Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 1 of 36



EB-2016-0152

Payment Amounts Order

Response to Comments

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

February 5, 2018

This page has been left blank intentionally.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 2 of 36

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 3 of 36

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION1
2.0	SEC'S SUBMISSION INCORRECTLY TREATS THE OEB'S DECISION ON EFFECTIVE DATE AS A REVENUE REQUIREMENT REDUCTION
2.1	Approval Of A June 1, 2017 Effective Date Is Not A Revenue Requirement Reduction . 1
2.2	There Are No Changes To Regulatory Tax Losses As A Result Of The Approved Effective Date
3.0	DEFERRAL AND VARIANCE ACCOUNT TREATMENT5
3.1	Disposition5
3.2	Continuing Deferral and Variance Accounts5
4.0	REVENUE REQUIREMENT ISSUES9
4.1	Continuity Of Approved Property, Plant And Equipment9
4.2	Capitalization And Cost Of Capital Adjusted To Reflect Final Rate Base And Capital Structure Findings
4.3	Implementation Of Findings On Nuclear Liabilities Revenue Requirement For Prescribed Facilities
4.4	No Change To Working Capital Is Required15
4.5	Regulatory Income Taxes
4.6	Other Revenue Requirement Reconciliations
4.7	The Revenue Requirement Work Form ("RRWF") Is Unchanged
5.0	INTERIM PERIOD SHORTFALL RECOVERY17
5.1	Interim Period Shortfall Over/Under Recovery Variance Account Should Be Approved As Proposed
5.2	The Approaches Adopted For Other Utilities Are Based On Their Circumstances And Are Not Appropriate For OPG
6.0	RATE SMOOTHING25
6.1	Summary25
6.2	Comparison Of Proposals26
6.3	OEB Staff Proposal
6.4	SEC Proposal
6.5	Rate Smoothing Conclusion

Attachment 1 – Table of Concordance

Attachment 2 – Tables 1-5 – Calculation of Capital Cost Allowance 2017-2021

# 1 1.0 INTRODUCTION

OPG has received comments on the draft Payment Amounts Order ("PAO") from OEB staff,
AMPCO, CME, SEC, Sustainability Journal and VECC. Below OPG addresses the specific
additions and modifications proposed in these comments, but not all of the observations made.
Where OPG proposes to revise the draft PAO in response to a comment, it states this explicitly<sup>1</sup>,
and provides a summary of the changes in Attachment 1 to this response. Beyond the revisions
identified below, OPG does not believe that further changes to the draft PAO are warranted.

# 8 2.0 SEC'S SUBMISSION INCORRECTLY TREATS THE OEB'S DECISION ON 9 EFFECTIVE DATE AS A REVENUE REQUIREMENT REDUCTION

10 This section responds to the submissions of SEC, supported by VECC, on the implications of 11 the June 1, 2017 effective date for the calculation of payment amounts and rate riders (SEC 12 Submission, paras. 2.1.1 through 2.2.23; VECC Submission, para. 3.3). As shown below, these 13 submissions are incorrect in treating the reduction in the revenues that OPG will collect in 2017 14 as a result of the June 1, 2017 effective date as a revenue requirement reduction. SEC 15 advocated for this approach in its final argument, but the OEB did not adopt it. It should be 16 rejected again here. The SEC recommendations on tax losses that stem from this incorrect 17 approach should be similarly rejected.

# 18 2.1 APPROVAL OF A JUNE 1, 2017 EFFECTIVE DATE IS NOT A REVENUE 19 REQUIREMENT REDUCTION

SEC's fundamental point is that by delaying the effective date of OPG's payment amounts from January 1, 2017 to June 1, 2017, the OEB reduced OPG's revenue requirement.<sup>2</sup> This point is incorrect. Simply put, delaying the effective date did not change the 2017 revenue requirement that the OEB approved; the effective date was in fact determined independently of findings on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OPG does not explicitly reference OEB staff's requested changes in Section 2.3 of its Submission, but has reflected those changes in the revised draft PAO. The changes are also captured in Attachment 1 to this response.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> SEC's submissions offer lengthy commentary without, in many instances, proposing changes to the draft PAO (See e.g., SEC Submission, paras. 2.2.8 through 2.2.17). In this response OPG focuses only on the proposed changes to the draft PAO, not SEC's commentary. OPG's decision not to respond to this commentary does not constitute agreement.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 5 of 36

the revenue requirement. Rather, the June 1, 2017 effective date required OPG to forego collection of the approved 2017 payment amounts during the first five months of the year. While this certainly reduces OPG's revenues, it has no effect on its approved revenue requirement. Once this fundamental error is corrected, the remainder of SEC's observations and recommended adjustments in this area have no basis.

6

The OEB's decision (the "Decision") approved a nuclear revenue requirement for each year from 2017 through 2021 by making specific adjustments to OPG's requests. The OEB then determined that collection of the new payment amounts to recover this approved nuclear revenue requirement would not begin until June 1, 2017.<sup>3</sup> Nowhere does the OEB's Decision contain any suggestion that the OEB intended to reduce OPG's revenue requirement, beyond the specific disallowances made, based on the approved effective date or that the OEB's findings on the revenue requirement and the effective date were in fact linked.

14

15 SEC's final argument in this proceeding invited the OEB to adopt the view that moving the 16 effective date beyond January 1, 2017 would constitute an additional revenue requirement 17 reduction. Discussing how the OEB should proceed, SEC stated: "It should then determine that 18 the revenue requirement for the period from the effective date until December 31, 2017 is the 19 pro rata calculation of the calendar revenue requirement that otherwise would have been 20 determined." (SEC Final Argument, para. 11.1.15). The OEB's Decision did not make the 21 determination that SEC sought. SEC's submission on the draft payment amounts order reargues 22 this point.

23

Where the OEB reduced OPG's revenue requirement request, the OEB made findings to identify
the specific amount or percentage associated with each disallowance and the reasons for it.<sup>4</sup> In
the context of its ruling on the effective date, the OEB stated: "The draft payment amounts order

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For the hydroelectric payment amounts, the OEB did not approve a revenue requirement. Rather it approved a rate-setting formula and the 2017 and 2018 values for the variables that are updated annually pursuant to that formula. It then found that the payment amounts, which result from the approved formula in 2017, would not go into effect until June 1 of that year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See e.g., EB-2016-0152, Decision, pp. 18 (in-service capital additions); 55 (base OM&A); 72 (corporate costs) and 79 (compensation).

