

Board Staff Interrogatories on Intervenor Evidence of Hydro One Networks Inc.

Board Staff Interrogatory 1:

At page 1 of its evidence, Hydro One Networks Inc. (“Hydro One”) states that:

“Varna (as noted in response to Board Staff’s first interrogatory), accepted Hydro One’s policy of not allowing over-building (or joint-use) of high-voltage lines on Hydro One distribution poles along this route (due to safety and reliability concerns), and accordingly has located its transmission line on the road allowance on the opposite side of Hydro One’s distribution line”.

- a) When was the policy restricting joint-use of poles introduced by Hydro One? Are there any situations under the subject policy where exceptions are permitted that would allow for the joint-use of poles?
- b) Please elaborate on the “safety and reliability concerns” that prevent the joint-use of poles? Please comment on what measures can be taken in the design phase to address the noted “safety and reliability concerns” such that joint-use of poles is permissible in this case.
- c) Are there any instances where joint-use of poles is currently permitted by Hydro One? Please provide the reasons for these exceptions.
- d) Is Hydro One aware of other utilities in North America that permit the joint-use of poles for the purpose of locating transmission and distribution lines? If the answer is “yes”, please provide the names of those utilities.

Board Staff Interrogatory 2:

Preamble: At page 1 of its evidence, Hydro One states that:

“Today, Hydro One Distribution serves about 17 customers who will lie behind Varna’s transmission line, on the opposite side of the road from Hydro One’s existing distribution line. In addition, for the next 20 years (and possibly longer, coinciding with Varna’s generating contract), in order to serve future home builders or others requesting a new electrical service connection, Hydro One Distribution will have to get its lines across the transmission line.”

- a) As proposed 17 Hydro One Distribution customers will lie behind Varna’s transmission line and Hydro One Distribution anticipates it will receive requests for new customer connections in the future. In order to understand the rate of growth in new connections, please provide the number of new distribution customer connections that were connected along the subject route in the past

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five years (2008- 2013 Year-to-date), and the expected new customer connections for the next five years (2013 – 2018).

Board Staff Interrogatory 3:

Preamble: At page 3 of its evidence, Hydro One states in part that:

“An alternative that would eliminate many of the above-noted technical and operational issues associated with the shared rights of way for overhead wires, which has been discussed on a preliminary basis with Varna, would involve Hydro One relocating the road crossing portions of its distribution line underground. Hydro One’s current practice is to install overhead wires, particularly in rural areas, due to the generally lower cost of this approach vis-à-vis the underground alternative. However, in recognition of the increasing complexity of the issues related to overhead service noted above, and the number of projects similar to the current Application which are expected going forward, Hydro One is now considering making underground installations a policy requirement in these circumstances.”

- a) Would the issues (as noted in evidence) associated with the shared use of rights of way be eliminated if Hydro One were to permit the joint-use of poles in this case? Please explain why issues related to the shared use of rights of way cannot be eliminated if the joint-use of poles were to be permitted.
- b) In recognition of the fact that Hydro One expects a number of similar projects to occur in the future, would Hydro One be agreeable to undertaking a study comparing on a total costs basis (including transmission and distribution related costs) of the following two alternatives: (i) making underground installations a policy requirement; (ii) allowing co-location of transmission and distribution on same side of public roads sharing the same towers with appropriate cost responsibility between all parties. If such a study has already been undertaken please file the report pertaining to the study. .

Board Staff Interrogatory 4:

Preamble: At page 3 of its evidence, Hydro One states in part that:

“For the Varna project, this would involve relocating underground, all of the existing road crossings along the shared route, at a preliminary cost estimate of approximately \$320 thousand. Future new connections would also be put underground at an estimated incremental cost above overhead wire installation of

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between \$5,000 and \$9,000 per connection. (Costs arising from road boring in a very rocky area could be much higher, however).

- a) Hydro One has provided a cost estimate for one of the proposed solutions that entails relocating underground all of the existing road crossings along the shared route. In comparison to above noted cost estimate, what is Hydro One's estimate of costs if joint-use of poles were to be permitted in this case? Please comment on whether allowing for the joint-use of poles is a less costly alternative compared to the "underground" option.

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