



EB-2016-0096

Northern Ontario Wires Inc.

**Application for electricity distribution rates
beginning May 1, 2017.**

**DECISION AND ORDER ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND
PROPOSED ISSUES LIST**

February 16, 2017

This Decision and Order addresses Northern Ontario Wires' confidentiality request and the proposed issues list.

Northern Ontario Wires Inc. (Northern Ontario Wires) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 26, 2016 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 Northern Ontario Wires charges for electricity distribution, to be effective May 1, 2017.

The OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1, which approved the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario, the School Energy Coalition, and the Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition as intervenors and deemed these intervenors eligible to apply for cost awards.

Procedural Order No. 1 also provided for the filing of interrogatories from intervenors and OEB staff and responses from Northern Ontario Wires.

Two of the interrogatory responses, were filed on a confidential basis, namely 4-Staff-37(b) and 4-Staff-37(c). Northern Ontario Wires requested that the OEB grant these

interrogatory responses confidential status in accordance with the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings¹.

Procedural Order No. 1 also required OEB staff to file a proposed issues list which had been agreed to by all parties, or to inform the OEB in writing that the parties were unable to agree on a list. On February 8, 2017, OEB staff informed the OEB that the parties had reached an agreement and filed a proposed issues list.

Confidentiality Request

Northern Ontario Wires requested confidential treatment of its responses to interrogatories 4-Staff-37(b) and 4-Staff-37(c). Northern Ontario Wires stated that the responses to the interrogatories include information regarding the salaries earned by individual employees (and in one case a former employee), which, if disclosed, would reveal personal information about those employees contrary to section 4.3.1 of the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings.

Findings

The OEB approves Northern Ontario Wires' request for confidential treatment of its responses to interrogatories 4-Staff-37(b) and 4-Staff-37(c). In accordance with section 4.3.1 of the OEB Practice Direction on Confidential Filings, the cited interrogatory responses will be held in confidence and neither the interrogatory responses nor the personal information contained therein will be placed on the public record or provided to any other party (including any person from whom the OEB has accepted a Declaration and Undertaking).

The OEB reviewed the cited interrogatory responses and finds that the information reveals personal salary information of former and current employees of Northern Ontario Wires. Consistent with Section 4.3.1 of the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA), the OEB is prohibited from releasing personal information.

Proposed Issues List

Northern Ontario Wires, OEB staff and the intervenors reached an agreement on a proposed issues list.

¹ Ontario Energy Board, Practice Direction on Confidential Filings, October 28, 2016.

Findings

The OEB has reviewed the proposed issues list and finds it appropriate for the purpose of this proceeding as it includes the standard issues for a cost of service application (see attached Schedule A).

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. Northern Ontario Wires' responses to interrogatories 4-Staff-37(b) and 4-Staff-37(c) are granted confidential status and will be treated in accordance with the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings
2. The approved Issues List attached as Schedule A shall be used for the purpose of this proceeding.

DATED at Toronto, **February 16, 2017**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli
Board Secretary

SCHEDULE A
APPROVED ISSUES LIST
NORTHERN ONTARIO WIRES INC.
February 16, 2017

**Approved Issues List
EB-2016-0096
Northern Ontario Wires Inc.**

1. PLANNING

1.1 Capital

Is the level of planned capital expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning and pacing choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences
- productivity
- benchmarking of costs
- reliability and service quality
- impact on distribution rates
- trade-offs with OM&A spending
- government-mandated obligations, and
- the objectives of the Applicant and its customers.

1.2 OM&A

Is the level of planned OM&A expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences
- productivity
- benchmarking of costs
- reliability and service quality
- impact on distribution rates
- trade-offs with capital spending
- government-mandated obligations, and
- the objectives of the Applicant and its customers.

2. REVENUE REQUIREMENT

2.1 Are all elements of the Revenue Requirement reasonable, and have they been appropriately determined in accordance with OEB policies and practices?

2.2 Has the Revenue Requirement been accurately determined based on these elements?

3. LOAD FORECAST, COST ALLOCATION AND RATE DESIGN

3.1 Are the proposed load and customer forecast, loss factors, CDM adjustments and resulting billing determinants appropriate, and, to the extent applicable, are they an appropriate reflection of the number and energy and demand requirements of the applicant's customers?

3.2 Are the proposed cost allocation methodology, allocations, and revenue-to-cost ratios appropriate?

3.3 Are the applicant's proposals, including the proposed fixed/variable splits, for rate design appropriate?

3.4 Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service Rates and Low Voltage Service Rates appropriate?

4. ACCOUNTING

4.1 Have all impacts of any changes in accounting standards, policies, estimates and adjustments been properly identified and recorded, and is the rate-making treatment of each of these impacts appropriate?

4.2 Are the applicant's proposals for deferral and variance accounts, including the balances in the existing accounts and their disposition, and the continuation of existing accounts appropriate?