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 6 of 36

will include the final revenue requirement and final production forecast for the nuclear facilities,
and the final hydroelectric rate setting mechanism and 2017 and 2018 parameters, <u>as reflected</u>
<u>in the findings made by the OEB in this Decision</u>." (Decision, p. 159 (<u>emphasis added</u>)). The
OEB's decision made no finding to reduce the revenue requirement based on the effective date
and made no disallowances that relate specifically to the period from January 2017 through June
2017.

7

This is not an issue of first impression for OPG's payment amounts. In OPG's last payment amounts proceeding (EB-2013-0321), the OEB approved an effective date that was later than OPG's request. The PAO in that proceeding did not reduce the revenue requirement to reflect the approved effective date. The only revenue requirement reductions shown in the approved PAO in EB-2013-0321 are those attributable to the specific disallowances in the OEB's decision (See EB-2013-0321, PAO, December 18, 2014, Tables 1-3). Here, OPG correctly followed the same approach in the draft PAO.

15

SEC suggests that Appendix A, Table 1 be modified by adding a line following line 26 to show an additional revenue requirement reduction attributable to the approved effective date (SEC Submission, para. 2.2.5). As demonstrated above, including this modification would be an error because the OEB made no disallowance of revenue requirement based on the effective date. Applying the same logic, SEC's suggested changes to Tables 6 and 8 should also be rejected (SEC Submission, paras. 2.2.6 and 2.2.7).<sup>5</sup>

# 222.2THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO REGULATORY TAX LOSSES AS A RESULT OF23THE APPROVED EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC's submission speculates on the possible implications of the approved effective date on
 regulatory tax losses. As SEC's submission is rooted in several factually inaccurate statements,
 SEC's conclusions and recommendations should be disregarded.

27

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> SEC's commentary, which questions whether the OEB's disallowances apply to all of 2017 or just to the last seven months, is equally incorrect. The OEB's disallowances are to the annual revenue requirement. Since SEC eventually agrees with this, OPG does not elaborate further on this issue (SEC Submission, paras. 2.2.8 and 2.2.17).

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 7 of 36

1 SEC begins by stating: "On the one hand, it is clear that a reduction in approved 2017 revenues 2 of \$266.1 million means, ultimately, a reduction in net income for that year and a resulting reduction in taxable income for that year." (SEC Submission, para. 2.2.19). As demonstrated 3 4 above, the OEB did not reduce OPG's approved revenue requirement by any amount, including \$266.1M, owing to the selection of a June 1, 2017 effective date. Since there was no 5 6 disallowance, no adjustment to forecast income tax expense is required. Where the OEB has 7 made disallowances that actually impact forecast income tax expense in 2017, OPG has made 8 the appropriate adjustments (See draft PAO, Appendix A, Table 16).

9

10 SEC hypothesizes about how the reduced revenues caused by the June 1, 2017 effective date 11 might impact OPG's actual regulatory income and actual regulatory income tax position in 2017 12 based on speculation as to how OPG might have adjusted its actual 2017 spending to reflect the 13 OEB's Decision (SEC Submission, para. 2.2.21).<sup>6</sup> This discussion is of no moment. The basis 14 for the revenue requirement being approved by the OEB is forecast information for the 2017-15 2021 period (the "IR Term"); no element of revenue requirement is based on actual results for 16 2017, including income taxes. Differences between actual revenues and forecast revenues over 17 the 2017 through 2021 period and the resulting income tax implications going forward, if any, will 18 be addressed in a future application, not here. This is true whether any such differences arise 19 from the approved effective date or from some other source. 20

In conclusion, because there was no revenue requirement reduction associated with the approved effective date, there is no impact on forecast regulatory taxes or tax losses. SEC's use of this non-existent impact to support its argument on the proper calculation of the appropriate reference amounts for the deferral and variance accounts should also be rejected, for the reasons discussed in Section 3.0 below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Given that the OEB's Decision was issued on December 28, 2017, it is clear that the OEB's decision to adopt June 1, 2017 as the effective date could not have impacted OPG's actual spending during 2017.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 8 of 36

### 1 3.0 DEFERRAL AND VARIANCE ACCOUNT TREATMENT

#### 2 3.1 DISPOSITION

OEB staff agrees with the debit amounts noted in Appendix G of the draft PAO. OEB staff and
SEC propose different timeframes and methodologies for recovery. The impacts of both
proposals are addressed in Section 6.0 below.

6

#### 3.2 CONTINUING DEFERRAL AND VARIANCE ACCOUNTS

# 7 3.2.1 New Reference Amounts for All Continuing Accounts Begin as of the 8 Effective Date

9 OEB staff notes in its submission that deferral and variance accounts are currently described by
10 the decisions in EB-2014-0369 and EB-2015-0374, and the PAO in EB-2014-0370 (OEB staff
11 Submission, p.8).

12

OEB staff submits that OPG should explicitly note in Appendix G of the revised draft PAO that the continuing deferral and variance accounts are effective as of the effective date of June 1, 2017 (OEB staff Submission, p.8). SEC submits that the OEB's order should deal with the impact of effective date in each of the descriptions of the accounts and their entries (SEC Submission, para. 2.3.6). SEC further asserts that OPG should be required to provide all entries to deferral and variance accounts for the period of January 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017, with certain supporting information.

20

The final PAO resulting from this proceeding will govern the operation of deferral and variance accounts commencing on the effective date as determined by the OEB. As such, the descriptions of all deferral and variance accounts should similarly reflect the operation of these accounts as of the effective date. OPG has made changes in the revised draft PAO to clarify this point, as summarized in Attachment 1 to this response. Until the effective date, the deferral and variance account descriptions resulting from EB-2014-0370, EB-2014-0369 and EB-2015-0374 prevail.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 9 of 36

OPG has provided evidence supporting the operation of its approved deferral and variance
 accounts prior to the effective date of this PAO.<sup>7</sup>

3

To be clear, while the monthly reference amounts are derived from approved annual amounts, the reference amounts are only applicable on and after the effective date. SEC's assertion that the derivation of a monthly reference amount for 2017 implies that these amounts are effective as of January 1, 2017 is incorrect (SEC Submission, para. 2.2.23). SEC's request for specific information on the monthly 2017 reference amounts prior to the effective date is not an appropriate part of this PAO and is unnecessary, given that the new monthly reference amounts commence on the effective date.

11

OEB staff agrees with the majority of the deferral and variance account descriptions and provides comments on descriptions of the following accounts in the draft PAO Appendix G: Pension & OPEB Cash Versus Accrual Differential Deferral Account and the Bruce Lease Net Revenues Variance Account, including the Derivative Sub-Account. OPG accepts OEB staff's comments on the above-noted account descriptions and has reflected the suggested changes in the revised draft PAO and as summarized in Attachment 1 to this response.

