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February 4, 2015

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD OF MANITOBA
400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0C4

ATTENTION: Mr. D. Christle, Board Secretary and Executive Director

Dear Mr. Christle:

RE: Manitoba Hydro 2015/16 & 2016/17 General Rate Application – Pre-hearing Conference

On and after the close of business on February 3, 2015, Manitoba Hydro received Intervenor Request forms from the following parties:

- City of Winnipeg (“CW”);
- Consumers Association of Canada/Winnipeg Harvest (“CAC”);
- Green Action Centre (“GAC”);
- Manitoba Industrial Power Users Group (“MIPUG”); and,
- Manitoba Metis Federation (“MMF”).

As the Public Utilities Board (“PUB”) is aware, the Pre-Hearing Conference with respect to the 2015/16 & 2016/17 Electric General Rate Application (“GRA”) was scheduled to commence at 9:30 am on February 5, 2015, leaving Manitoba Hydro with only one business day to consider the extensive submissions.

Upon Manitoba Hydro’s quick review of the intervenor submissions, it is obvious that there are significant disparities between the intervenors and Manitoba Hydro with respect to the scope and participation of parties for the upcoming regulatory process. In making this assessment, Manitoba Hydro has referenced the 2012/13 & 2013/14 Electric GRA as a reasonable comparator for the expected scope and length of the current GRA proceeding. In this regard, Manitoba Hydro notes that the cumulative budgeted costs for all intervenors, as outlined in their Intervenor Request Forms, is approximately \$1.1 million, compared to approximately \$440,000 from the last Electric GRA, almost a threefold increase. Manitoba Hydro further notes that there are between 12-14 expert witnesses identified by intervenors that would participate in the process, including placeholders for those not yet identified,

which is approximately double the number of expert witnesses that were retained as part of the last Electric GRA. The implications of the proposed interventions are such that the required public hearing time for the review of the current GRA could be as much as double the approximate 21 days that were spent on the previous Electric GRA.

Manitoba Hydro's understanding of the PUB's direction in its January 16, 2015 letter was that there would be a concerted effort by all parties to agree upon the scope of the proceeding with a view to having the public hearing completed by June 2015. Manitoba Hydro submits that if the PUB were to accept the totality of the intervention of the parties as proposed, the timetable as currently contemplated would be deficient and unachievable.

The intervenor submissions received contained a number of significant and extensive comments with respect to jurisdictional issues. For example, CAC has provided a 10-page submission, which includes several references to various legislation and other legal arguments in support of its position for an expanded scope to the hearing. Under these circumstances, Manitoba Hydro has not had sufficient time to fully consider these submissions and respectfully requests a short adjournment of the Pre-Hearing Conference. This will allow Manitoba Hydro a fair opportunity to provide a formal written response to the intervenor submissions for the PUB and all other parties to consider prior to the Pre-Hearing Conference date. This approach, in Manitoba Hydro's view, will lead to a more efficient Pre-Hearing Conference for the PUB and all parties.

Due to the fact that the Pre-Hearing Conference is currently scheduled to begin tomorrow morning, Manitoba Hydro requests that the PUB provide its direction, and notice to all parties, as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions with respect to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the writer at 204-360-3257.

Yours truly,

MANITOBA HYDRO LAW DIVISION

Per:



BRENT A. CZARNECKI
Barrister & Solicitor