

Attachment A to the Consumers Coalition
Application to Intervene

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Overview

This document provides background to the proposed intervention of Harvest Manitoba, the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg (together, the Consumers Coalition). The Consumers Coalition seeks Intervener status in the proceeding initiated by the Manitoba Public Utilities Board ("PUB", the "Board") in Order 89/21 following the Consumers Coalition's Application for an Order Requiring a Manitoba Hydro Status Update Hearing. This document provides responses to the questions in the PUB's Intervener Application Form, including:

- Descriptions of Harvest Manitoba, the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg;
- Reasons for the Consumers Coalition's proposed intervention;
- How the Consumers Coalition is directly affected by the Board's decision in this matter;
- How the Consumers Coalition represents a substantial number of ratepayers that are otherwise not represented on issues that are within the scope of this proceeding;
- The Consumers Coalition's experience, information, or expertise relevant to this matter that will contribute to the Board's decision making;
- Key issues the Consumers Coalition intends to address in this proceeding; and
- A description of the Consumers Coalition's proposed participation in this proceeding.

Pursuant to the Public Utilities Board's (PUB) Intervener Costs Policy 2019-20, the Consumers Coalition identifies its potential expert witnesses and consultants in this application and provides copies of their curriculum vitae. As indicated in the Intervener Application Form, these details can be found at Attachment B.

The Consumers Coalition also has prepared and provided a draft preliminary budget which is subject to change based on the scope and process of this proceeding as will be determined by the Board.

In particular:

- the proposed budget is prepared for a status update context where there is no general rate application by Manitoba Hydro. The Consumers Coalition understands the context of this hearing is to determine whether current rates are just and reasonable in light of the substantial changes in the circumstances of Manitoba Hydro since Order 59/18 and 69/19. It also understands that Manitoba Hydro proposes to file "in the winter of 2022/23 a comprehensive electric and gas general rate application that will then include a complete long-term forecast that reflects Strategy 2040, updated integrated resource planning analysis, as well as provincial energy policy direction."¹ In the event

¹ PUB Order 89/21, p. 16.

there is a general rate application by Manitoba Hydro in 2021, the Consumers Coalition reserves the right to materially amend its budget;

- given uncertainty in scope, the proposed budget assumes a hearing of similar complexity to the 2019 hearing leading to Order 69/19. The estimates for expert time incurred are based exclusively on the costs approved by the PUB in the 2019 hearing, rather than on an estimate provided by those experts. The Consumers Coalition will provide more refined estimates once they have a better understanding of the scope of the hearing;²
- the proposed budget assumes that all legal time incurred is by Byron Williams. To the extent that time is spent by more junior legal counsel the amount of time required for preparation will increase but the hourly rate will decrease in a commensurate manner that is expected to leave the overall legal costs estimate intact; and
- the budget prepared by the Consumers Coalition assumes that Manitoba Hydro will comply in a meaningful manner with information disclosure requests of the PUB and intervenors in a manner consistent with its behaviour in past General Rate Applications and Status Update Hearings. It assumes that Manitoba Hydro will not repeat the behaviour displayed in its response to PUB Order 53/21. In the event Manitoba Hydro repeats its behaviour from the Order 53/21 process, the costs associated with the Consumers Coalition's participation in this process are expected to materially increase.

Finally, in its letter dated September 9, 2021, the Board requested that prospective intervenors also provide comments regarding proposed Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs) and comments regarding scope, issues, process and costs. These comments can also be found below.

The Consumers Coalition

Please describe the mandate of your organization and provide a description of the membership, including the number of members. Please also confirm whether the organization's intervention in this proceeding is supported by a resolution of the governing body, if any. Please enclose the resolution, if any, with your Application, along with supporting documentation of your mandate and membership

The Consumers Coalition is comprised of Harvest Manitoba, the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg. The Consumers Coalition seeks to present an evidence-based intervention guided by a principled consideration of the consumer interest. It is represented by the Public Interest Law Centre.³

² The proceedings leading to Order 59/19 involved 2 pre-conference hearings and 6 hearing days. We have assumed 8 hearing days for the purpose of the budget estimate to take into account the considerable passage of time and the substantial change in circumstances since the 2019 process which is expected to add additional costs. Recognizing this is not a General Rate Application but there are multiple, complex issues at play, it is conceivable this hearing could extend longer in which case the budget will change materially.

³ An independent office of Legal Aid Manitoba.

The Consumers Coalition aims to protect and reconcile the interests of all Manitoba residential consumers, including low and fixed-income consumers, the working poor and those living in remote and rural communities.

For the Consumers Coalition, bringing the voice of consumers directly to the Public Utilities Board is of primary importance in the independent rate-setting process. The Coalition members place a priority on direct consumer input through focus groups, engagement sessions and stakeholder panels. The Coalition members maintain awareness of consumers' needs and interests through research and ongoing engagement with the constituencies they serve.

There is no resolution of the governing bodies of Harvest Manitoba, CAC Manitoba or the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg supporting the intervention in this proceeding. Rather, the decision to participate has been made by senior management following established past practice before the PUB and other regulatory tribunals.

In the following sections, we provide an overview of the Coalition members as well as the unique methodology and perspective they bring to this process.

Harvest Manitoba

Who is Harvest Manitoba?

Founded in 1984, Harvest Manitoba (formerly Winnipeg Harvest) is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to providing food to people who struggle to feed themselves and their families. It seeks to maximize public awareness of hunger while working towards long-term solutions to hunger and poverty. Harvest Manitoba is governed by a community-based Board which employs the Executive Director to make all operational decisions.

Harvest Manitoba's Vision is a community that no longer requires the services of a food bank.

Harvest Manitoba's Mission is:

- Collecting and distributing food;
- Providing client-centered long-term solutions; and
- Advocating and informing.

To achieve its Vision, Harvest Manitoba provides emergency food assistance to almost 64,000 people a month across Manitoba, redistributing more than 11 million pounds of food a year through food banks and other emergency programs. One-third of the families experiencing hunger are dual wage-earner families (i.e.: the working poor) and approximately 41% of its clients are children living in poor families.⁴

⁴ Winnipeg Harvest feeds nearly 21,000 children each month (Winnipeg Harvest Hunger Count, March 2018)

Harvest Manitoba shares food with more than 50 Manitoba communities through the Manitoba Association of Food Banks and through partnerships with nearly 400 agencies (including soup kitchens, food banks and youth programs) to distribute surplus food to hungry families all over Manitoba. The 180 food banks it supports are located throughout Manitoba in urban centres, First Nations and rural and northern communities.⁵

While redistribution of food to people in need remains the top priority of Harvest Manitoba, it also provides access to personal care products, provision of meals and snacks through day care and other agencies, programs and services for First Nations People and newcomers as well as training for life and work skills.

