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BY E-MAIL AND WEBPOSTING

February 28, 2018

To: **All Parties in Hydro One Networks Inc.'s 2018 - 2022 Distribution Rate Application, OEB File No. EB-2017-0049**

On January 10, 2018, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued Procedural Order No. 3 in its review of the application by Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) for distribution rates for the years 2018 to 2022. The Procedural Order made provision for a technical conference to be held on March 1, 2018, continuing, if necessary, on March 2, 2018. The purpose of this letter is to inform the parties that the OEB has determined that two topics – pole attachments and prepaid metering – will not be the subject of questioning at the technical conference this week, for the reasons set out below. This letter also addresses Hydro One's request for confidential treatment of the working papers (the Working Papers) of Power System Engineering, Inc. (PSE) delivered in response to OEB Staff Interrogatory No. 23(a).

Hydro One's request to change its pole attachment charge will not be considered at this time as there is currently an ongoing OEB consultation on pole attachment charges and the OEB has issued a Draft *Report of the Board on the Framework for Determining Wireline Pole Attachment Charges*¹. As it is possible that the outcome of that consultation could affect the evidence in this proceeding, be it that of Hydro One or of Rogers Communications Canada Inc. (Rogers) and/or other parties, the OEB has determined that it will consider Hydro One's request in this regard at a later time, after the final report has been issued. The OEB may provide for further discovery in this regard at that time.

The OEB also notes that by letter dated February 26, 2018, Rogers advised of its intention to bring a motion to compel Hydro One to provide responses to some of

¹ EB-2015-0304

Rogers' interrogatories. Rogers also submitted that the technical conference as it pertains to the pole attachment charge should be adjourned for a short period of time to allow the OEB to rule on the motion to compel, and for any answers to be delivered. The Rogers motion was filed on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. The OEB does not intend to address the Rogers motion at this time, as it expects to address matters relating to pole attachments following the outcome of the pole attachment consultation. Consideration of pole attachment-related matters in the upcoming technical conference is therefore adjourned.

Second, the OEB will not consider the request by Hydro One related to prepaid meters at this time. The OEB plans to review prepaid metering as part of its current customer service rules review initiative². The OEB may issue further directions in respect of Hydro One's request in the current proceeding. At this time, the OEB does not expect parties to ask questions of Hydro One pertaining to prepaid meters, nor is the OEB expecting Hydro One to respond to any such questions at this week's technical conference.

Finally, the OEB will be issuing a Procedural Order in respect of Hydro One's request for confidential treatment of the Working Papers. Among other matters, that Procedural Order will provide opportunities for submissions in respect of the confidentiality request. However, the OEB has determined at this time that it will not require parties requesting access to the Working Papers to execute a third party confidentiality undertaking in addition to that required by the OEB in accordance with its *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings* (Practice Direction). For the time being, and subject to the disposition of the request, the OEB will treat the Working Papers as confidential. Parties are reminded of their obligations under the Practice Direction with respect to access to, and the handling of confidential material.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

² EB-2017-0183