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November 24, 2017

Kurt Simonsen  
Associate Secretary  
Public Utilities Board of Manitoba  
400 – 330 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4

Dear Mr. Simonsen:

**RE: MANITOBA HYDRO 2017/18 AND 2018/19 GRA – BCM BUDGET VARIANCE REQUEST**

I am writing in response to your request for Manitoba Hydro's comments on the request of the Business Counsel of Manitoba ("BCM") for approval of an increase in their approved budget in the amount of \$80,512.50 (\$71,250.00 plus taxes), which would result in a total budget for the BCM of \$143,013.

Manitoba Hydro has considered the number of expert reports, including the Independent Expert Consultants retained by the PUB and the number of IRs and Rebuttal Evidence which are within the scope of the topics approved for BCM's intervention, and the approved budgets of other intervenors relative to the amounts approved for the BCM. Manitoba Hydro notes that the current approved budget of BCM is the lowest of all approved interventions, and the requested increase does not result in a budget which is materially different from other similarly scoped interventions.

The issues upon which BCM is focused are fundamental to determining an appropriate level of rate increase. Manitoba Hydro accepts that procedural fairness dictates this Intervenor be afforded access to funding at levels similar to other similarly scoped Intervenor in order to review the copious amount of evidence on the record and have its perspectives on such evidence heard.

Having regard to the foregoing factors, Manitoba Hydro has no objection to the BMC's requested increase. Should you have any questions with respect to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the writer at 204-360-3946.

Yours truly,

**MANITOBA HYDRO LAW SERVICES**

Per:



**PATRICIA J. RAMAGE**  
Barrister and Solicitor

cc : Bob Peters, Board Counsel  
Dayna Steinfeld, Board Counsel  
Mr. Kevin Williams, Business Council of Manitoba Counsel