

EB-2006-0207

Ontario Energy Board

Principles to Guide a Review of OPA's Integrated Power System Plan and Procurement Processes

◆Request for Funding◆

Energy Probe Research Foundation

Submitted September 6, 2006

Board's Proposed Regulatory Process – Request for Funding

i) Statement of Interest

Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe) is a non-profit environmental and consumer organization which promotes economic efficiency in the use of resources. Energy Probe will be representing its residential customer supporters in Ontario, which we have some number of thousands, and also representing a broader public interest concern with respect to the overall financial health and operational integrity of our utilities. Energy Probe will be participating on developing review principles and filing guidelines which the Foundation believes to be in the public interest.

The Foundation, Canada's third-largest environmental policy organization and Canada's largest energy policy organization, has over 30,000 supporters, half of them in Ontario, of which most have tangibly expressed interest in energy issues. Energy Probe also has a strong consumer focus and is frequently acknowledged in the media as a consumer watchdog. Energy Probe participates in national and provincial conferences and regulatory forums on energy issues which it believes to be in the public interest. In this instance, Energy Probe submits that it has met the Board's cost eligibility criteria under section 3.03 (a) of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Many Energy Probe supporters receive information updates, often several times a week. Energy Probe frequently has direct communication with the public through interviews with the media, communications on the Internet, public speaking, and direct mail communication with its supporters.

Energy Probe has a history of representing the interests of many Ontarians who are not financial supporters, and receives active feedback on its initiatives through public and media interaction.

Energy Probe has appeared before the Board for over 30 years, during which time it has been noted for its cooperative spirit, its often-unique perspective, and its contribution to the development of fair and reasonable rates for both individual consumers and commercial/industrial purchasers of natural gas and electricity. Its approach has been to look beyond annual cost minimization to consider what would be best for the marketplace in the long term.

Energy Probe then, is a non-profit organization which relies on individual donations to help protect the public interest. Without the prospect of funding assistance, its participation in the consultation initiatives of the Ontario Energy Board, and its ability to produce policy position papers, would be quite limited.

Members of Energy Probe's team regularly attend meetings of its Board of Directors, making presentations, providing written summaries of activities, answering the questions of Board Members, and receiving their input.

In addition, Energy Probe reports its regulatory priorities to supporters by direct mail and receives both financial support and comments in response from those supporters.

ii) Energy Probe's Participation

Energy Probe intends to fully participate in all of the phases of the discussions, including but not limited to:

- providing written Submissions on the proposed Board Staff Discussion Paper, slated for mid-September release;
- Such other consultations as requested by Board Staff; and,
- Participation as an Intervenor in the Hearing following the consultation process.

Energy Probe would like to remind the Board that in prior Board processes in which it has expressed its interest, it has participated well beyond attendance.

Energy Probe is taking an active role in the current process to identify a methodology for setting payment amounts for Ontario Power Generation's prescribed generation assets, and in the current process to review the cost of capital and develop a 2nd generation incentive rate mechanism for Ontario's electricity distributors.

iii) Other Sources of Funding

Energy Probe will access funding from general donations from its supporters to make up any shortfall should it exceed the cost allowances of the Board. Energy Probe relies on volunteers to be able to support its regulatory and other work, including a volunteer Board of Directors.

iv) Energy Probe's Advisory Team

Energy Probe will be assisted by the following consultants, to whom communications concerning this process should be directed:

David MacIntosh
c/o Energy Probe
225 Brunswick Ave.
Toronto ON M5S 2M6
Tel: 416 964-9223 Ext. 235
Fax: 416 964-8239
Electronic Mail: DavidMacIntosh@nextcity.com

AND

Thomas Adams
c/o Energy Probe
225 Brunswick Ave.
Toronto ON M5S 2M6
Tel: 416 964-9223 ext. 239
Fax: 416 964-8239
Electronic Mail: TomAdams@nextcity.com

Respectfully submitted at Toronto, Ontario this 6th day of September, 2006.

David MacIntosh
Case Manager