



# **ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

## **BOARD STAFF SUBMISSION**

**Application for Extension to the Exemption from  
Section 6.2.6 and 6.2.7 of the Distribution System Code**

**Hydro One Networks Inc.**

**Board File No.: EB-2012-0343**

October 10, 2012

## BACKGROUND

On August 3, 2012 Hydro One Networks Inc. (“Hydro One”) applied to the Ontario Energy Board (“the Board”) for an extension to the exemption from the obligations under sections 6.2.6 and 6.2.7 of the Distribution System Code (“DSC”) which the Board granted in its Decision and Order of October 11, 2011 under EB-2011-0118. The exemption expired on April 11, 2012. The sections of the DSC relate to the timelines required to connect micro-embedded generation facilities to Hydro One’s distribution system.

Hydro One also requested an immediate interim stay from the obligations in sections 6.2.6 and 6.2.7 of the DSC as of the date the application was filed and until the Board renders a final decision on the matter.

Section 6.2.6 requires a distributor to make an offer to connect, or provide reasons for refusing connection of, micro-embedded generation facilities within:

- 15 days if the applicant is located at an existing customer connection; or
- 60 days if the applicant is not located at an existing customer connection.

In either case, the distributor is not permitted to charge for the preparation of the offer to connect and must give the applicant at least 30 days to accept the offer to connect. The distributor is not permitted to revoke the offer to connect until the 30 day period has expired.

Section 6.2.7 requires the distributor to connect the applicant’s micro-embedded generation facility to its distribution system within 5 days of an applicant informing the distributor that it has:

- received all necessary approvals;
- provided the distributor with a copy of the authorization to connect from the Electrical Safety Authority;
- entered into a Connection Agreement; and
- paid the distributor for the connection costs, including costs for any necessary new or modified metering.

Hydro One states it requires the extension to deal with an expected large volume of applications resulting from the re-launch of the Ontario Power Authority's microFIT Program and while Hydro One awaits the outcome of the Board's consultation on micro-embedded generation issues (EB-2012-0246). The requested term of the extension is from April 11, 2012 until a date which is six months after the Board issues a final Notice of Code Amendments or otherwise concludes its consultation on micro-embedded generation issues. The six month period is requested to allow Hydro One time to make any necessary changes to its systems and processes to accommodate the Board's decision and order in EB-2012-0246.

The Board issued a Notice of Application and Hearing for the application on September 14, 2012. Power Workers' Union responded to the Notice supporting Hydro One's request for an interim stay of the obligations.

This submission is being provided by Board staff following a review of the application and evidence filed in this proceeding.

### **STAFF SUBMISSION**

Having reviewed the application and evidence, Board staff has no issue with the Hydro One's request for an extension to the exemptions to section 6.2.6 and 6.2.7 of the DSC. Given that the Board is reviewing micro-embedded generation issues through its consultation staff is of the view that granting an extension to the exemptions in the DSC till after the close of the Board's consultation is reasonable.

All of which is respectfully submitted.