



PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE
LE CENTRE POUR LA DEFENSE DE L'INTERET PUBLIC

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February 5, 2007

Deanna Lemke
Board Secretary
Yukon Utilities Board
Box 31728
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 6L3

Dear Ms. Lemke,

Re: Yukon Energy Corporation 20-Year Resource Plan 2006-2025

On behalf of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) it was our pleasure to provide legal support to the Utilities Consumers Group (UCG) in the above noted proceeding. Further to the Board's directions we have submitted a cost claim for our participation in the hearing to our client, along with this letter to provide some context to the claim.

PIAC is a non-profit federally incorporated organization founded in Ottawa in 1976. PIAC seeks to advance the interests of individuals and groups who are generally unrepresented or underrepresented in issues of major public concern, particularly the delivery of important public and utility services. Additionally PIAC undertakes legal and research services on behalf of consumers. The Centre focuses on consumer issues in a variety of fields, including energy.

In the context of this proceeding, PIAC was retained as legal counsel by UCG to assist with the preparation for, the appearance at, and the drafting of written argument with respect to the Board's review of the Yukon Energy Corporation's 20 Year Resource Plan. As a non-profit organization PIAC's ability to provide such legal support is entirely dependant on the eligibility of organizations like UCG to recover costs incurred with respect legal and consultant support services.

PIAC lawyers providing support to UCG in this proceeding include our Executive Director, Michael Janigan, and myself, Michael Buonaguro, PIAC's Toronto Counsel. You may note, however, that although Mr. Janigan invested several hours in the initial stages of our retainer with UCG in this proceeding, we have not included a cost claim for his time. Accordingly PIAC's cost claim is limited to a claim for legal fees for myself, along with disbursements.

HOURLY RATE-MICHAEL BUONAGURO-\$170.00 PER HOUR

As a lawyer called to the Ontario Bar in 2002, I am currently of 5 years of call. In accordance with the Board's tariff the maximum hourly rate for legal counsel is \$225.00 per hour. Based on my year of call and the nature of the proceeding, we have submitted our claim on the basis of an hourly rate of \$170.00 per hour. We rely in part on the Alberta Energy Board scale of costs for legal counsel, which indicates a maximum hourly rate of \$180.00 for counsel with 5 years of call, and the Ontario Energy Board scale of Costs, which indicate a fixed hourly rate of \$165.00 for a lawyer with 5 completed years of call. Note that each scale has its' own nuances, but in general we believe they support our submission of a rate of \$170.00 per hour.

NUMBER OF HOURS CLAIMED-MICHAEL BUONAGURO-95.1 TOTAL HOURS

It is our submission that given the complexity and range of topics included in a 20 year resource plan and the requirement for written argument, reply, and additional written comments that the hours claimed by PIAC are reasonable. Of the 95.1 hours claimed, roughly 24% relate to attendance at the hearing itself. PIAC respectfully submits that its participation in the hearing process was of assistance, not only to UCG, but also to the Board and other parties in terms of adding useful and focused evidence to the attention of the Board.

DISBURSEMENTS

It is our understanding that the "usual" disbursements, including hotel stay, airfare, postage, couriers, taxis to/from the airport, etc. do not require additional receipts or support at this time, however we do have supporting material if necessary. We also understand that meals are to be covered in the hourly rate claimed, and as such have not made any separate claims for meals.

PIAC has requested three disbursements in the "other" category, relating to the application and receipt of a Certificate to Act as counsel in the Yukon, a copy of which is forwarded for the Board's review. The disbursements include the cost of a photo, a certificate from the Law Society of Upper Canada, and the final Certificate to act in the Yukon. Please note that the certificate is specific and applies only to the Resource Plan Hearing, and accordingly we respectfully submit that it is properly recoverable as a disbursement.

We would be pleased to answer any questions the Board may have concerning our cost claim. Again, it was our pleasure to appear before the Board on this matter and to provide support to UCG, and we look forward to the opportunity to do so again in the future.

Yours very truly,



Michael Buonaguro
Counsel for UCG
Encl.