Harvest Manitoba is also involved in the provision of advocacy services. Its advocacy services are three-fold: education and awareness through publication of reports and dissemination of information; systemic change through community actions and legal advocacy; and one-on-one support and advocacy.

Approximately 50% of Harvest Manitoba's clients are in receipt of social assistance. An advocate who works with one of Harvest Manitoba's partner organizations regularly appears before the Social Services Appeal Board on matters relating to the employment and income assistance program. The significant expertise of Harvest Manitoba on issues relating to poverty and hunger was recognized by Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food who attended a workshop at Harvest Manitoba during his mission to Canada in 2012.

One of Harvest Manitoba's priorities is to work with others in the community to explore long-term solutions to hunger and poverty. Harvest Manitoba is part of Make Poverty History Manitoba, a coalition of anti-poverty organizations. This coalition was instrumental in the adoption by the provincial government of the Rent Assist program.

Harvest Manitoba also has been a leader in Manitoba by partnering with the Public Interest Law Centre to research and advocate for a Guaranteed Annual Income.

In collaboration with Campaign 2000 End Child & Family Poverty, Harvest Manitoba has produced numerous Child and Family Poverty Report Cards, the latest of which was published in December 2020. Sometimes in collaboration with other partners, Harvest Manitoba also prepares reports on the Acceptable Living Level.⁶

⁵ Reaching as far north as Lynn Lake.

⁶ The Acceptable Living Level Reports demonstrate that current welfare rates fall far short of meeting the Acceptable Living Levels and challenges Manitoba's leaders and citizens to respond to the central issue of **how can Manitoba ensure an acceptable living level for all its citizens?**

Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada

Who is the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada?

The Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC Manitoba) is a volunteer, non-profit, independent organization working to inform and empower consumers and to represent the consumer interest in Manitoba. Formed in 1947, the organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors which is elected annually at a general meeting of the organization's membership. The CAC Manitoba is a branch of the national Consumers' Association of Canada but is financially separate and separately incorporated.

CAC Manitoba's policy is guided by its understanding of generally accepted consumer rights, which consist of:

- **The right to satisfaction of basic needs** - To have access to basic, essential goods and services: adequate food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, public utilities, water and sanitation.
- **The right to safety** – to be protected against products, production processes and services that are hazardous to health or life.
- **The right to be informed** – To be given the facts needed to make an informed choice, and to be protected against dishonest or misleading advertising or labeling.
- **The right to choose** – To be able to select from a range of products and services, offered at competitive prices with an assurance of satisfactory quality.
- **The right to be heard** - To have consumer interests represented in the making and execution of government policy, and in the development of products and services.
- **The right to redress** – To receive a fair settlement of just claims, including compensation for misrepresentation, shoddy goods or unsatisfactory services.
- **The right to consumer education** – To acquire knowledge and skills needed to make informed, confident choices about goods and services, while being aware of basic consumer rights and responsibilities and how to act on them.
- **The right to a healthy environment** -To live and work in an environment that is non-threatening to the well-being of present and future generations.

CAC Manitoba is also guided by the following consumer responsibilities:

- **Critical awareness** - consumers must be awakened to be more questioning about the provision of the quality of goods and services.
- **Involvement or action** - consumers must assert themselves and act to ensure that they get a fair deal.
- **Social responsibility** - consumers must act with social responsibility, with concern and sensitivity to the impact of their actions on other citizens, in particular, in relation to disadvantaged groups in the community and in relation to the economic and social realities prevailing.

- **Ecological responsibility** - there must be a heightened sensitivity to the impact of consumer decisions on the physical environment, which must be developed to a harmonious way, promoting conservation as the most critical factor in improving the real quality of life for the present and the future.
- **Solidarity** - the best and most effective action is through cooperative efforts through the formation of consumer/citizen groups who together can have the strength and influence to ensure that adequate attention is given to the consumer interest.

CAC Manitoba seeks input on its policy positions from consumers through consumer engagement, consumer education programs and other services to the public. In addition, the organization seeks other perspectives on relevant issues through the use of policy community advisory committees and interviews.

CAC Manitoba represents the interests of consumers across Manitoba in a number of areas including food safety and security, health care and patient rights, financial services, access to public services, social and economic inclusion, environmental sustainability, and regulatory review of utilities' and the Crown's delivery of services and products to consumers.

Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg

Who is the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg?

The Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg (ACW) was founded in 1994 as an Indigenous political organization representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis living in Winnipeg. It is the only organization of its kind in Canada – focusing solely on the urban Indigenous community. It currently has approximately 7000 members. Governed by a board of directors, ACW advocates for and seeks to empower Winnipeg's Indigenous community and to realize its individual and collective potential. It is committed to removing systemic barriers for Indigenous people.

ACW works to connect, support and collaborate with the many urban Indigenous program and service agencies in Winnipeg including programs working with urban Indigenous people who are experiencing homelessness and suffering from multiple barriers to actively participating in society and accessing programming and services. ACW also seeks to ensure that Indigenous voices are represented around the tables of decision-makers, policy-makers, and service providers including the Housing First/Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Make Poverty History Manitoba and the Community Wellness and Public Safety Alliance.

ACW is a new member of the Consumers Coalition before the PUB. It has extensive experience working alongside CAC Manitoba and Harvest Manitoba advocating for equitable and affordable access to telecommunications services before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Reasons for the Consumers Coalition's intervention in this proceeding

Consistent with its prior interventions, the Consumers Coalition will seek to protect the interests of residential consumers and to ensure their “rates for service” are “just and reasonable”.⁷

Harvest Manitoba, CAC Manitoba and ACW, as well as their members and clients, have a significant interest in the outcome of this proceeding. The rates that will be approved will directly impact all residential ratepayers, whether through their bill from Manitoba Hydro or through the amount they pay in rent.

