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## **VIA EMAIL**

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RE: Application for Approval of Stage 1 Rate Design Changes Commission Docket UE22503

On May 27, 2025, counsel for the intervener, Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture ("PEIFA"), wrote to Commission counsel requesting an unspecified extension of certain procedural timelines, and that the Application as filed by Maritime Electric Company, Limited ("MECL") be updated.

By letter dated June 2, 2025, the Commission advised the parties that it would grant the interveners, PEIFA and the Prince Edward Island Energy Corporation ("PEIEC"), a brief extension to file their evidence on or before June 20, 2025; that the Application will be considered as filed; and that the Application will proceed to a hearing in September/October 2025.

Shortly after receiving the Commission's correspondence on June 2, 2025, counsel for PEIEC responded. In the response, PEIEC advised it shared PEIFA's concerns that the record is "stale" and requested a planning conference.

As stated in the Commission's correspondence of May 2, 2025, confirmed in its correspondence of June 2, 2025, and reiterated herein, the Commission is not prepared to further delay the hearing of this Application.

The Commission has repeatedly expressed concerns about the inequities in MECL's rate structure.¹ Certain customers are paying less than their cost of service, while other ratepayers are paying more. The customers that are paying more than their cost of service are effectively subsidizing the cost of electricity for other MECL customers.

As the parties are aware, it is the mandate of the Commission to ensure that rates for electric service are reasonable, publicly justifiable and non-discriminatory. The Commission intends to have a new rate structure in place before the next rate setting period, which is anticipated to begin on or about March 1, 2026.

The interveners, PEIFA and PEIEC, have had ample time to prepare for this Application. Both were granted intervener status in September 2022 – almost three years ago. PEIFA received responses to its initial interrogatories in December 2023, and responses to its additional interrogatories in August 2024.

PEIEC, for its part, has not taken an active role in this Application. Although granted intervener status almost three years ago, PEIEC has not issued any interrogatories to MECL, nor has it filed any evidence.

As previously advised, the Commission intends to proceed with this public hearing without delay. The timelines previously communicated to the parties, and summarized below, are as follows:

- 1. The interveners, PEIFA and PEIEC, shall each have the opportunity to submit prehearing written submissions, including (but not limited to) expert reports and any updated information they deem relevant. The pre-hearing written submissions and expert reports (if any) must be delivered to every other party, and filed with the Commission, no later than 4:00 p.m. on June 27, 2025. Any expert reports must comply with Rule 58 of the Commission's *Rules of Practice & Procedure*.
- 2. The Commission's independent expert, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. ("Synapse"), will have the opportunity to respond to the pre-hearing written submissions and/or expert reports submitted by the interveners. The response (if any) must be in writing, filed with the Commission, and delivered to the parties, no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 18, 2025**.
- 3. The applicant, MECL, will have the opportunity to respond to the interveners' prehearing written submissions and/or expert reports, as well as any response from Synapse. MECL's response must be in writing, filed with the Commission, and delivered to the parties, no later than **4:00 p.m. on August 15, 2025**.

In accordance with the Commission's *Rules of Practice & Procedure*, the Commission may reject any documents, evidence or written submissions that are not filed in accordance with these timelines.

The hearing will occur on one of the following weeks. Please advise of your preference.

September 29 to October 3, 2025 November 17 to 21, 2025 November 24 to 28, 2025

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See, for example, Orders UE16-04, UE19-08, and UE20-06.

Responses are required no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20, 2025.

Should any party fail or refuse to advise of their availability by 4:00 p.m. on June 20, 2025, the Commission may schedule hearing dates based on the responses then received.

Yours very truly,

Cheryl Bradley, CPA Senior Financial Advisor