MEETING NOTE

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: GridSmartCity

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: 4 May 2017

LOCATION OF MEETING: TBA

ATTENDEES:

Minister of Energy
Glenn Thibeault

GridSmartCity
Jerry Van Ooteghem, President and CEO, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro
Frank Lasowski, President and CEO, Milton Hydro
Brian Wilkie, President and CEO, Niagara Peninsula Energy
Rene Gatien, President and CEO, Waterloo North Hydro
Art Skidmore, President and CEO, Halton Hills Hydro
Gerry Smallegange, President and CEO, Burlington Hydro
Wayne Armstrong, President and CEO, Welland Hydro Electric
Ray Tracey, President and CEO, Essex Powerlines

ANTICIPATED AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Partnerships and Collaboration
2. Innovation and Smart Grid

1 NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Partnerships and Collaboration

- GridSmartCity is a collection of LDCs that seeks to find efficiencies while not pursuing full consolidation.
- Its members are interested in discussing how such arrangement can be enabled further, following the Ministry announcing its support in Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

Suggested Response:

- **The Government is always interested in ways that the LDC sector can become more efficient and innovative, reducing costs for consumers while maintaining reliability. We announced our support for collaborative LDC relationships in Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.**
- **Can you tell me about some specific achievements that GridSmartCity has been able to accomplish?**

- **We are interested in hearing GridSmart City's viewpoint and will be working with the OEB to help facilitate innovation and collaboration among LDCs and their partners.**

Background:

- GridSmartCity is a collaboration of thirteen small and medium sized LDCs. In presentations to ENERGY staff, members have indicated it is focused on providing the best services to electricity customers with reduced operation costs.
- The collaboration facilitates common purchasing arrangements. Some of its priorities are customer information systems and IT, HR, and product supply chain.
- There are other LDC collaborative arrangements as well. The CHEC group (Cornerstone Hydro Electric Concepts) is also a partnership of smaller LDCs.
- Both CHEC and SmartGridCity (through Halton Hills Hydro) made LTEP presentations to ENERGY staff,
- Both groups contend that larger LDCs are not necessarily more efficient than smaller LDCs. These organizations believe that collaboration provides savings without losing autonomy.
- Both CHEC and GridSmartCity have made representations that Ontario Energy Board regulatory compliance costs are increasing, without a direct correlation to improvements in distributor performance.
- This input contributed to the component of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, which announced that the Ministry would work with the Ontario Energy Board to:
    - Encourage shared partnerships on services between utilities, which would help reduce costs and encourage further innovation for small to medium-sized utilities.
    - Review business cases behind its regulatory requirements to reduce red tape and eliminate costs that LDCs indicate are creating pressures on operating expenses.

2. Innovation and Smart Grid

- GridSmartCity's objectives are focused on smart grid, grid modernization, green energy, and innovation.

Suggested Response:

- **Grid modernization and innovation are priorities for the Ministry as we develop the next Long-Term Energy Plan. I know that GridSmartCity shares these priorities.**

- **We are interested in hearing GridSmartCity's perspectives on how the Ministry can encourage greater innovation and advance grid modernization in Ontario's distribution sector.**

Background:

- GridSmartCity states that it is "…ideally positioned to compete as a leading innovator in Ontario's electricity sector, by virtue of being closest to the customer, and leveraging our collective resources for innovation."

- GridSmartCity has established a New Technology Committee to consider innovative approaches and tools to distribution system challenges. Their primary focus is on developing common standards for electric vehicle charging.

- As part of their focus on electric vehicles, an charging station pilot currently underway in Burlington Hydro and Oakville Hydro's service territories.

    - "futureGRID" is a home-based charging solution automates the interaction between electric vehicles and the electricity grid.

    - Participants benefit by having their vehicles charged at the optimal time of day, based on usage, community electricity demand and electricity prices, while the LDCs are able to optimize energy flows and ensure greater reliability.

- Other GridSmartCity innovation focuses include:

    - Using smart grid technology to promote efficiency;

    - Encouraging greater adoption of distrubted generation;

    - Promoting energy management tools for residential and commercial customers;

    - Local integration of energy systems and resources; and,

    - Conservation and peak demand reduction.

KEY FACTS:

- Launched in 2009, GridSmartCity is a co-operative of 13 of generally medium-sized LDCs.
- The mandate of GridSmartCity is to:
    - Increase efficiency and customer value;
    - Cooperate and realize the full value of shared procurement; and,
    - Prepare for future business models and distribution technologies.
- Twelve corporate partners and smart grid innovators are members of GridSmartCity, offering their expertise and products for members seeking to advance their smart grid in a collaborative manner.

BIOGRAPHIES:

Jerry Van Ooteghem, Chair, GridSmartCity Cooperative and President and CEO, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro

Mr. Jerry Van Ooteghem has been the Chief Executive Officer and President at Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc., since April 2007 and also serves as its Secretary and Director. Mr. Van Ooteghem served as Vice-President of Operations and Chief Engineer of Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc. until March 2007. He is a Professional Engineer with over 30 years of experience.

Frank Lasowski, President and CEO, Milton Hydro

The President and CEO of Milton Hydro since 2008, Mr. Frank Lasowski was formerly COO for Burlington Fibrewired, then an affiliated division of Burlington Hydro. Mr. Lasowski is the Chair and an active participant of the technology association BITNET. He is also active with various professional engineering organizations and an active presenter in the electricity industry circuit.

Brian Wilkie, President and CEO, Niagara Peninsula Energy

Mr. Brian Wilkie has been with the company for 30 years and was President of the former Niagara Falls Hydro before the 2008 merger between Niagara Falls Hydro and Peninsula West Utilities.

Rene Gatien, President and CEO, Waterloo North Hydro

Mr. Rene Gatien is the President and CEO since July 2002. Mr. Gatien was previously the Vice-President of Operations for Guelph Hydro for 11 years. Mr. Gatien holds a BASc in Electrical Engineering and is registered as a Professional Engineer and as a Journeyman Power Lineman in the province of Ontario. As well he holds an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business. He has over 32 years of experience in the electrical industry in both the private and public sectors.

Art Skidmore, President and CEO, Halton Hills Hydro

Mr. Skidmore serves as Chief Executive Officer and President of Halton Hills Hydro Inc. He served as the Chief Financial Officer of Halton Hills Hydro Inc. and SouthWestern Energy Inc. He served as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of Halton Hills Fibre Optics Inc. He held management positions with Electricity Distribution companies throughout the Province of Ontario.

Gerry Smallegange, President and CEO, Burlington Hydro

Mr. Gerry Smallegange serves as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Burlington Hydro Electric Inc. and on the Board of Directors of the Burlington Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) which provides strategic direction to the organization and the delivery of the City's economic development program. Mr. Smallegange holds a Masters of Business Administration Degree and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Waterloo, a registered professional engineer in the Province of Ontario.

Wayne Armstrong, President and CEO, Welland Hydro Electric

Mr. Wayne Armstrong holds a Hon BBA in Accounting from Wilfrid Laurier University and has his CMA designation.

Ray Tracey, President and CEO, Essex Powerlines

Mr. Ray Tracey serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Essex Powerlines Inc. Mr. Tracey holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Windsor, and registered with the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario in 1988. Mr. Tracey has 30 years of proven experience in engineering, planning, market settlement, business integration and innovation.