Given the substantial change in circumstances of Manitoba Hydro which have led to this proceeding, Manitoba consumers have cause for concern that their current rates are neither just nor reasonable. This is particularly the case given both the general high inflationary environment in Canada as well as the pressures put on ratepayers by Manitoba Hydro’s longstanding challenges in managing major capital projects, prioritizing day to day capital investments and controlling other operating and administrative expenditures

In its March 2021 Application for an Order Requiring a Manitoba Hydro Status Update Hearing, the Consumers Coalition expressed concerns about significant changes to Manitoba Hydro’s organization and management as well as its assets, debts and revenues, all in the absence of robust, long-term financial forecasting. In Order 89/21, the Board identified additional changes which all impact the rate making process.⁸

A particularly concerning element of these realities is the current lack of publicly-available information about the financial health of Manitoba Hydro and its implications for rates today and in the medium and long term. The uncertainty for ratepayers flowing from this deficiency, which partly precipitated the Consumers Coalition’s Application and led to Order 89/21, persists today and remains a significant motivating factor underlying the Consumers Coalition’s Application to Intervene. Consumers cannot make informed choices about their own energy consumption decisions and household investments in the absence of publicly-available information that provides insight into where Manitoba Hydro is today and where it expects to be over the medium and longer term in terms of just and reasonable rates.

The Consumers Coalition seeks to protect the interests of Manitoba Hydro residential ratepayers and their right to just and reasonable rates that are determined in a publicly accessible and transparent process. Manitoba consumers have not benefitted from a full and comprehensive rate review process since 2018, and the Consumers Coalition sees the promotion of their interests in this proceeding as paramount. The Consumers Coalition seeks to intervene because residential ratepayers rely on vigorous, independent regulation to hold Crown monopolies, including Manitoba Hydro, accountable.

⁷ See *The Manitoba Hydro Act*, CCSM c H190 at s 39(1), (2); *The Crown Corporations Governance and Accountability Act*, CCSM c C336 at s 25(1)-(4), (6); *The Public Utilities Board Act*, CCSM c P280 at s 77.

⁸ See PUB Order 89/21 at 37-42, which discusses legislative changes, the COVID-19 pandemic, impending transitions to renewable energy sources, interest rate volatility and other changes affecting Manitoba Hydro’s rate making process.

More information regarding the issues that the Consumers Coalition intends to explore in this proceeding will be detailed in subsequent sections of this document and will be further clarified through subsequent stages of this process as will be determined by the Board.

The Consumers Coalition is directly affected by the Board's decision in this matter

Manitoba Hydro enjoys a retail monopoly in the sale of electrical power in Manitoba. As captive customers of Hydro's monopoly, ratepayers rely on the independent, expert and evidence-based process of the PUB to ensure that the rates for service imposed upon them are not unjust or unreasonable and that costs are fairly allocated.

At present, Manitoba consumers have no confidence that the rates for service currently being charged have been determined in their best interests. They also have no basis on which to plan for future rate increases or decreases due to the lack of publicly-available information about Manitoba Hydro and the time that has passed since the last full rate hearing.

The consumers represented by the Consumers Coalition stand to benefit from the outcome of this proceeding because it will provide assurance that their rates are just and reasonable and provide certainty regarding rate changes into the future. Consumers' interests in just and reasonable rates stand to be satisfied through this process regardless of whether the Board finds that current rates are appropriate or orders an increase or decrease.

The Consumers Coalition represents a substantial number of ratepayers that are otherwise not represented on issues that are within the scope of this proceeding

As stated above, the Consumers Coalition member organizations together represent the interests of Manitoba's residential consumers, Manitoba Hydro's largest consumer class, totaling well over 500,000 customers.⁹

These customers are not otherwise represented in the scope of this proceeding. Just and reasonable rates are those that are fair to both consumers and the utility. In setting just and reasonable rates for electricity, the PUB must balance "the interests of the utility's ratepayers, and the financial health of the utility. Together, and in the broadest interpretation, these interests represent the general public interest."¹⁰

⁹ Manitoba Hydro, "Navigating change and challenges with action: Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board 69th Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2020" (2020) at 36, available online: <https://www.hydro.mb.ca/corporate/ar/pdf/annual_report_2019_20.pdf>.

¹⁰ *Consumers' Association of Canada (Manitoba) Inc v Manitoba Hydro Electric Board*, 2005 MBCA 55, at para 65. See more generally paras 61-66.

While Manitoba Hydro represents the interests of the utility, the Consumers Coalition proposes to represent the interests of a large class of ratepayers, the residential rate class, as it has done in previous rate applications.

The Consumers Coalition's experience, information, or expertise relevant to this matter that would contribute to the Board's decision making

Both Harvest Manitoba and CAC Manitoba have been active participants in Manitoba Hydro rate setting proceedings for a number of years. ACW is a new member to the Consumers Coalition before the PUB and has extensive experience collaborating Harvest Manitoba and CAC Manitoba in advocacy on behalf of consumers before other regulatory bodies.¹¹

Due to their long-standing experience with matters relating to rate-setting across five industries in Manitoba, including Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas, Manitoba Public Insurance, payday lending and government cheque-cashing, CAC Manitoba and Harvest Manitoba have developed deep understandings of issues of law and jurisdiction as they relate to the interactions between the *PUB Act*, the *CCGAA* and the *MH Act*. These organizations have played active roles in proceedings leading to the development of the rate-setting principles and objectives relied on the PUB and applied to Manitoba Hydro's rates for service.

While ACW does not share this background at the PUB level, its unique contribution adds significant depth to the Consumers Coalition's representation of residential ratepayers. A significant strength of the Consumers Coalition is its member organizations' collaboration on the basis of distinct but complementary understandings of the unique needs and interests of Manitoba Hydro's diverse residential customer class.

The Consumers Coalition's engagement with and representation of consumers has added value to PUB proceedings in the past and can be relied upon to do so in this proceeding. For example, a diverse panel of ratepayers, including from within Winnipeg and rural Manitoba, as well as across the income spectrum, presented the impacts of rate increases on their lives during the Manitoba Hydro 2017/18 & 2018/19 GRA.

The present composition of the Consumers Coalition builds on the strength of the Coalition's past interventions before the PUB, adding new experience and expertise relevant to the interests of residential ratepayers.

Harvest Manitoba in regulatory proceedings

In addition to providing services directly to communities, households and individuals, Harvest Manitoba has been an active participant both as an intervener and a presenter on regulatory matters before the Public Utilities Board.

¹¹ The Consumers Coalition member organizations regularly represent Manitoba consumers as the "Manitoba Coalition" before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, advocating for improved access to adequate and affordable services for consumers and in particular for marginalized consumers.