18

SEC states that, for the Pension and OPEB Cost Variance Account – Post-2012 Additions, the
draft PAO "notes that this component of the account is due to be fully recovered as of June 30,
2021" (SEC Submission, para. 4.8.1). Based on OPG's proposal to recover the balances
approved in this proceeding over the 2019-2021 period, a portion of the account balance will not
be fully recovered by June 30, 2021.

24

25 OPG believes that this approach is not contrary to the OEB's previous orders. The OEB 26 authorized recovery of the balance in this account "over 72 months, commencing July 1, 2015."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See Ex. H1-1-1, p. 5, footnote 4 (Hydroelectric Water Conditions Variance Account); p. 8, lines 2-8 (Ancillary Services Net Revenue Variance Account – Hydroelectric and Nuclear); p. 10, footnote 10 (Hydroelectric Surplus Baseload Generation Variance Account); p. 12, lines 2-7 (Income and Other Taxes Variance Account); p. 13, footnote 15 (Capacity Refurbishment Variance Account); p. 17 line 28 to p. 18, line 8 (Pension & OPEB Cash Payment Variance Account); p. 23, line 28 to p. 24, line 3 (Nuclear Development Variance Account); p. 26, lines 15 to 20 and footnote 25 (Bruce Lease Net Revenues Variance Account—Non-Derivative Sub-Account).

1 (See EB-2014-0370, PAO, Appendix B, p. 3). This meant that in the normal course the balance 2 would have been recovered by June 30, 2021. However, under OPG's proposal no portion of the 3 balance would be recovered during the 24-month period commencing January 1, 2017 until 4 December 31, 2018. Therefore, while the total elapsed time period from July 1, 2015 may exceed 5 72 months, as a result of the 24-month "break" in recovery, the actual recovery can still occur 6 over the OEB-authorized recovery period of 72 months. OPG has revised the description of the 7 Pension & OPEB Cost Variance Account – Post-2012 Additions in the revised draft PAO to reflect 8 the recovery over 72 months, rather than by June 30, 2021, consistent with the OEB's previous 9 approvals. This change is reflected in Attachment 1 to this response.

### 10 **3.2.2 Comments on the Capacity Refurbishment Variance Account ("CRVA")**

SEC claims that the draft PAO incorrectly prorates the reference amount for the hydroelectric
 portion of the CRVA for 2017 to reflect the effective date (SEC Submission, para. 2.3.14).

- 13 Consistent with the general approach discussed in Section 3.2.1 above, OPG disagrees.
- 14

15 OPG recognizes that this PAO reflects a new rate-making methodology for hydroelectric 16 facilities, and that this has a specific implication for the operation of the hydroelectric portion of 17 the CRVA. As of the effective date, there is no longer a direct linkage between specific projects 18 reflected in an approved revenue requirement and the actual costs of projects that qualify for 19 CVRA treatment in accordance with IRM principles that decouple costs from rates. The Decision 20 approved \$0.9M as the revenue requirement reflected in the base hydroelectric payment 21 amounts in relation to CRVA-eligible projects, and required that this amount be escalated by the 22 approved price cap index annually to determine the hydroelectric reference amount in each year 23 of the IR Term. As explained in the draft PAO (Appendix G, pp. 8-9), OPG believes that the new 24 reference amount for the CRVA begins with the effective date and has prorated the 2017 25 amounts accordingly.

26

Prior to the effective date, the approved reference amount has no relevance. Therefore, it is necessary to prorate the reference amount in 2017 as of the effective date. The same applies to the funding amount included in the account description as the threshold for determining the portion of the recorded amounts that are eligible for recovery under the incentive ratemaking methodology. The full annual funding amount is pro-rated in 2017 because the new methodology
 is not effective until that date.

3

For deferral and variance accounts, annual reference amounts are converted to monthly reference amounts on a straight-line basis.<sup>8</sup> The consistent application of this to the CRVA account for hydroelectric operation requires that the above amounts be applied monthly on and after the effective date. The account description in the revised draft PAO has been adjusted to clarify that this approach has been used.

9

For the nuclear portion of the CRVA, OPG's approach follows the same principle. The reference amounts based on the new revenue requirement begin to apply as of June 1, 2017. For January 2017 through May 2017, the reference amounts established in EB-2013-0321 and EB-2014-0370 continue. The account description in the revised draft PAO has been adjusted to clarify that this approach has been used (SEC Submission, para. 2.3.18).

15

### 3.2.3 Comments on Other Continuing Accounts

For all continuing accounts, the monthly reference amounts for January 2017 through May 2017 are those approved in EB-2013-0321 and EB-2014-0370 because no aspect of the OEB's Decision varied, amended or replaced the OEB's orders in EB-2013-0321 or EB-2014-0370. For June 2017 through December 2017 the monthly reference amounts are the annual amounts approved in this proceeding divided by 12 (*Ibid*.). Thus, the additional information that SEC requests Section 2.3 of its Submission is unnecessary.

22

As requested by SEC in its submission (SEC Submission, paras. 2.3.24), OPG confirms that there are no additions in the Nuclear Liability Deferral Account in 2017 after the effective date of June 1, 2017. OPG does not confirm that there are no additions in the Bruce Lease Net Revenues Variance Account – Non Derivative Sub-Account (SEC Submission, para. 2.3.27) in 2017 after the effective date of June 1, 2017. There would be normal course entries in this subaccount calculated in accordance with the account description provided in the draft PAO

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Hydroelectric Water Conditions Variance Account uses a monthly profile of forecast energy production.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 12 of 36

(Appendix G, p. 14).<sup>9</sup> These entries capture differences between forecast Bruce lease net
 revenues approved by the OEB in the Decision and the actual Bruce lease net revenues.

#### 3 3.2.4 Comments on New Accounts

OEB staff raises no concerns with the accounting orders for new deferral and variance accounts
set out in the draft PAO Appendix H, but opposes the two variance accounts relating to the
recovery of foregone revenue amounts. OPG's response to OEB staff's submissions on these
accounts can be found in Section 5.0 below.

8

9 SEC comments on the calculation of the variance in the actual tax credits in the SR&ED ITC
10 Variance Account. Specifically, SEC notes that there is no description of the method by which
11 the net tax impact is grossed up before being recovered from or paid to customers (SEC
12 Submission, paras. 4.9.1).

