requests. Manitoba Hydro set out several concerns with respect to the expanded budget for Whitfield Russell and did not make any further submissions with respect to the budget for senior legal counsel. With respect to the requested deadline extension, Manitoba Hydro suggested that any extension should be for additional days, not additional weeks.

...2

In respect of the funding request for WRA fees, the revised budget request totals \$273,750. Of that amount, \$50,662.00 has previously been approved by the PUB. MMF should be aware that the Board does not approve hourly fees for Intervener Consultants in excess of the maximum PUB Tariff. That said, the PUB recognizes additional funds are required for MMF to complete its Intervention and will increase the total WRA budget by a further \$100,000 to a total of \$150,662.00

In respect of the funding request for an additional 230 hours by senior legal counsel, to assist junior counsel, the Board will increase the approved MMF budget as requested by MMF.

In respect of the timeline extensions sought by MMF, in which to file the MMF evidence and reports, the Board will approve the deadlines as requested by MMF.

Yours truly,

"Original Signed By:"
Kurt Simonsen, P.Eng
Associate Secretary

cc Legal Counsel to MH, Interveners, IECs and PUB