## Aiken & Associates

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July 25, 2008

Ms. Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street 27<sup>th</sup> Floor Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

## Re: EB-2007-0673 – LPMA Notice of Intention to Participate

As per the Board's July 15, 2008 letter, I will be making a presentation at the upcoming stakeholder conference on the issue of the incremental capital module.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

Sincerely, li

Randy Aiken Aiken & Associates

## WHAT IS AN APPROPRIATE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO DEPRECIATION THRESHOLD VALUE TO DETERMINE <u>MATERIALITY?</u>

THE APPROVED BASE YEAR REVENUE REQUIREMENT COVERS OM&A RELATED COSTS AND RATE BASE RELATED COSTS (DEPRECIATION, INTEREST ON DEBT, RETURN ON EQUITY, TAXES).

THE REVENUE GENERATED UNDER A PRICE CAP PLAN IS EQUAL TO THE APPROVED REVENUE REQUIREMENT, ADJUSTED FOR THE PRICE CAP INDEX AND LOAD GROWTH.

ON AVERAGE, IF OM&A EXPENSES ARE MANAGED BASED ON THE PRICE CAP (INFLATION – PRODUCTIVITY – STRETCH) AND LOAD GROWTH, THEN THE REVENUE GENERATED UNDER A PRICE CAP WILL COVER RATE BASE RELATED COSTS THAT ALSO REFLECT THE PRICE CAP AND LOAD GROWTH.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING APPROACH WHERE:

- RB = RATE BASE INCLUDED IN RATES
- RB<sub>F</sub> = RATE BASE THAT CAN BE FINANCED BY INCREASE IN REVENUES DUE TO THE PRICE CAP FORMULA AND LOAD GROWTH
- RB<sub>R</sub> = RATE BASE THAT RESULTS FROM CAPEX
- P = PRICE CAP INDEX (INFLATION LESS PRODUCTIVITY LESS STRETCH FACTOR)
- G = REVENUE CHANGE BASED ON LOAD GROWTH
- CAPEX = CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
- DEP = DEPRECIATION EXPENSE

- (1)  $RB_F = RB x (1 + P) x (1 + G)$
- (2)  $RB_R = RB DEP + CAPEX$

THE LEVEL OF CAPEX THAT RESULTS IN RATE BASE OF  $RB_F$  CAN BE DETERMINED BY SETTING (2) EQUAL TO (1):

- $(3) \qquad RB_R = RB_F$
- (3A) RB DEP + CAPEX = RB x (1 + P) x (1 + G)
- (3B)  $RB DEP + CAPEX = RB \times (1 + P + G + (P \times G))$
- (3C)  $CAPEX = DEP + RB \times (P + G + (P \times G))$
- (3D)  $CAPEX = DEP + RB \times (G + P \times (1 + G))$

THIS EQUATION SHOWS THE LEVEL OF CAPEX THAT IS ACHIEVABLE UNDER A PRICE CAP OF P% AND LOAD GROWTH OF G%

THIS CAN BE WRITTEN AS A CAPEX TO DEPRECIATION RATIO:

(4) CAPEX / DEP = 1 + (RB / DEP) x (G + P x (1 + G))

THIS RATIO COULD BE USED AS THE MATERIALITY THRESHOLD OR AS A BASE FROM WHICH THE THRESHOLD WOULD BE CALCULATED

VALUES FOR DEP, RB AND G WOULD BE TAKEN FROM THE BOARD APPROVED BASE YEAR RATE DECISIONS

VALUE OF P WOULD BE BASED ON THE INFLATION RATE, THE COMMON PRODUCTIVITY FACTOR, AND THE SPECIFIC STRETCH FACTOR APPLIED TO THE DISTRIBUTOR

MATERIALITY THRESHOLD WOULD BE DIFFERENT FOR EACH DISTRIBUTOR – THIS WOULD REFLECT DISTRIBUTOR DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENT POSITIONS IN THE ASSET REPLACEMENT CYCLE

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<u>Utility A</u>	Base	<u>Growth</u>	Price Cap	<u>Cycle</u>
Rate Base (\$) Depreciation (\$) G (%) P (%)	22,154,852 935,709 0.40% 1.50%		935,709	27,693,565 935,709 0.40% 1.50%
CAPEX/Depreciation (%)	145.1%	157.1%	157.0%	156.4%
CAPEX (\$)	1,357,980	1,470,416	1,469,198	1,463,548
<u>Utility B</u>	Base			
Rate Base (\$) Depreciation (\$) G (%) P (%)	5,745,092 365,676 0.00% 1.50%			
CAPEX/Depreciation (%)	123.6%			
CAPEX (\$)	451,852			

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