13

14 OPG has revised Appendix H of the draft PAO to include the information requested by SEC.

### 15 4.0 REVENUE REQUIREMENT ISSUES

#### 16 4.1 CONTINUITY OF APPROVED PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

#### 17 Depreciation Expense

OEB staff submits that OPG's calculation of the depreciation expense reduction associated with the 10% annual reduction in nuclear operations and support services capital in-service additions does not properly reflect the intent of the Decision. Rather than using the Darlington station service life as OPG proposes, OEB staff recommends using a "weighted average depreciation rate based on the proportional asset mix that underpins the total non-Darlington Refurbishment Program (DRP) in-service amount for each year." (OEB staff Submission, p. 2). OEB staff's position is based on the view that the Decision "did not single out the Darlington assets as the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> There are no additions in the Bruce Lease Net Revenues Variance Account – Derivative Sub-Account in 2017 after the June 1, 2017 effective date, as described in the draft PAO (Appendix G, p. 14).

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 13 of 36

only asset category to which the 10% in-service reduction would apply," and that the reduction
was intended to be applied by using an "envelope approach." (*Ibid.*).

3

The substantive issue raised by OEB staff is effectively whether some of the in-service reduction ordered by the OEB should apply to Pickering in-service capital and be depreciated to December 31, 2020 for revenue requirement purposes.<sup>10</sup> While OPG agrees that the Decision did not specify that the 10% in-service reduction would apply solely to Darlington assets, OPG believes its approach is appropriate for two reasons.

9

First, OPG's approach is better aligned with the Decision's rationale for the in-service capital
reduction, as OPG noted in the draft PAO at Appendix A, Table 10a, Note 3 and further explained
below.

13

14 OPG's in-service capital reduction approach recognizes that OPG's historical performance with 15 respect to Darlington operations' capital is the implicit driver of the OEB's findings. At pp. 17-18 16 of the Decision, the OEB questions "elevated capital expenditures and in-service additions," 17 referencing increases in the 2017-2021 period compared to historical levels. The comparison of 18 forecast amounts to historical actual amounts appears to be the main basis for the OEB's 19 direction to reduce forecast in-service additions. Since Darlington operations' in-service capital 20 drives the higher total nuclear in-service capital additions in 2017-2021 compared to the historical 21 period as shown in Chart 1, OPG believes that applying the reductions to Darlington in-service 22 capital using the December 31, 2052 average remaining service life is the appropriate approach.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The revenue requirement OPG proposed in this proceeding, based on its 2016-2018 business plan as updated by Ex. N1 and Ex. N2, assumed depreciation of all forecast nuclear operations in-service capital additions over either the remaining average service life for accounting purposes of the Darlington station to December 31, 2052 or the remaining average service life for accounting purposes of the Pickering station to December 31, 2020. The same approach was followed for forecasts presented in Ex J21.1, Attachments 1 and 2. Consistent with the business plan, most forecast support services capital additions were reflected in the "Darlington NGS" line in Ex. B3-3-1, Ex. B3-4-1 and Ex. J21.1 continuity schedules and assumed to be depreciated to December 31, 2052. In reality, some of the nuclear operations and support services capital placed in service over the IR Term that is reflected in the "Darlington NGS" line will be depreciated over a shorter period than to December 31, 2052 and will be reflected on that basis in the opening rate base in the next application term. By assuming a longer depreciation period than OPG will actually use for some assets, OPG's approach lowers the amount requested for depreciation expense, thereby benefiting customers.

								2010 - 2016
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average
Darlington	31.2	32.3	52.9	83.4	52.6	117.4	228.1	85.4
Pickering	166.8	27.4	41.0	99.7	75.7	79.6	51.3	77.4
	35.6	30.6	22.5	33.9	13.4	17.1	15.8	24.1
Nuclear Support	35.0	30.0	22.0	00.0	1011		1010	
Nuclear Support	33.0	30.0	22.0	00.0			1 .0.0	
Nuclear Support	35.6	30.0		00.0			2017 - 2021	2017-2021 vs.
Nuclear Support	35.0	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Nuclear Support	35.0						2017 - 2021	2017-2021 vs.
	35.0	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017 - 2021 Average	2017-2021 vs. 2010-2016

#### 1 Chart 1: 2010-2021 In-service Capital Additions

Source: 2010-2012: EB-2013-0321 Ex. D2-1-3 Table 4; 2017-2021: EB-2016-0152 Ex. J21.1 Att. 2 Tables 4 & 5 2

3 Second, OPG notes that, as a practical matter, given the relatively short remaining life of the 4 Pickering station and its already significantly reduced capital program as the station begins to 5 approach its end of life, OPG expects that there will be less operational flexibility to adjust 6 Pickering's capital plan in response to the OEB's reduction in capital funding. Additionally, 7 Pickering's capital program is an essential element of restoration costs in support of extended 8 station operation beyond 2020. In OPG's view, these factors make a reduction to the Pickering 9 capital in-service additions less consistent with the intent of the Decision and less consistent with 10 the operational realities faced by OPG.

- 11

#### 12 Auxiliary Heating System ("AHS") and Operations Support Building ("OSB")

13 OEB staff submits that the disallowance to in-service capital for the AHS and OSB projects 14 should be allocated on a pro-rated basis relative to the amounts of capital that went into service 15 prior to and in 2017. While OEB staff does not dispute the calculation of the total disallowance 16 for each project, it believes that OPG's proposed approach over-allocates disallowances to 2017 17 as opposed to earlier years and that OPG's approach reflects the notion "that amounts that came 18 into service later are somehow more impacted by the poor management and performance 19 issues." (OEB staff Submission, p. 3).

20

21 OPG disagrees with this characterization. OPG's approach is simply to calculate the 22 disallowance by taking 50% of the difference between the actual or forecast in-service amount 23 in a given year and the in-service amount identified in the First Execution BCS for that year. It is 24 not intended to be reflective of any notional allocation of "performance issues" across different 25 time periods. For example, for AHS, the total disallowance was \$27.6M. The portion of that

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order **Response to Comments** Page 15 of 36

1 disallowance that was applied to 2016 was \$24.8M, calculated as the actual 2016 in-service 2 amount of \$93.1M less the 2016 in-service amount identified in the First Execution BCS of \$43.6M, multiplied by 50% (draft PAO, Appendix A, Table 9a, footnote 2). Similarly, the portion 3 4 of the total AHS disallowance applied to 2017 was \$2.8M, calculated as the 2017 forecast in-5 service amount of \$5.6M less the 2017 in-service amount identified in the First Execution BCS 6 of \$0, multiplied by 50%. OPG applies the same approach to allocate the OSB-related 7 disallowance.

8

9 OPG believes that its approach is aligned with the disallowance that the OEB directed as stated 10 in its Decision (Decision, pp. 21-22). However, OPG does agree with OEB staff's submission 11 that, should the OEB adopt OEB staff's position on this issue, the resulting revenue requirement 12 reduction would be immaterial (OEB staff Submission, p. 4).

