

July 14, 2017

Robert T. Gabor, Chair
Public Utilities Board
400- 330 Portage Ave,
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0C4

Mr. Gabor:

RE: Manitoba Hydro 2017/18 & 2018/19 General Rate Application

Keystone Agriculture Producers is submitting a draft preliminary budget for the Public Utilities Board to review. As this is our first time participating in the intervener process we have yet to secure legal counsel and procure our expert witnesses. We have developed a request for proposals which will be circulated in the coming weeks and we will retain a lawyer in the coming weeks as well. We will endeavour to inform the PUB as soon as we have more budgetary information.

To date we have been in contact with the Consumers Coalition and the General Service Small and General Service Medium Customer Classes. We have not formally agreed on which topics each group will cover however there is a mutual understanding to share information from expert witnesses to ensure duplication of efforts are avoided. Our primary objective during the general rate application will be to provide to the Public Utilities Board with information on how the proposed rate increases will impact Manitoba's farmers, the agriculture industry more broadly, including risk to investment from value added processors, and how the increase may impact other public policy priorities and programs including climate change and business risk management programming.

Thank you for consideration of our draft budget and we look forward to continuing to work with the PUB, Manitoba Hydro, and all other interveners as this process continues.



James Battershill, General Manager
Keystone Agricultural Producers