For example, Harvest Manitoba was an intervener as part of the Consumers Coalition in the 2017/18 & 2018/19 Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application, the 2016 Cost of Service Study process, as well as in the Manitoba Hydro 2015/16 and 2016/17 General Rate Application.

Additionally, Harvest Manitoba partnered with CAC Manitoba and the Manitoba Métis Federation in presenting a ratepayers panel during the Needs For And Alternatives To proceeding and also presented policy recommendations aimed at ameliorating the impact of rate increases upon vulnerable consumers. Harvest Manitoba was also an active participant in Manitoba Hydro's working group on bill affordability led in 2016.

Specific areas of evidence presented by the Consumers Coalition in previous Manitoba Hydro-related proceedings will be summarized in the below description of CAC Manitoba.

Harvest Manitoba also has intervened as part of a coalition of organizations in each of the Payday Lending hearings before the Public Utilities Board, including jointly presenting the first panel of consumers at a Payday Lending hearing in April 2016. In commenting on the evidence provided by the consumer panel, the Board stated that “it offered the Board valuable insight into real-life experiences with payday loans and the benefits and drawbacks of payday loans from consumers' perspectives.”¹²

CAC Manitoba in regulatory proceedings

Over the past 30 years, the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada has been active in rate regulation matters relating to Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas, Manitoba Public Insurance, government cheque cashing and payday lending rates. In addition, the CAC Manitoba has extensive and intersecting regulatory experience at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. It takes pride in its long-standing record of quality, evidence-based advocacy.

Over the past fifteen years, CAC Manitoba has been particularly engaged in regulatory matters relating to Manitoba Hydro including:

- every General Rate Application, Cost of Service and Diesel Proceeding (Manitoba Public Utilities Board);
- the 2014 Needs For And Alternatives To (Manitoba Public Utilities Board) and the Wuskwatim Needs For And Alternatives To (joint panel); and
- environmental proceedings relating to the Keeyask Generating Station, the Bipole III Transmission Line, Lake Winnipeg Regulation and Manitoba Minnesota Transmission Line (Clean Environment Commission).

CAC Manitoba has a mandate to provide Manitoba consumers with unbiased information. Through interventions at rate hearings, the organization represents the consumer interest on prices and quality of service (“rates for service”).

¹² Public Utilities Board Report Payday Lending, June 17, 2016, at p 42.

In recent regulatory proceedings before the Public Utilities Board on Manitoba Hydro matters, the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada has played an active role in issues such as:

- Financial targets and risk analysis: dating back to 1996, CAC Manitoba has provided evidence and analysis on the financial targets of Manitoba Hydro, including debt to equity ratio, financial reserves and interest coverage ratio, such as in the hearings leading to Board Orders 53/96, 7/03, 5/12 and 59/18. In addition, the Consumers Coalition has undertaken a consideration of issues relating to risk and risk tolerance including the using of stochastic tools to better examine these issues.
- Sustaining capital: Since the 2007/08 General Rate Application,¹³ CAC Manitoba has played a leading role in identifying the challenges of the Corporation is assessing the health of its capital assets and in prioritizing the pace of its day to say capital asset expenditures.¹⁴
- Forecasting: CAC Manitoba has extensively tested the credibility of Manitoba Hydro's forecasts especially as they related to its large capital expenditure plans and the reliability of its Integrated Financial Forecasts:
 - Load forecast: CAC Manitoba presented evidence during the 2014 Needs For And Alternatives To proceedings, including recommendations on price response and price elasticity, long-term top customers forecast methodology and more sophisticated projections of households using electric and non-electric space heating.
 - Export price forecasting: since the 2010/11 Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application, CAC Manitoba has been raising concerns about the reliability of Manitoba Hydro's forecasts.
 - Capital expenditure forecasts: since the 2010/11 Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application, CAC Manitoba has been raising concerns about the reliability of Manitoba Hydro's capital expenditure forecasts, especially major capital projects, such as Bipole III and Keeyask.
 - Interest rate forecasting: CAC Manitoba has consistently raised concerns about Manitoba Hydro's interest rate forecasting. In the last Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application, 2014/15 and 2015/16, the Manitoba Branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada argued that Manitoba Hydro's interest rate forecast costs were inflated, which was confirmed in the 2015 Integrated Financial Forecast where Hydro documented a \$700 million decline in interest costs over 10 years as compared to its previous forecast.
 - As part of the Consumers Coalition, CAC Manitoba has also emphasized the importance of robust long-term financial forecasting, historically found in the IFF, to the rate setting process.¹⁵

¹³ See for example Order 116/08, p. 345/346.

¹⁴ See also Orders 43/13, p. 5, 73/15 (in particular, p. 64/65 as well as p. 97 and Order 7) and Order 59/18.

¹⁵ See Order 69/19, p. 12, 19.

- Operating, Maintenance and Administration costs: through cross examination as well evidence, CAC Manitoba has provided insight on the reasonableness and the justification of Operating, Maintenance and Administration costs. For example, their evidence in the proceedings leading to *Order 116/08* assisted in the development of a Board Order relating to appropriate targets.¹⁶ Similarly, during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Manitoba Hydro General Rate Application, the Consumers Coalition expressed concerns with Operating, Maintenance and Administration cost containment efforts related to capital spending.¹⁷
- Debt: in a number of proceedings, CAC Manitoba has examined the efficient frontier for Manitoba Hydro's debt portfolio, including consideration of trade-offs between risk and opportunities relating to fixed and floating debt.¹⁸
- Rate design, bill assistance and energy poverty: CAC Manitoba has led evidence on barriers to energy efficiency utilization by low-income households,¹⁹ as well as filing evidence in the 2010/11 General Rate Application relating to definitions of energy poverty and program alternatives, including energy efficiency, government support and bill assistance options. CAC Manitoba was also an active participant in Manitoba Hydro's working group on bill affordability in 2016.
 - Also in 2016, CAC Manitoba was honoured to be selected by the federal Office of Consumer Affairs to conduct a major research project on energy poverty across Canada. The research for this project, combined with related efforts by both the CAC Manitoba and Harvest Manitoba, have led to:
 - i. six Canadian focus groups looking at issues of energy poverty from users perspectives including one centered in a Manitoba First Nation;
 - ii. a robust literature review;
 - iii. consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of a wide spectrum of options;
 - iv. an examination of the legislative framework for energy poverty solutions in selected Canadian jurisdictions;
 - v. the beginning of an examination of what led Ontario to move away from a ratepayer funded model for bill assistance and towards a tax-payer funded model
 - vi. preliminary consideration of tools (if any) to address one of the major flaws in conventional American bill assistance programs, which is the limited penetration (less than 50%) of even best practice programs; and
 - vii. a survey of the prices of certain basic necessities in Northern First Nations (in collaboration with the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak).

Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg in regulatory proceedings

As noted above, ACW is a new member of the Consumers Coalition in proceedings before the PUB. However, ACW has extensive experience collaborating with CAC Manitoba and Harvest Manitoba in representing the interests of Manitoba consumers before the Canadian

¹⁶ See Order 116/08, p. 345, Order 6

¹⁷ See Order 73/15, p. 34

¹⁸ See for example, Order 116/08, p. 344, Order 4.

¹⁹ See for example 116/08, p. 341.

Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. ACW's contributions have enabled these organizations' participation to clarify the impacts of barriers to access to adequate and affordable services on social, economic, and education-related outcomes in diverse groups of consumers.²⁰

ACW's participation in this process as part of the Consumers Coalition will be informed by the experience of the other Coalition member organizations before the PUB. Its contributions will strengthen the Coalition's representation of the diversity present among Manitoba Hydro's residential ratepayers.

Key Issues intended to be addressed by the Consumers Coalition

As in previous proceedings, the intervention of the Consumers Coalition will be guided by the Public Utilities Board criteria for the consideration of just and reasonable rates. Pursuant to its jurisdiction and the statutory framework in which it operates, the Public Utilities Board has characterized the key elements of its independent review function and rate-setting role as follows:

- Ensuring that forecasts are reasonably reliable;
- Ensuring that actual and projected costs incurred are necessary and reasonable;
- Assessing the reasonable revenue needs of an applicant in the context of its overall general health (including reserves);
- Determining an appropriate allocation of costs between classes; and
- Setting just and reasonable rates in accordance with statutory objectives.²¹

The Consumers Coalition expects to be guided by the Board's direction in previous Orders in order to present high quality analysis and evidence that will assist the Board in making its determinations and in setting just and reasonable rates.

As detailed in Attachment B to the Intervener Application Form, the Consumers Coalition proposes to retain the services of expert consultants Mr. William Harper, Ms. Kelly Derksen, Mr. Darren Rainkie. Consistent with past practice, the efforts of Mr. Harper, Ms. Derksen and Mr. Rainkie will be scoped to eliminate unnecessary duplication and to maximize their relevant skills. The Consumers Coalition intends to revisit both estimates once greater certainty about hearing scope becomes available. Further information regarding the Consumers Coalition's expert consultants is found in Attachment B to the Intervener Application Form.

Legal counsel from the Public Interest Law Centre will be representing the Consumers Coalition in this proceeding. The Public Interest Law Centre is an independent office of Legal Aid Manitoba that represents groups and individuals on systemic issues or issues that affect the broader population. The Public Interest Law Centre's areas of practice include:

- Consumer law;²²

²⁰ See, for example, Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2021-130 and Telecom Order CRTC 2021-144.

²¹ PUB Order 98/14 at p 28, 37; PUB Order 5/12 at p 27.

- Environmental law;
- Human rights law;
- Indigenous law; and
- Poverty law.

The Public Interest Law Centre has acted as legal counsel for residential consumers in proceedings relating to Manitoba Hydro both at the Public Utilities Board and at the Clean Environment Commission for more than 25 years.

Recognizing that Manitoba Hydro has not initiated this process with a rate application, it is anticipated that the Board will finalize an issues list in the course of its determination of the scope and process for this proceeding. The Consumers Coalition has worked collaboratively with the Manitoba Industrial Power Users Group (MIPUG) to develop a proposed list of issues which is being attached to the cover letter associated with this application to intervene. Consistent with that list, the Consumers Coalition intends to participate on the following issues:

1. Manitoba Hydro’s Revenue Requirement

The Consumers Coalition anticipates closely reviewing updated projections of net income, retained earnings and budgeted rate increases in the short- to medium-term. Included in this review will be an assessment of the implications of the legislated electric rate increase of 2.9% which took effect on December 1, 2020.

Acknowledging the PUB’s past assertions of the importance of the IFF as a planning tool,²³ the Consumers Coalition also anticipates addressing the approach to setting the electric revenue requirement if Manitoba Hydro is not able to produce an IFF or comparable financial projections as it has suggested.²⁴

2. Corporate Strategic Plan

The Consumers Coalition understands that Manitoba Hydro has substantially revised its corporate goals and strategic planning objectives since the issuing of PUB Order 69/19. A detailed review of the impacts of these changes on operations, risk analysis and Manitoba Hydro’s revenue requirement will necessarily form a part of an assessment of Manitoba Hydro’s financial health and the determination of just and reasonable rates.

3. Financial Targets

An update on the degree to which the traditional financial targets historically applied by the PUB to identify Manitoba Hydro’s revenue requirement have or have not been achieved will

²² Under section 4(2) of the *Legal Aid Manitoba Act*, groups can be found eligible for Legal Aid where the matter involves an objective or interest (a) common to the members of the group; and (b) relating to an issue of public interest including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, any **consumer or environmental issue**. [emphasis added]

²³ See Order 69/19, p. 12, 19.

²⁴ Manitoba Hydro indicated in correspondence to the PUB dated April 12, 2021 and June 9, 2021 that it does not presently have a “currently approved” IFF. See also Order 69/19 Directive 7 which requires Manitoba Hydro to file with its next General Rate Application an IFF or comparable document.

form a necessary component of an assessment of Manitoba Hydro's financial health and the determination of just and reasonable rates.

Relatedly, the Consumers Coalition is also interested in an update on progress made following Directive 9 in PUB Order 59/18 and Directive 9 in PUB Order 69/19 to consider the implementation of rule-based regulation regarding the role and sufficiency of reserves. The Consumers Coalition is also interested in the implications on financial targets of any longer-term rate strategy developed since PUB Order 69/19.

4. Finance Expense and Debt Management Strategy

Recognizing the amount of time which has passed since the last full rate hearing, the Consumers Coalition views updates to Manitoba Hydro's average interest rate on new borrowings, its interest rate forecasts and its financing costs projections. Relatedly, the Consumers Coalition is interested in any updates to Manitoba Hydro's debt management strategy, any policies or guidelines regarding interest rates, Manitoba Hydro's current credit ratings, and any internal assessments of financial market conditions.