#### 13 4.2 CAPITALIZATION AND COST OF CAPITAL ADJUSTED TO REFLECT FINAL 14 **RATE BASE AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE FINDINGS**

15 OEB staff submits that OPG's "calculation of its cost of debt for nuclear payment amounts is not 16 consistent with the evidence and Decision" (OEB staff Submission, p.4). OEB staff's primary 17 concern relates to the principal amounts shown for short-term debt in Appendix A, Tables 11-15 18 of the draft PAO. OEB staff notes that these amounts are all different from, and lower than, the 19 amount shown in OPG's evidence at Ex. C1-1-1 Tables 1 to 5, line 1, col (a). OPG disagrees 20 with OEB staff's submission and offers the following clarification.

21

22 In its Decision, the OEB noted OPG's proposal is to maintain a constant amount of short-term 23 debt through 2021 (\$37.1M) (Decision, p. 112). The OEB agreed with OPG that there is no 24 reason to adjust the level of short-term debt, and that the final approved debt costs will be 25 adjusted by the final rate base and capital structure findings in the Decision (Decision, p. 112).

26 27 As discussed in Ex. I1-1-1 Table 1, note 2, capitalization is allocated to regulated hydroelectric 28 and nuclear operations using rate base financed by capital structure. The \$37.1M is the allocation 29 of short-term debt to the total regulated operations; however, in determining the cost of capital 30 for nuclear payment amounts, the short-term debt allocated to the regulated hydroelectric 31 business must be deducted from the overall short-term debt of the regulated operations as shown

at Ex. I1-1-1 Table 1, line 5 (as updated by Ex. N2-1-1 Table 1, line 5) and explained in Ex. I1-1-1 Table 1, Note 2. Furthermore, as stated in the Decision, the amount of short-term debt allocated to the nuclear business changes as a result of the OEB's adjustments to rate base and capital structure findings. The impact of the Decision on short term debt amounts as compared to OPG's proposal, on a nuclear-only basis, is shown in column (b), line 5, of the draft PAO Appendix A, Tables 1-5. For these reasons, the amount of short-term debt in the draft PAO appropriately differs from the \$37.1M amount.

# 84.3IMPLEMENTATION OF FINDINGS ON NUCLEAR LIABILITIES REVENUE9REQUIREMENT FOR PRESCRIBED FACILITIES

OEB staff states that it was not able to confirm the impact of implementing the OEB's findings on nuclear liabilities revenue requirement (OEB staff Submission, p. 5). As such, OEB staff requests that OPG provide a summary of how the findings on the nuclear liabilities revenue requirement have been implemented.

14

15 Chart 2 provides the details of adjustments to the proposed revenue requirement to reflect the

16 impact of the final 2017 Ontario Nuclear Funds Agreement ("ONFA") contribution schedule and

17 actual year-end 2016 asset retirement obligation adjustment and discount rate.

#### Chart 2: Total Nuclear Liability Revenue Requirement (Most Recent ONFA)

Line No.	Description	Note	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	Depreciation Expense	1	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1	-0.2
2	Used Fuel Storage and Disposal Variable Costs	2	-9.8	-9.9	-12.0	-9.2	-9.1
3	Low & Intermediate Level Waste Management Variable Expenses	3	-1.2	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2
4	Return on Rate Based at Weighted Avg Accretion	4	-0.9	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-2.3
5	Return on Rate Base at WACC	5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
6	Pre-Tax Revenue Requirement (line 1 + line 2 + line 3 + line 4 + line 5)		-15.0	-14.7	-16.7	-13.9	-10.3
7	Tax Impact	6	-39.2	-39.1	-39.8	-38.8	-37.6
8	Sum of Pre-Tax Revenue Requirement and Tax Impact		-54.2	-53.8	-56.5	-52.7	-47.9
	Total Nuclear Liability Revenue Requirement for Prescribed Facilities						
9	Per Exhibit N1-1-1	7	178.4	169.4	193.7	167.0	77.7
10	Per Undertaking J21-2, Chart 1	8	124.2	115.6	137.1	114.3	29.8
11	Revenue Requirement Impact of J21-2 (line 10 - line 11)		-54.2	-53.8	-56.6	-52.7	-47.9

Numbers may not add or completely reconcile due to rounding.

Notes:

Per PAO App. A, Table 1 - 5, Footnote 7(g). 1

Per PAO App. A, Table 1 - 5, line 16, col. (b). Per PAO App. A, Table 1 - 5, Footnote 5(b). 2

3

4 Per PAO App. A, Table 1 - 5, line 13, col. (b).

The Weighted Average Cost of Capital applies when Asset Retirement Costs are greater than Unfunded Nuclear Liabilities. This occurs in 2021 only, calculated as: ARC of \$241.8M (Ex. J21.1, Att. 2, Table 3, line 20, col. (i)) less UNL of \$202.9M (PAO App. A, Table 15, line 7, col. (a)) times 2021 WACC rate of 6.43% (PAO App. A, Table 15, line 6, col. (c)). (\$241.8M - \$202.9M) \* 6.43% = \$2.5M. 5

6						
	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
(a)	Adjustments to Pre-Tax Revenue Requirement (line 6 above)	-15.0	-14.7	-16.7	-13.9	-10.3
(b)	Contributions to Seg Funds (PAO App. A, Table 16 - 21, line 14, col. (c))	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5
(c)	Taxable Income Pre-tax Revenue requirement less contributions (line (a) - line (b))	-117.5	-117.2	-119.2	-116.4	-112.8
(d)	Tax Impact (line (c) x 25%/(1-25%))	-39.2	-39.1	-39.8	-38.8	-37.6

Per OEB Staff Submission on Draft Payment Amounts Order, P. 5, Table 1.3, line (B) 7

8 Per OEB Staff Submission on Draft Payment Amounts Order, P. 5, Table 1.3, line (A)

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 18 of 36

#### 1 4.4 NO CHANGE TO WORKING CAPITAL IS REQUIRED

In its submissions, SEC states that it is unclear why OPG's working capital is unchanged in the
draft PAO given the changes in the components of revenue requirement resulting from the
Decision (SEC Submission, para. 4.3.2).

5

6 The composition of OPG's nuclear working capital is described at Ex. B1-1-1, pp. 4-8 and 7 presented at Ex. B1-1-1 Table 2. It has three components: (1) materials and supplies, (2) fuel 8 inventory, and (3) cash working capital. In its Decision, the OEB did not adjust values for the first 9 two components (for the second component, nuclear production was approved as proposed, 10 which means that the fuel inventory amounts are unchanged). Cash working capital is the third 11 component of OPG's working capital. The \$11M forecast amount for 2017-2021 inclusive 12 represents between 1% and 2% of OPG's total nuclear working capital and between 0.2% and 13 0.3% of OPG's total nuclear rate base. As described in Ex. B1-1-2, consistent with past 14 applications, the cash working capital forecast is based on relevant 2015 expenses and costs 15 and therefore is not affected by adjustments made in the OEB's Decision.

