



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](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)  
Website : [www.pub.gov.mb.ca](http://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](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)  
Site Web : [www.pub.gov.mb.ca](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca)

January 16, 2015

ATTENTION: Interveners of Past Record (2012/13 & 2013/14 General Rate Application)  
and the Needs For and Alternatives To Proceedings

## **RE: Manitoba Hydro's 2015/16 and 2016/17 General Rate Application**

---

### **Background**

On January 16, 2015, Manitoba Hydro filed a Letter of Application and draft Timetable in respect of its 2014/15; 2015/16 and 2016/17 General Rate Application (GRA). A copy of that correspondence is attached.

In the Letter of Application, Manitoba Hydro indicates its intention to file Supporting Materials by January 23, 2015. Electronic copies are to be posted to the Manitoba Hydro Electric Regulatory Filings website. Manitoba Hydro is to maintain and regularly update this website with a fully searchable version of its GRA and Supporting Materials.

Should any Past Interveners require paper copies of Manitoba Hydro's GRA and Supporting Materials, please immediately notify Manitoba Hydro. Likewise, if paper copies are to be provided to Past Interveners' consultants, please make the required arrangements with Manitoba Hydro.

### **Intervener Responsibilities**

The Board requests Past Interveners immediately collaborate and review Manitoba Hydro's Letter of Application, as well as the Supporting Materials when filed, so as to determine which issues will be reviewed and tested by Interveners should they be granted status at the Pre-Hearing Conference. In addition to the issues contained in Manitoba Hydro's GRA, Interveners are expected to identify which additional issues will be addressed by the Parties in their written Intervener Application Forms. Interveners should be prepared to discuss these issues at the Pre Hearing Conference. The Board, in its Procedural Order following the Pre Hearing Conference, intends to identify the additional issues within the scope of the GRA.

...2

Where more than one Intervener identifies the same issue to be addressed and tested in the GRA, the Board expects Interveners to work collaboratively with one Intervener being identified as primarily responsible for that issue in terms of Information Requests, expert evidence, cross examination and closing submissions.

All Intervener Applications should therefore include specific issues to be addressed by Interveners and their proposed budgets.

### **Application Overview Workshop Hosted by Manitoba Hydro – January 29, 2015**

The Board also notes, according to the attached draft Timetable, that Manitoba Hydro is planning on hosting an “Application Overview Workshop” on January 29, 2015. The Board expects prospective Interveners will attend, having familiarized themselves and their consultants with the content of the GRA materials.

In addition to the purposes of the workshop outlined in MH’s Letter of Application, the Board expects the “Application Overview Workshop” will be used to identify which issues are acknowledged by the Parties to be within the scope of the GRA and, equally as important, identify which issues are acknowledged by the Parties to be out of scope for the GRA. Disagreements as to scope should be noted and explained in the *Applications for Intervener Status* that are to be filed with the Board and Manitoba Hydro by February 3, 2015, prior to the Pre Hearing Conference. The Board intends to hear from the Parties at the Pre Hearing Conference and decide which issues are in or out of the scope of the GRA in the Board’s Procedural Order following the Pre Hearing Conference.

### **Minimum Filing Requirements**

The Board requested its Advisors to prepare and provide Manitoba Hydro with a list of ‘Minimum Filing Requirements’ (MFRs). A copy of those MFRs is attached. The MFRs were to identify information that should be included in Manitoba Hydro’s GRA filings, with a corresponding benefit of reducing Information Requests of Manitoba Hydro. The Board recognizes that timing may not have allowed Manitoba Hydro to incorporate all of the MFRs into the current GRA, however the process has been started.

Following the pending GRA, the Board is interested in each Intervener developing its own list of suggested MFRs, such that they can be considered, and where appropriate, included in Manitoba Hydro’s next Application. Parties’ comments in respect of the MFR process are invited by the Board.

## **Pre-Hearing Conference – February 5, 2015 at 9:30am**

The traditional purposes of the Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) include identifying Interveners, seeking collaborative efforts by Interveners on common issues, finalizing a Timetable and scheduling an oral public hearing.

Prior to attending the PHC for this Manitoba Hydro GRA, the Board expects (and will seek confirmation from Interveners) that they have reviewed prior PUB Orders for core issues identified by the PUB for this hearing, as well as met with other prospective Interveners prior to the PHC for the purpose of identifying core hearing issues; issues of common interest as well as issues on which there are divergent views; and preparing proposals to be advanced at the PHC for efficiently presenting evidence and cross examinations.

Prior to the PHC, the Parties will have had an opportunity to meet at the Manitoba Hydro 'Overview Workshop', through which process Manitoba Hydro is to develop a List of Issues that are, by consensus, included in the GRA as well as a separate List of Issues where there is disagreement as to whether or not such issues are within scope. Manitoba Hydro is to circulate the lists of issues by February 3, 2015 to all parties. Parties can speak to the disputed issues at the PHC and expect adjudication by the Board in its Procedural Order following the PHC.

Any Party proposing an alternative Timetable to the one proposed by Manitoba Hydro should provide copies to all Parties by February 3, 2015 prior to the PHC and address the matter at the PHC.

For purposes of planning the oral public hearing, all Parties at the PHC will be asked to estimate their hearing time required for direct evidence, cross examinations and closing submissions.

### **Information Request (IR) Format**

In an effort to make all IRs electronically searchable and to provide rationale for the question (or the refusal to fully answer the question - as the case may be), the Board is interested in developing a standardized format for IRs. A working draft format is attached for your review and comments at the Pre Hearing Conference.

Should a dispute arise in respect to answering an IR, the Board intends to adjudicate the dispute, based on the written information provided on the IR form as well as any Reply by the Intervener.

When Manitoba Hydro determines it will not be fully answering an IR, it is to immediately provide its IR Response, including the rationale for the incomplete answer, to the Board and all Parties rather than waiting for the 'Due Date' on the Timetable. This will allow for an Intervener Reply and the Board to adjudicate the matter in a timely basis. Should this process be delayed, the hearing dates may also be delayed.

## **April 1, 2015 Interim Rate Increase Request by Manitoba Hydro**

The attached materials from Manitoba Hydro include a proposed process for an April 1, 2015 Interim Electricity Rate Increase. All Parties applying for Intervener Status should discuss this matter with Manitoba Hydro at the 'Application Overview Workshop' and be prepared to provide submissions to the Board, at the Pre Hearing Conference, as to the process for considering Manitoba Hydro's April 1, 2015 Interim Rate Increase.

### **Other Matters**

Should any Party have additional matters to be addressed at this time, please contact the Board. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in implementing improvements in the regulatory process.

Your truly,

*"Original Signed By:"*

Kurt Simonsen  
Associate Secretary

### Attachments:

1. January 6, 2015 Manitoba Hydro Letter of Application and Timetable
2. PUB Minimum Filing Requirements
3. Draft Information Request Format

c.c. Odette Fernandes, Manitoba Hydro  
Greg Barnlund, Manitoba Hydro  
Darren Christle, PUB Secretary/Executive Director  
Bob Peters, Board Counsel  
Roger Cathcart, Board Advisor  
Larry Buhr, Board Advisor