The Consumers Coalition also expects to assess any completed or planned use of the expanded short-term borrowing authority granted in *The Manitoba Hydro Act*.²⁵

5. Operations, Maintenance and Administration (OM&A) Expenses

The Consumers Coalition is aware of multiple directives and recommendations issued to Manitoba Hydro in Orders 59/18 and 69/19 for which Manitoba Hydro's responses will have significant implications on OM&A Expenses.²⁶ The Consumers Coalition anticipates conducting a review of updated OM&A budgets and targets as a result.

These will necessarily include assessments of staffing level changes, cost containment initiatives undertaken since Order 69/19 including supply chain management, the implications, if any, of the COVID-19 pandemic and any resulting impacts to the levels of service provided by Manitoba Hydro.

6. Depreciation Expense and Methodology, Amortization and Regulatory Deferral Accounts

The Consumers Coalition views as necessary a review of Manitoba Hydro's most recent Depreciation Study in order to assess its implications on the revenue requirement. The Consumers Coalition is also interested in any additions to the Major Capital Deferral Account and any changes to its amortization period. As above, there are multiple directives and recommendations from Orders 59/18 and 69/19 in this area about which neither the public nor the PUB have received updated information on which the Consumers Coalition intends to follow up.²⁷

²⁵ See *The Manitoba Hydro Act*, CCSM c H190 at s 30(1).

²⁶ See, for example, Order 59/19 Directive 12 (p. 267) regarding reduced staffing levels and advice from external consultants and Recommendation 4 (p. 264) regarding further efforts to reduce costs in this area. See also Order 69/19 Directive 8 and p. 23-24.

²⁷ See, for example, Order 59/18 Directives 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23; Order 69/19 Directive 2.

7. Domestic Revenues, Load Forecast and Hydrology

A necessary element of this proceeding will be updates to Manitoba Hydro's Load Forecast including any impacts of COVID-19, related economic downturn and projections for longer-term load changes.

The Consumers Coalition will also assess the updated Load Forecast against Directive 11 from Order 59/18 regarding improvements to its load forecasting methodology.²⁸

The Consumers Coalition will be interested in updates on current water and reservoir conditions and their implications on net income and retained earnings, particularly if the present drought is prolonged. The Consumers Coalition will also be interested in updates to resource planning, including an Integrated Resource Plan, with respect to levels of supply and demand.

8. Export Revenues

The Consumers Coalition and other prospective interveners have identified the significant uncertainty introduced to Manitoba Hydro's future rates by recent and impending changes to export revenues. Updates to Manitoba Hydro's projected export revenues will be an essential element of the determination of just and reasonable rates.

An assessment of these revenues will necessarily involve consideration of changes to net income and retained earnings resulting from recent export contracts and changes to export strategies, including related to the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project. Recent changes to market pricing and projections of future market changes will be relevant here also.

9. Capital Expenditures and Business Operations Capital

The Consumers Coalition will be interested in understanding any changes to Manitoba Hydro's Capital Expenditure Forecast as well as to Demand Side Management forecasts since Order 69/19. The Consumers Coalition will also be interested in reviewing any progress toward the implementation of a corporate asset framework and associated asset management initiatives, including related to Directive 14 from Order 59/18.

10. Major Capital Projects

A necessary element of this proceeding will be updates on in-service dates and capital cost projections for all in-progress and completed major capital projects, as well as an update to the major capital project revenue requirement. The Consumers Coalition also intends to assess these updates against the recommendations and directives provided to Manitoba Hydro in Order 59/18 related to capital project planning.²⁹

11. Cost of Service Study and Rate Design

A review and analysis of Manitoba Hydro's 2021 Prospective Cost of Service study, including its underlying assumptions, results and implications on rate setting, will be a necessary element of the determination of just and reasonable rates in this proceeding.

²⁸ See Order 59/18 at Directive 11.

²⁹ Please see Order 59/18 at Directive 15 and Recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Also included in discussions of this issue should be Cost of Service scenarios incorporating current in-service costs and capital cost projections of major capital projects including the Keeyask generating station.

Also included in this issue will necessarily be updates on the rate design directives from Order 59/18 including net metering and the Solar Energy Program,³⁰ declining block general service rates and rate differentiation in the General Service non-demand class,³¹ and time-use rates for General Service Large customers.³²

12. Compliance with Prior PUB Directives

In general, the Consumers Coalition will be seeking to reconcile Manitoba Hydro's activities since Orders 59/18 and 69/19 with the PUB's directives and recommendations including any deferral accounts flowing from prior orders. As the PUB has found, setting just and reasonable rates for service requires a long-term perspective and relies on medium- and long-term plans.³³ Despite its substantially changed circumstances, the guidance provided to Manitoba Hydro by the PUB remains relevant to the preservation of consumers' interests in just and reasonable rates, in fairly allocated costs and in a healthy public utility.

13. Role of Medium- to Long-Term Forecasts and Projections in Determining Whether Rates are Just and Reasonable

The Consumers Coalition wishes to emphasize the importance of long-term perspectives in rate setting. Consistent with the PUB's past practice in relying on IFFs and long-term planning documents, consumers' interests are best served when rate setting is undertaken with a long-term perspective. Reliance on medium- and long-term forecasts will be necessary to ensure that rates are just and reasonable as well as stable, predictable, and commensurate to fairly-allocated costs. These must be determined with due consideration of rate impacts that may result from medium- and long-term risks.

Consistent with that perspective, the Consumers Coalition will seek to understand the elements of long-term information that are currently available to Manitoba, the barriers it is currently experiencing in preparing the type of forecasts that are necessary for the prudent rate setting and operations of a capital-intensive utility and how it intends to address them.

To the extent the evidence allows, the Consumers Coalition will seek to understand the immediate, medium term and long-term risks currently being faced by ratepayers.

Consumers Coalition Participation

Depending on the ultimate scope of this process to be identified in the PUB's procedural order, the Consumers Coalition intends to participate fully and actively in this proceeding including through attendance at hearings, submission of evidence, testing of evidence and cross-examination of witnesses.

³⁰ Order 59/18 Directives 7, 30.

³¹ Order 59/18 at Directive 28. See also Order 69/19 at Directive 10.

³² Order 59/18 at Directive 29.

³³ See, for example, Order 69/19 at p. 17.