#### 16 4.5 REGULATORY INCOME TAXES

As part of its submission, SEC requests further clarifications on regulatory income tax calculations, specifically: 1) the relationship between impacts of adjustments to depreciation expense and CCA in Appendix A, Tables 16-20 of the draft PAO; and 2) a non-capital loss continuity schedule to clarify the loss carryforward amounts.

21

22 The details of adjustments to depreciation expense are explained in the draft PAO Appendix A, 23 Tables 1 to 5, footnote 7. OPG provides Tables 1-5 in Attachment 2 to this response, which 24 reiterate the explanation of depreciation reflected in the above referenced footnote 7 for each 25 year in the IR Term with an added column to reflect the CCA impact associated with each 26 depreciation adjustment, where applicable. The difference between the depreciation and CCA 27 amounts primarily relates to two factors: 1) some depreciated items do not qualify for CCA (i.e., 28 asset retirement costs); and 2) CCA amounts are typically larger than depreciation amounts, 29 which reflects tax incentives to encourage investment. Due to the latter, as shown in Attachment

- 1 2 to this response, the CCA decrease associated with the OEB Decision adjustments tends to
- 2 be greater than the decrease in non-asset retirement costs depreciation expense.<sup>11</sup>
- 3

4 With respect to SEC's second requested clarification, non-capital loss continuity schedules are 5 included in the revised draft PAO at Appendix A, Table 22.

- 6
- 4.6

# OTHER REVENUE REQUIREMENT RECONCILIATIONS

7 VECC submits that there are differences in revenue requirement as between Table 4 in the 8 OEB's Decision (Decision, p. 8) and draft PAO, Appendix A, Table 1. VECC acknowledges that 9 the differences are relatively small, but requests that OPG provides a table reconciling them 10 (VECC Submission, para. 2.2).

11

12 The information VECC requests is provided in the draft PAO at Appendix A, Table 6 and the 13 accompanying notes in Table 6A. This table provides a breakdown of OPG's proposed revenue 14 requirement and deferral and variance account amortization amounts. It is provided to support 15 Appendix A, Tables 1 to 5, which applies annual adjustments to OPG's proposed revenue 16 requirement from Table 6 to determine the annual OEB approved revenue requirement.

17

18 SEC incorrectly submits that draft PAO, Appendix A Table 6 is a summary of the final approved 19 revenue requirements. SEC further submits that it is unable to determine the purpose of this 20 table, and that it should be replaced with one that, in SEC's view, more correctly summarizes 21 Tables 1-5 (SEC Submission, paras. 4.5.1-4.5.2).

22

23 As stated above, Table 6 is a summary of OPG's proposed nuclear revenue requirement and 24 deferral and variance account amortization amounts. This table is necessary to demonstrate 25 OPG's proposal prior to making adjustments reflecting the OEB's findings in its Decision. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Only in one instance, at line (a) for 2021, is the decrease in CCA smaller than the decrease in depreciation expense. This is due to the simplifying assumption made in OPG's application (and accepted by the OEB by virtue of the approval of the proposed depreciation expense) that most of the forecast Pickering capital additions in 2021 are fully depreciated in 2021 given the December 31, 2020 station endof-life date for accounting purposes reflected in the application and consistent with OPG's business plan (Ex. L-6.9-1 Staff-177 c) (ii)).

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 20 of 36

same rationale applies to draft PAO, Appendix A Table 21, which shows OPG's proposed
 regulatory income tax amounts without any OEB adjustments. OPG disagrees with SEC's
 assertion that figures in these tables are incorrect and that the tables should be replaced.

4

5 SEC also guestions the presentation of line 27 of Tables 1 to 5 in Appendix A of the draft PAO 6 (SEC Submission, para. 4.4.1). The OEB directed OPG to include supporting schedules and a 7 clear explanation of all the calculations and assumptions used in deriving the amounts used 8 (Decision, pp. 159-60). As the amortization of deferral and variance accounts at draft PAO, 9 Appendix A, Tables 1 to 5, line 27 is an integral part of OPG's current rate smoothing proposal, 10 the information on line 27 is required. All line items in Tables 1 to 5 are subject to OEB review 11 as part of the PAO approval process. Therefore, it is unnecessary to categorize any specific line 12 item in Tables 1 to 5 differently than any other line item as proposed by SEC (SEC Submission, 13 paras. 4.4.1-4.4.2).

14

### 4.7 THE REVENUE REQUIREMENT WORK FORM ("RRWF") IS UNCHANGED

OPG is not proposing to make any changes to either the revenue requirement or recovery of
deferral and variance account balances reflected in the RRWF filed on January 17, 2018.

# 17 5.0 INTERIM PERIOD SHORTFALL RECOVERY

# 18 5.1 INTERIM PERIOD SHORTFALL OVER/UNDER RECOVERY VARIANCE 19 ACCOUNT SHOULD BE APPROVED AS PROPOSED

### 20 5.1.1 Interim Period Revenue Shortfall and Its Recovery

OEB staff recognizes that the OEB has approved the proposed nuclear and hydroelectric Interim Period Shortfall Over/Under Recovery Variance accounts for OPG in the past. Nevertheless, OEB staff submits that these accounts should not be approved in this proceeding. OEB staff states that OPG should be at risk for the shortfall recovery and cite the treatment of other utilities to support this claim. Below OPG explains why the OEB's previously adopted approach continues to be appropriate for OPG and should be adopted here and responds to SEC's submissions on this issue.

28

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 21 of 36

1 The purpose of the shortfall riders is to allow OPG to recover the revenue it would have received 2 if the approved changes to the nuclear and hydroelectric payment amounts had been 3 implemented on the approved effective date. As explained in the cover letter to OPG's draft PAO, 4 OPG proposes to calculate the amount of the interim period revenue shortfall by multiplying the 5 difference between the approved and prior payment amounts by the actual production during the 6 period between the effective date and the implementation date ultimately adopted by the OEB 7 (i.e., the interim period) (draft PAO, Appendix H, pp. 5-6).<sup>12</sup> Under this approach, if actual interim 8 period production exceeds the production forecast for the interim period, OPG's interim period 9 shortfall revenues will be greater than forecast; if actual production is below forecast, revenues 10 will be lower than forecast.

