

M A N I T O B A ) Order No. 146/06  
)  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT ) October 31, 2006

BEFORE: Graham F. J. Lane, C.A., Chairman  
Monica Girouard, C.G.A., Member  
Susan Proven, P.H.Ec., Member

**PROCEDURAL ORDER: PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING  
STITTCO UTILITIES MAN LTD.'S APPLICATION FOR  
CHANGES TO REGULATION OVERSIGHT AND PROPANE  
RATES, AND APPROVAL OF INTERVENER**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

By this Order, the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba (Board) establishes a timetable for a public hearing of Stittco Utilities Man Ltd.'s (Stittco) application for regulatory and rate changes.

Also, the Board accepts an application by the Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc. and the Manitoba Society of Seniors (CAC/MSOS) to intervene.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Board issued notice of a hearing to be held in the Council Chambers in the City of Thompson commencing at 9:00 a.m. on December 15, 2006.

Subsequently, the Board received a request from CAC/MSOS for intervener status and forwarded the application to Stittco for comment.

This Order establishes a timetable for the public hearing and approves CAC/MSOS as an intervener.

## **BOARD FINDINGS**

The Board notes that costs of regulatory processes normally flow through to the utility's customers by means of rates. Given the significance of the request for a change in regulatory oversight, the Board seeks to ensure a thorough cost-effective, hearing process.

CAC/MSOS applied for Intervener status indicating interests in the matter of a change to regulatory oversight and the rate change proposal. CAC/MSOS indicated it would appear throughout the hearing, participate in the testing of evidence and present final argument. CAC/MSOS would not call a witness but will engage expert consultation for preparation of interrogatories and cross-examination. CAC/MSOS would seek a cost award, for costs estimated to be between \$12,275 and \$15,800.

Stittco did not oppose granting Intervener status to CAC/MSOS; the Board will grant Intervener status to CAC/MSOS.

Also, by this Order, the Board establishes a timetable for the hearing and the procedures to be followed:

- a) Schedule A, the timetable; and
- b) Schedule B, procedures.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

- 1. The attached timetable, Schedule "A", shall be the timetable for the orderly exchange of information by the participating parties.
- 2. Schedule "B" as attached shall apply with respect to the hearing of Stittco's applications; and
- 3. Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc./Manitoba Society of Seniors are approved as Interveners to the hearing.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"GRAHAM F. J. LANE, C.A."  
Chairman

"G. GAUDREAU, CMA"  
Secretary

Certified a true copy of  
Order No. 146/06 issued by  
The Public Utilities Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**TIMETABLE**

**Stittco Interim Rate Application (IRA)  
and  
Application for Deregulation**

|    |                                   |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1  | Original Application              | January 30, 2006                          |
| 2  | Interim Rates Application         | August 9, 2006                            |
| 3  | First Round IR's, Board only      | August 16, 2006                           |
| 4  | Public Notice                     | August 28, 2006                           |
| 5  | Stittco's response to IR's        | August 29, 2006                           |
| 6  | Public comment deadline           | September 15, 2006                        |
| 7  | Notice of Public Hearing          | 1 <sup>st</sup> billing cycle in November |
| 8  | Application for Intervener Status | November 13, 2006                         |
| 9  | Second Round IR's                 | November 17, 2006                         |
| 10 | Response to Second Round IR's     | December 8, 2006                          |
| 11 | Public Hearing                    | December 15, 2006                         |

Notes: 1. The Notice indicated above, # 4, asked for public comment on Stittco's Deregulation Request by October 31, 2006, extended to the date of the public hearing as per the Notice in # 7.

2. The timetable contains no provision for intervener evidence or the need for rebuttal evidence, and may require to be changed if another intervener seeks approval, is approved, and indicates it will provide evidence.

**SCHEDULE "B"**

**PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED AT THE  
STITTCO UTILITIES MAN LTD.  
DEREGULATION AND RATE HEARING**

1. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers in the City of Thompson commencing at 9:00 a.m. on December 15, 2006.
2. Hearing Times:       9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon  
                          1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
                          7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
3. Presentations:       Presenters will be heard commencing at  
                          7:00 p.m. on December 15, 2006.
4. Opening Statements: Board Chairman, Counsel for Stittco,  
and Counsel for CAC/ MSOS.
5.       (a)       Stittco to present their applications and  
                  supporting evidence.  
             (b)       Stittco to introduce witnesses.  
             (c)       Board members and intervener to cross-examine the  
                  Corporation's witnesses (order to be determined).
6. Witnesses to be available for cross-examination by all  
parties following each presentation.
7. All interrogatories are to be filed and responded to using  
the prefixes as assigned by the Board when interveners are  
registered (set out in the body of the Order). The party  
requesting information is to use firstly their prefix  
followed by the prefix of the party being asked e.g.  
PUB/Stittco, etc.
8. All pre-filed evidentiary material to be filed at the  
commencement of the hearing by Board Chairman using  
assigned prefixes.
9. All witnesses to be sworn or affirmed.

10. In the interests of restraining regulatory costs, there will be no transcripts of the hearing.
11. All motions are to be dealt with pursuant to the Board's Timetable.
12. Board Order No. 163/87 (available at the Board's office) dealing with the Awarding of Costs applies to all matters before the Board.
13. The Board's rules of practice and procedures apply, and are available on the Board's website at [www.pub.gov.mb.ca](http://www.pub.gov.mb.ca).
14. The Board indicates its willingness to be available for any problems that may arise during the exchange of information at any time, such time to be arranged through the Board's secretary.
15. Five (5) copies of material are to be submitted to the Board's offices.
16. Except for all material required to be filed by Stittco, electronic copies are acceptable where available and the Board's e-mail address is [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)