Consistent with previous proceedings, the Consumers Coalition requests the right to ask two rounds of Information Requests and to file evidence.

Guided by its legal counsel and consistent with the requirements of interveners, the Consumers Coalition's participation will be uniformly aimed at assisting the PUB in making the assessments and determinations necessary to determine whether rates for service are just and reasonable and costs fairly allocated.

Costs Award

The Consumers Coalition intends to request an award of costs for its participation in this proceeding. The Consumers Coalition intends to include in its application for costs those costs incurred in the preliminary processes leading to Orders 53/21 and 89/21, including the filing of the Consumers Coalition's March 2021 Application and subsequent related submissions.

As stated in the Intervener Costs Policy 2019-20, in any proceeding, the Board may award costs to be paid to any Intervener who has:

- a) made a significant contribution that is relevant to the proceeding and contributed to a better understanding, by all parties, of the issues before the Board;
- b) participated in the hearing in a responsible manner and cooperated with other Interveners who have common objectives in the outcome of the proceedings in order to avoid a duplication of intervention;
- c) represented interests beyond their sole business interest; and
- d) a substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding and represents the interests of a substantial number of ratepayers.

The Consumers Coalition has and will make a significant contribution to this proceeding, including through its information requests, evidence from its expert witnesses and consultants, as well as its cross-examination of Manitoba Hydro's witnesses and its final submissions. Its intervention will be guided by the PUB's criteria for the consideration of just and reasonable rates.

The Consumers Coalition will participate in this hearing in a reasonable manner and will cooperate with other interveners who have common objectives. The Consumers Coalition's intervention will be limited to those issues eventually confirmed by the PUB to be within scope. In addition, the Consumers Coalition will make reasonable efforts to ensure that its participation is not unduly duplicative of other interveners. For example, it has already met with representatives from MIPUG in an attempt to collaborate on any areas of common interest and to jointly propose a common issues list.

The Consumers Coalition has prepared a draft preliminary budget totaling \$230,860.00 which is attached to its Intervener Application. The proposed budget assumes a hearing of similar complexity to the 2019 hearing leading to Order 69/19. Given uncertainty regarding the scope of the hearing, the budget estimate for the experts is based exclusively on PUB approved

costs for the proceeding leading to Order 69/19. The budget estimate for legal counsel is based on 8 hearing days which is consistent with the estimates of MIPUG.

While the Consumers Coalition expects to be able to participate in a manner consistent with its provided draft budget, there exists a significant risk that procedural disagreement and a lack of cooperation on the part of Manitoba Hydro may unnecessarily require additional legal and technical resources not presently accounted for.

As explained in the Consumers Coalition letter to the PUB dated August 30, 2021, any budget prepared at this early stage will be preliminary and subject to revision following this written pre-hearing conference process and the issuance of the Board's procedural order. The Consumers Coalition anticipates filing a more refined budget once clarity regarding the scope of the hearing is achieved. As also noted in the August 30, 2021 letter, the imposition of a maximum amount of intervener funding, particularly at this preliminary stage of the proceeding, would be inappropriate and inconsistent with the PUB's practice.³⁴

Comments on Process

Despite not being initiated by a rate filing, the PUB's expressed purpose in this process is to assess whether rates for service are just and reasonable and whether costs are fairly allocated between customer classes.³⁵ Decades of experience illustrate that this purpose can be achieved through the long-standing elements of compliance with MFRs, the exchange of two rounds of Information Requests, the preparation of evidence, one round of Information Requests on this evidence, rebuttal evidence, followed by opening statements, cross examination of witnesses and closing arguments in an oral hearing.

Proposed Minimum Filing Requirements

These proposed MFRs are based on the Draft MFRs provided by the PUB with recommended elaborations from the Consumers Coalition.

Corporate

1. Details of all material changes in the Corporation's operations since the last GRA hearing.
2. Current Corporate Risk Analysis Report.

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- MH new Corporate Strategic Plan and if not available, a summary of MH's goals and strategic actions for 2022/23, including commentary on expected changes in the energy landscape; and
- MH's current organizational chart (executive and senior management) [see Appendix 2.2 of the MH 2015/16 GRA].

³⁴ See PUB Order 46/03.

³⁵ Order 89/21, p. 46.

Financial Results and Forecasts

3. Actual, budgeted, outlook, or forecast operating statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements (both direct and indirect methods) for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, and all additional forward years for which these documents exist. [2019 GRA Appendix 1, 2].
4. Quarterly Financial Statements for the current fiscal year.
5. MHEB 70th Annual Report for year ended March 31, 2021
6. Details of the determination of each of the financial ratios (debt-to-equity, interest coverage, and capital coverage) for each of the years 2019/20 to 2022/23 and any future years as available. [2019/20 GRA PUB/MH 1-8]
7. Detail of the Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Accounts including Opening and Closing Balances, Additions, and Amortizations. [2019 GRA - PUB/MH 10 a-c]
8. A table that shows the incremental and cumulative impacts to retained earnings of a 5- and 7-year drought, beginning in 2021/22. [2017/18 GRA PUB/MH II-40].
9. Revenue requirements including cost components (Finance/Depreciation/Operating/Water Rentals/F&PP/Taxes) for the years 2019/20, to 2023/24 for each of the following:
 - Keeyask generating station
 - Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project
 - Great Northern Transmission Line
 - Bipole III and Riel station
 - Birtle Transmission Project
 - Business Operations Capital [2019/20 GRA PUB/MH I-9]
10. Continuity schedules showing the deferrals and amortization (or proposed amortization) of the Bipole III Deferral Account and the Major Capital Deferral Account. [2019/20 GRA PUB/MH I-11]
11. Incremental revenues and unit revenues from Keeyask by year, broken down by firm and opportunity sales. [2017/18 GRA PUB MFR 82]
12. Details of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on O&A expenditures in 2020/21 and 2021/22 to date.