11

Given that OPG's revenues vary directly with production and contain no fixed payments, adoption of the proposed approach would put OPG at risk for 100% of any variance between forecast and actual production during the interim period. OPG and OEB staff agree that this is the correct approach to calculating the interim period shortfall amounts for nuclear and regulated hydroelectric facilities.

17

The interim period revenue shortfall will be collected through hydroelectric and nuclear riders.
Differences between forecast and actual production during the recovery period could result in
the approved riders over or under-recovering the interim period revenue shortfall. As discussed
further below, given the size of the riders and the length of the recovery period proposed, these
differences could be significant.

23

OPG and OEB staff differ over the treatment of this potential over or under-recovery. Following the method adopted in the OEB's EB-2007-0905 PAO, OPG has proposed that this amount be subject to true-up via the Interim Period Shortfall Over/Under Recovery Variance Accounts for nuclear and hydroelectric. OEB staff opposes the creation of these accounts stating that OPG

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Because OPG's proposal was submitted in mid-January 2018, it used actual production for the period June 2017 through December 2017 and the approved production forecast values for January 2018 and February 2018 on the assumption of a March 1, 2018 implementation date. As discussed elsewhere in this section this proposal follows the approach the OEB adopted in EB-2007-0905.

should be at risk for recovery of the shortfall amounts and arguing that the OEB has not
 established them for other utilities.

3

4 SEC has two issues with OPG's approach. It first suggests that forecast instead of actual 5 production could be used to calculate the interim period revenue shortfall, but the use of forecast 6 production would be inconsistent with holding OPG at risk for achieving its forecast production 7 and counter to the OEB's past treatment of this issue (SEC Submission, paras. 4.7.1-4.7.4). 8 Similarly, SEC claims that there is a mismatch in using forecast production to establish the 9 payment amounts and actual production to determine the revenue shortfall. SEC is incorrect; 10 there is no mismatch. This is exactly what would have happened if the payment amounts had 11 been implemented on the effective date - the payment amounts would have been based on 12 forecast production and OPG's revenues would have depended on actual production.

13

14 SEC next argues that the determination of the revenue shortfall should be based on the 15 unsmoothed rates and that OPG's approach is incorrect, because smoothing is of the weighted 16 average payment amounts ("WAPA") not the payment amounts (SEC Submission, paras. 4.7.5-17 4.7.12). Regardless of whether smoothing occurs based on WAPA or nuclear payment amounts, 18 customers will pay the smoothed payment amounts approved by the OEB.<sup>13</sup> As discussed above, 19 OPG's view is that the interim revenue shortfall, by definition, is the difference between the 20 revenues OPG actually received during the interim period and the revenues that OPG would 21 have received if the approved payment amounts had been collected starting on the effective 22 date. Since OPG would have collected the approved smoothed payment amounts during the 23 interim period, these are appropriately used in calculating the shortfall.

24

# 5.1.2 The Approach Adopted in EB-2007-0905 Should be Followed Here

Below OPG demonstrates that the approach to recovery of the interim period revenue shortfallproposed here:

zo proposed here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> In arguing its point, SEC claims that using the unsmoothed rates to calculate the interim period shortfall would have "no ultimate impact on the amount OPG collects from customers." (SEC Submission, para. 4.7.11). This claim is incorrect because SEC's approach would increase the deferral amount, thereby increasing the amount of interest that customers will ultimately pay.

1	1)	was adopted in EB-2007-0905 precisely to ensure that OPG was at risk for production;
2	2)	is fairer to customers and to OPG; and
3	3)	reflects the circumstances of OPG's payment amounts, which are substantially different
4		than those of the utilities cited by OEB staff.
5		
6	In the	EB-2007-0905 PAO the OEB stated:
7		Calculation and Recovery of Interim Period Shortfall
8 9		The Decision, at pages 177-178, requires "that OPG remains at risk for its
9 10		production forecast in the same way it would have been had the payments
11		amounts been set on a prospective basis." To achieve the production risk exposure set out in its Decision, the Board directs that the new payment
12		amounts be set using the forecast production for the test period and that
13		the interim period shortfall be calculated using the actual production during
14		the interim period (April 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008). The Board
15		notes that it will be necessary to use forecast production for November
16		2008. Payment riders B and D to this Order have been calculated to reflect
17		the Board's direction. To ensure that OPG is kept whole, the Board also
18		directs that nuclear and hydroelectric variance accounts be established to
19		record the difference between the calculated interim period shortfall and
20		the amounts recovered through the interim period shortfall payment riders
21		<u>B and D.</u> (EB-2007-0905, PAO, December 2, 2008, p. 3 (emphasis
22		added)).
23		
24	Follow	ring the approach adopted in EB-2007-0905, and advocated by OPG here, will ensure that
25	OPG I	remains at risk for its production forecast during the interim period. With the proposed

variance accounts, OPG would be at risk for 100% of the revenue variation associated with any 26 27 differences in interim period production. Without the proposed accounts, not only would OPG be 28 at risk for 100% of the revenue variation due to any difference between forecast and actual 29 production during the interim period, it would also be at risk for an additional amount, based on 30 the variation between forecast and actual production during the recovery period. The OEB 31 recognized this in EB-2007-0905 when it implemented variance accounts to ensure that the 32 entire interim period revenue shortfall was recovered, but not more or less (EB-2007-0905, PAO, 33 December 2, 2008, p. 3).

34

35 The failure to approve the proposed accounts would introduce additional risk for both customers

36 and OPG and would run counter to the fundamental purpose of collecting the interim period

37 shortfall amounts - to put OPG in the position that it would have been if the new payment amounts

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 24 of 36

had been implemented on the effective date. With this background, it is clear that adopting OEB
staff's approach would make the recovery of the interim shortfall more risky than any other
element of revenue requirement because this recovery is subject to production risk twice – once
during the interim period and again during the recovery period.

5

6 Customers are put at additional risk under OEB staff's proposal because if OPG's actual 7 production during the recovery period exceeds the forecast production used to establish the 8 riders, OPG will collect more than the interim period revenue shortfall. In effect, customers would 9 end up paying more than the approved payment amounts for production during the interim 10 period. If actual production is less than forecast during the recovery period, the converse will be 11 true; OPG will collect less than the interim period shortfall amounts and customers will pay less 12 than the approved payment amounts for production during the interim period. These differences 13 could be substantial in either direction given that the riders will be in effect for three years under 14 OPG's proposal.

15

16 OEB staff asserts that, "Without the true up accounts, OPG would be at risk for recovery of the 17 forgone revenue in the same way that it is at risk for revenue requirement in general." As shown 18 above, this statement is incorrect. The use of actual production to calculate the revenue shortfall 19 puts OPG 100% at risk for any variance between forecast and actual production during the 20 interim period. This is the risk that OPG generally faces for recovery of its revenue requirement. 21 Without a true-up account, the risk is greater because recovery of the interim period shortfall 22 revenue requirement would be subject to production risk a second time during the recovery 23 period.

