

January 5, 2018

To: Consumers Coalition:

Re: Public Presentations – Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application 2017/18 & 2018/19

On December 22, 2017, the Consumers Coalition wrote to the Public Utilities Board (“Board”) seeking to extend, from December 8, 2017 to January 22, 2018, the deadline for members of the public to register as an oral presenter in the Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application (“GRA”) proceeding and for the Board to schedule an evening or weekend public presentation session to hear from additional members of the public, should there be any.

The Board has considered the requests of the Consumers Coalition and it has determined that the deadline for registration as a presenter will not be extended. However, the Board is prepared to schedule an evening public presentation session should any currently registered presenter require this scheduling accommodation.

The Board encourages participation by members of the public. As indicated in the Consumers Coalition’s letter, the Board has introduced new processes to facilitate public awareness and participation in the GRA, including the opportunity to participate as an Intervener, to provide comments on the Board’s website (through which the Board has received over 2,300 comments), livestreaming of the hearing, and providing public notice in bill inserts.

Following filing of Manitoba Hydro’s Letter of Application on May 5, 2017, the Board issued public notice of the Application on its website on May 9, 2017. The public notice was also published in sixty news publications across the province, per the list attached as Appendix “A”, beginning on May 13, 2017. This notice was provided as a bill insert and included in all of Manitoba Hydro’s customers’ bills. This notice included information about how members of the public could participate in the process, including through registering to give an oral presentation or as an Intervener, and directed the public to the Board’s website for more information. This information remained on the Board’s website throughout the months leading up to the commencement of the oral hearing. It was

following the public notice that, on June 5, 2017, the Consumers Coalition applied for Intervener status in the GRA process

On November 29, 2017, the Board issued and posted on its website a news release, advising the public that the oral hearing into the Application would start on December 4, 2017. The news release included information as to how members of the public could participate in the oral hearing, including through registering to make an oral presentation. The news release set out the December 8, 2017 deadline to apply as a presenter. There was therefore a seven-month window between the public notice and the deadline.

When an individual or group applies to the Board to provide an oral presentation, Board staff provides information about the hearing process, schedules a date and time for the presentation, and canvasses options to facilitate the presentation, including options to present by video-link or provide a written presentation. Prior to the December 8, 2017 deadline, the Board received a number of requests from members of the public to make a presentation to the Board, and there are more than thirty presentations scheduled in addition to the ratepayer panel that the Consumers Coalition is presenting with the approval of the Board. The current hearing schedule includes public presentation sessions on January 5, January 18, and if necessary the evening of February 1, 2018.

Pursuant to *The Public Utilities Board Act* and the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Board has the power to control its process. This is a complex process, involving multiple parties and a number of witnesses and witness panels. The December 8, 2017 deadline to register as a presenter was set to ensure that all presenters who registered with the Board could be scheduled to give an oral presentation within the time allotted for the hearing of the Application.

The December 8, 2017 deadline to register was issued publicly and was known, including by the Consumers Coalition. As such, and given the significant efforts of the Board to inform members of the public as to the opportunity to present over a seven-month period of time, and the limited board resources to now schedule additional presentation time, the Consumer Coalition's request to extend the deadline for registration to give an oral presentation is denied. However, should any member of the public who has not registered with the Board still wish to provide their views, the Board will accept as evidence written presentations that are properly certified in the form set out in Appendix "B" to this letter, subject to any evidentiary rulings as to admissibility. Written presentations will be accepted by the Board until February 1, 2018, as February 2, 2018 is scheduled for hearing any rebuttal evidence requested by Manitoba Hydro and final argument will then proceed beginning on February 5, 2018. The Board is also prepared to accept comments on its web site, but these will not be considered as evidence before the Board.

As indicated above, the Board is also prepared to schedule an evening public presentation session on February 1, 2018, should any currently registered presenter require such accommodation.

Should any party have questions of clarification, please contact our office.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of The Public Utilities Board Act, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules"). The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Christle". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Darren Christle, *MPA, B.A., CCLP, P.Log., MCIT*
(*Ph.D. Candidate*)

DC/mo

Cc: Manitoba Hydro
Approved Interveners (as per attached list)
Board Counsel

Appendix "A"

**LIST OF NEWSPAPERS
ELECTRIC APPLICATION PUBLIC NOTICE**

DAILY NEWSPAPERS:

Winnipeg Free Press
Winnipeg Sun
Brandon Sun
Metro News

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:

La Liberte (Frenth)
Canstar Weeklies (5 papers)
-Metro, Lance, Times, Herald & Sou'Wester
Portage Graphic
Snow Lake Underground Press
Winnipeg River Advocate
Thompson Citizen
Thompson Nickel Belt News
Shilo Stag

ABORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS:

Grassroots News

M.C.N.A. (43 Members):

Altona R.R. Valley Echo
Carman Valley Leader Central Plains Herald Leader
Interlake Spectator
Morden Times
Selkirk Journal
Stonewall Argus Teulon Times
Winkler Times
Boissevain Recorder
Carberry News Express
Cartwright So. MB Review
Dauphin Herald
Emerson Southeast Journal
Erickson South Mountain Press
Baldur Glenboro Gazette
Beausejour Clipper
Manitou Western Canadian
Minnedosa Tribune
Neepawa Banner
Pilot Mound Sentinel Courier
Rivers Banner
Roblin Review

Flin Flon Reminder
Grandview Exponent
Russell Banner
Killarney Guide
Shoal Lake Crossroads This Week
Swan River Star & Times
The Pas Opasquia Times
Treherne Times
Brandon Westman Journal
Deloraine Times & Star
Melita New Era
Neepawa Press
Reston Recorder
Souris Plaindealer
Virden Empire Advance
Steinbach Carillon News
Headingley Headliner
Interlake Enterprise News
Selkirk Record
Stonewall Teulon Tribune
Winkler Morden Voice

Appendix "B"
Certification Form for Written Presentations

I, _____, do hereby certify that the evidence, information and documentation filed as a written presentation in Manitoba Hydro's 2017/18 & 2018/19 General Rate Application is true.

(Signature)