

EB-2015-0061

Entegrus Powerlines Inc.

Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges beginning May 1, 2016

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1 October 23, 2015

Entegrus Powerlines Inc. (Entegrus Powerlines) filed a complete cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 28, 2015 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Entegrus Powerlines charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2016.

A Notice of Hearing (Notice) was issued on September 28, 2015. Each of Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe), Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition VECC and School Energy Coalition (SEC) applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility.

No objection was received from Entegrus Powerlines.

I approve Energy Probe, VECC and SEC as intervenors. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. I have also determined that Energy Probe, VECC and SEC are eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

Cost eligible intervenors should be aware that the OEB will not generally allow the recovery of costs for the attendance of more than one representative of any party, unless a compelling reason is provided when cost claims are filed.

Issues List

It is the OEB's expectation that parties will be best positioned to identify issues relevant to Entegrus Powerlines' application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories. Entegrus Powerlines, OEB staff and the intervenors shall develop and OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list for the OEB's consideration. The OEB will approve an issues list prior to the Settlement Conference.

Community Meeting

The OEB will host a community meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on October 26, 2015 at the John D. Bradley Convention Centre in Chatham, ON. The community meeting will provide an opportunity for individual rate payers to ask OEB staff and representatives from Entegrus Powerlines about the application, as well as ask OEB staff about the OEB's mandate and hearing process. Intervenors may participate in the community meeting; however, any costs associated with attendance at the meeting will not be permitted to be claimed under the OEB's Practice Direction on Cost Awards.

Presentation Day

Entegrus Powerlines requested that the OEB provide for a presentation of its evidence before interrogatories are filed to allow an opportunity for its witnesses to provide an overview of the application.

I am making provision for the presentation of the application to the OEB, OEB staff and intervenors. Entegrus Powerlines' presentation is intended to provide an overview of the application it has filed with the OEB and should focus on the business conditions Entegrus Powerlines anticipates over the next 5 years, the planning it has undertaken to address system needs and customer preferences, and its proposal regarding how the costs of distributing electricity ought to be recovered from customers through the rates they pay, taking into consideration the OEB's policies. The purpose of the presentation is not to provide an opportunity for cross-examination by the parties, but rather for Entegrus Powerlines to present its application and to respond to any questions of clarification.

Interrogatories

At this time, I am making provision for written interrogatories. The OEB will review the single test year application both in the context of the projects and programs that are

requested for the test year and from the perspective of the distributor's plans for the subsequent four years until the next scheduled rebasing application.

Parties should examine the value presented by the proposed investments as opposed to focussing only on the costs. Parties should also assess the fit between the applicant's plans and its stated objectives, and consider how the plans contribute to positive outcomes for customers, in particular those outcomes that arise from the asset management decisions reflected in the applicant's distribution system plan. The OEB will consider the entire five year distribution system plan to assess the planning and pacing proposals of the applicant and whether the test year requests are appropriately aligned with the distribution system plan. The OEB will also consider productivity and benchmarking results in assessing cost forecasts, bill impacts and distributor performance.

Parties should not engage in detailed exploration of items that do not appear to be material. Parties should use the materiality thresholds documented in Chapter 2 of the Filing Requirements as a guide. In making its decision on cost awards, the OEB will consider whether intervenors made reasonable efforts to ensure that their participation in the hearing was focused on material issues.

Parties should consult sections 26 and 27 of the OEB's Rules of Practice and Procedure regarding required naming and numbering conventions and other matters related to interrogatories.

I consider it necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Entegrus Powerlines will present a summary of its application to the OEB, OEB staff and intervenors on **November 3, 2015** from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the OEB's offices at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto, Ontario.
- OEB staff shall request any relevant information and documentation from Entegrus Powerlines that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 16**, 2015.

- Intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from Entegrus Powerlines that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 20**, 2015.
- Entegrus Powerlines shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on all intervenors and OEB staff by **December** 18, 2015.
- 5. Following the receipt of responses to interrogatories, OEB staff shall convene a teleconference among the parties to discuss the formation of an issues list. OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list, or, alternatively, shall advise the OEB in writing that the parties and OEB staff have been unable to reach an agreement on a draft issues list by January 8, 2015.
- 6. A Settlement Conference among the parties and OEB staff will be convened on **January 12, 2016** starting at 9:30 a.m., at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto. If necessary, the Settlement Conference will continue on **January 13** and 14, 2016.
- 7. Any settlement proposal arising from the Settlement Conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **February 3, 2016**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing.
- 8. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties within 7 days from when a settlement proposal is filed.
- 9. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the Settlement Conference, Entegrus Powerlines shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by January 15, 2016. In that event, parties shall file and serve on the other parties by January 22, 2016 any submissions on which issues shall be heard in writing, and for which issues the OEB should hold an oral hearing.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2015-0061, be made in searchable / unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at https://www.pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name,

postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at

http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have internet access are required to submit all filings on a CD in PDF format, along with two paper copies. Those who do not have computer access are required to file 7 paper copies.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Board Secretary at the address below, and be received no later than 4:45 p.m. on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Stephen Vetsis at stephen.vetsis@ontarioenergyboard.ca and OEB Counsel, Maureen Helt at maureen.helt@ontarioenergyboard.ca.

ADDRESS

Ontario Energy Board P.O. Box 2319 2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor Toronto ON M4P 1E4 Attention: Board Secretary

E-mail: boardsec@ontarioenergyboard.ca

Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, October 23, 2015

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

By delegation, before: Kristi Sebalj

Original signed by

Kristi Sebalj Registrar

SCHEDULE A

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1

APPLICANT AND LIST OF INTERVENORS

BOARD FILE NO. EB-2015-0061

DATED October 23, 2015

Entegrus Powerlines Inc. EB-2015-0061

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 23, 2015

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APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 23, 2015

INTERVENORS

Rep. and Address for Service

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APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

October 23, 2015

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