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- An update on MH's progress towards the review/development of its corporate financial targets (as was indicated during the MH 2019/20 Rate Application), including the most current runs of MH's Uncertainty Analysis that was presented at the 2017/18 MH GRA (if available) [see Section 4.5 of the MH 2018/19 GRA];

- MH's Annual Business Plan for 2021/22;
- Further to PUB MFR #3, a breakdown of domestic revenues between revenues at existing rates and additional revenues from approved and projected rate increases;
- Further to PUB MFR #3, summary commentary with respect to the income statement line items for 2020/21 to 2022/23 [see Sections 6.1 and 6.2 from Tab 6 of the MH 2018/19 GRA];
- Further to PUB MFR #3, an analysis of the net income impact of the 2.9% electric rate increase effective December 1, 2020 for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 and any future years as available;
- Further to PUB MFR #3, a differential comparison between the updated outlooks and forecasts and MH Exhibit #93 from the 2018/19 MH GRA;
- MH's OM&A Quarterly Reports to the PUB since the MH 2019/20 Rate Application;
- Further to PUB MFR #12, details of cost containment initiatives to reduce growth in OM&A costs since the MH 2019/20 Rate Application;
- Details of the contracted wage settlements in place for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 [see IR Coalition/MH I-14 (j) from the MH 2019/20 Rate Application];
- MH OM&A Target Setting Analysis for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 [see MH Exhibit #78 from the MH 2018/19 GRA and IR Coalition/MH I-13 (b)(c) from the MH 2019/20 Rate Application];
- A schedule of MH OM&A for 2019/20 actuals and for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 outlooks/forecasts broken down into the various cost categories/cost elements [see Schedule 5.1.4 from the MH 2015/16 GRA, without accounting changes];
- An update of the MH VDP and Supply Chain Project OM&A cost savings for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 [see IR Coalition/MH I-13 (d) from the MH 2019/20 Rate Application for the VDP savings]; and
- An update on the timing of MH's next Depreciation Study, timing of implementation of the study and expected issues and directional impact of the study (to the extent possible).
- Please comment on the discussion below of the historic IFF process up to 2016 and explain which forecasts are either no longer prepared by Manitoba Hydro or which have been materially altered in format or temporal forecast period since 2016.

The Historic IFF Process up to 2016

Historically, the front-end of the IFF process was to develop the Load Forecast, Domestic Revenue Forecast and Power Resource Plan taking into account the economic outlook, energy price outlook, export price forecast, demand side management plan and new major generation and transmission resources.

The middle part of the IFF process was to develop the generation costs and interchange revenue forecasts (sometimes referred to as Net Export Revenue Forecast, the Capital Expenditure Forecast and Operating and Administrative Expenditure Forecast). The Net Export Revenue Forecast included a short-term forecast for the first two to three years that would be based on known water storage conditions and median water flows and a longer-term forecast for the rest of the IFF period that would revert to the assumption of one hundred

years of average water flows. Over the past three decades up to 2016, the end stage of the process was the production of the IFF.

Finance Expense and Debt

13. Current Economic and Financial Indicators (including interest rates) Forecast. [2019/20 GRA Additional Information Attachment 5]

14. Most recent credit rating reports from DBRS, Moody's, and S&P.

15. Manitoba Hydro's most recent presentation(s) made to each credit rating agency.

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- The most current version of the MH Debt Management Strategy [see Appendix 3.5 of the MH 2018/19 GRA] and if not available, then commentary on MH's debt management objectives and a summary of debt management activities since the MH 2019/20 Rate Application and for the 2022/23 fiscal year;
- MH's current interest rate policy and guidelines [see Section 3.5 of the Centra Gas 2019/20 GRA];
- Charts on MH's various debt metrics for 2021/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 including performance compared to policy guidelines, long-term debt maturity analysis, debt structure by quarter and long-term debt continuity schedule [see IR CAC/Centra I-9 (b), (f), (g), (h) and (j) of the Centra Gas 2019/20 GRA]; and
- Commentary and quarterly information for 2020/21 to 2022/23 on MH's use of its expanded short-term borrowing authority in the MH Act, from \$0.5 billion to \$1.5 billion in the MH Act, with the intent of annual savings of \$8 to \$15 million dollars.

Export and Domestic Revenues

16. Current approved Electric Load Forecast and tables that show updates to both the load forecast and the actual loads resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. Updates to graphs of Annual System Inflows, Energy in Storage, Daily Hydraulic Energy from Inflow, and Total Hydraulic Generation.

18. Graphs and tables of net export revenues and net income for 2021/22 and 2022/23 for each of the possible water flow conditions (P1 to P100). [2019/20 GRA PUB/MH I-29(c)]

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- Resource Planning Electric supply and demand tables for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 [see Attachment #4, additional information, MH 2019/20 Rate Application]; and

- Schedule of export volumes, revenues/costs and average unit revenues for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 [see Attachment #3, additional information, MH 2019/20 Rate Application].

Capital Expenditures

19. Capital Expenditure Forecast. If there have been updates since the approved CEF provide a table that shows the updates.

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- Further to PUB MFR #19, Demand Side Management expenditure forecasts for the same period as the Capital Expenditure Forecast;
- MH's Major Capital Projects Quarterly Reports to the PUB since the MH 2019/20 Rate Application; and
- Updates on MH's progress towards implementation of a corporate asset management framework, including progress on the UMS gap report, asset condition assessments, asset investment planning and implementation of a corporate value framework.

COSS and Rate Design

20. PCOSS21 and allocation tables; and PCOSS22 (if available).

21. Proofs of Revenue for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- Further to PUB MFR #20, a PCOSS21 or PCOSS22 scenario that includes the most current in-service dates and capital cost projections for all of MH's major capital projects, including the full in-service of all of the units of the Keeyask generating station and details of the assumptions used to develop this scenario [see IR PUB/MH I-61 (a) of the MH 2019/20 Rate Application].

Status of Prior PUB Directives

Additional Consumers Coalition Proposed MFRs:

- A schedule that lists and provides a status update on MH's compliance with all outstanding and ongoing PUB directives, including PUB directives from Orders 59/18 and 69/19 [see directive #37 from Order 59/18]; and
- Copies of MH reports and correspondence provided to the PUB to satisfy outstanding directives since the MH 2019/20 Rate Application.

Conclusion

As has been described above, the Consumers Coalition represents the interests of all Manitoba residential ratepayers. As a result, it has a substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding and represents the interests of a substantial number of ratepayers. The Consumers Coalition aims to protect and reconcile the interests of all Manitoba residential consumers, including low and fixed-income consumers, the working poor and those living in remote and rural communities.

Residential ratepayers rely on vigorous, independent regulation to hold Crown monopolies, including Manitoba Hydro, accountable. Through its legal counsel and its team of expert witnesses, the Consumers Coalition intends to participate in this proceeding by providing evidence-based advocacy in the consumer interest.

Subject to approval from the Public Utilities Board, the Consumers Coalition looks forward to participating in this proceeding.