# 245.2THE APPROACHES ADOPTED FOR OTHER UTILITIES ARE BASED ON THEIR25CIRCUMSTANCES AND ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR OPG

OEB staff also says that the OEB has approved interim period shortfall riders without approving a true-up account, but as demonstrated below, none of the situations cited by OEB staff are equivalent to the circumstances for OPG described above. They involved:

29 1) distributors and transmitters who are subject to significantly less revenue risk than OPG;

- 30 2) small fractions of the amounts of money at risk for OPG; and
- 31 3) shorter time frames for revenue recovery.

1 In EB-2016-0160, the OEB approved Hydro One's transmission 2017 revenue requirement with 2 a January 1, 2017 effective date and an October 1, 2017 implementation date (EB-2016-0160 Decision and Order, September 28, 2017, pp. 115-116). To collect the foregone revenue 3 4 requirement, the OEB approved "the creation of a deferral account [to] record the foregone 5 transmission revenues over that period to capture the differences between revenue earned by 6 Hydro One under the interim 2017 UTR [Uniform Transmission Rates] (set at the 2016 UTR level 7 and subject to adjustment following the OEB's determination of 2017 revenue requirement 8 applications by rate-regulated transmitters), and the revenues that would have been received 9 under the approved final 2017 UTR." (*Ibid.*). The establishment of a deferral account meant that 10 Hydro One, unlike OPG, was not at risk for under or over-collection of its foregone revenue 11 requirement as balances in deferral accounts, once approved, are eventually recovered or 12 refunded in full. Furthermore, unlike OPG, Hydro One "used forecast rather than actual 2017 13 charge determinants to determine 2017 foregone revenue"<sup>14</sup> (EB-2016-0160, Decision and 14 Order, 2017 and 2018 Transmission Revenue Requirements and Charge Determinants, 15 November 9, 2017, p. 18). Since Hydro One had a deferral account for its foregone revenue 16 requirement and its lost revenue calculation was done using forecast demand, Hydro One was 17 not at any risk based on differences between forecast and actual demand.

18

More generally, since Hydro One's transmission charges for network services are collected based on customers' peak demand during certain periods, rather than energy use, it has significantly less revenue risk than OPG.<sup>15</sup> Finally, the foregone revenue amounts for 2017 resulted in a credit to customers of \$10.6M, which was applied during 2018 (EB-2016-0160, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> OEB staff's submissions on the draft rate order state: "OEB staff notes that ideally, forgone revenue (or credits) should be calculated based on actuals. Hydro One may wish to confirm in its reply whether a calculation based on actual charge determinants will have a significant impact on the amount to be credited to ratepayers." (OEB Staff Submission On Draft 2017 Revenue Requirement and Charge Determinant Order, October 16, 2017, p. 4). Hydro One's Reply Submission stated that the use of forecast rather than actual demand to estimate the revenue shortfall was consistent with past OEB practice and in any event it anticipated that the difference "would be small and well within the variance in revenues introduced as a result of rounding UTR rates." (EB-2016-0160, 2017-2018 Transmission Revenue Requirement & Charge Determinants & EB-2017-0280, Uniform Transmission 2017 Rates, Reply Submission, p. 5). The fact that the use of forecast versus actual demand has a small effect on the foregone revenues illustrates Hydro One's small exposure to revenue risk relative to OPG.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Hydro One's charge determinant for Network Services is based on: "the higher of: i) The customer's demand that is coincident with the monthly system peak; or ii) 85% of the customer's non-coincident monthly system peak demand between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) business days."

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 26 of 36

1 Transmission Revenue Requirements and Charge Determinants Decision, December 20, 2017,

2 p. 3). As discussed more fully below, OPG's foregone revenues are estimated at over \$720M

3 and are proposed to be recovered on a fully volumetric basis over a three-year period.

4

5 In EB-2016-0231, the OEB approved the 2017 revenue requirement for Five Nations Energy Inc. 6 effective January 1, 2017 (EB-2016-0231, Decision and Order, December 14, 2017, p.28). Since 7 the approval was not issued until mid-December 2017, the OEB authorized the collection of the 8 foregone 2017 revenue requirement in 2018 (Ibid.). The amount to be collected was calculated 9 as \$1.8M (EB-2016-0231, Revenue Requirement and Charge Determinant Order, January 18, 10 2017, p. 2). As in the case of Hydro One, this revenue requirement amount was relatively small 11 and was collected over a one-year period. Since the revenue requirements of all Ontario 12 transmitters are recovered through Uniform Transmission Rates, Five Nations Energy Inc., is 13 subject to significantly less revenue risk than OPG, as explained above for Hydro One.

14

15 In EB-2015-0003, PowerStream's rates were made effective January 1, 2016 and implemented 16 on October 1, 2016 (EB-2015-0003, Decision and Order, August 4, 2016, p. 32). The total 17 amount of foregone revenue was about \$2.4M and it was collected over a three month period 18 (October through December 2016) (EB-2015-0003, Draft Rate Order Revision, September 23, 19 2016, pp. 6-7).<sup>16</sup> As over 70% of the foregone revenues were collected through fixed rate riders, 20 PowerStream had only a small risk of a revenue shortfall or over-collection during the three-21 month recovery period (*Ibid.*).<sup>17</sup> Again, the relatively small amounts involved, the short recovery 22 period and the significantly reduced revenue risk all distinguish PowerStream from OPG. 23

In EB-2011-0354, Enbridge's Rates were made effective January 1, 2013 and implemented on
April 1, 2013 (EB-2011-0354, Rate Order, 2013 Rates, March 5, 2013, p. 3). The revenue
shortfall for this three-month interim period was a credit to customers of less than \$1M (EB-2011-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The OEB approved the rates and charges shown in this draft rate order revision, including those related to foregone revenue, in its Decision and Rate Order, September 27, 2016, at p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> This percentage is calculated by looking at the revenues derived from the residential and GS<50 kW rate classes, which are recovered entirely through a fixed rider. As the remaining rate classes have a mix of fixed and volumetric riders, the percentage of revenues collected through fixed rate riders is actually somewhat higher than the 70% figure shown (EB-2015-0003, Draft Rate Order Revision, September 23, 2016, p. 7, Table 4).

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 27 of 36

1 0354, Final Rate Order, February 14, 2013, PDF p. 145, Working Papers to Rider E). This 2 amount was refunded to customers through Rider E over a single month (April 2013)<sup>18</sup> (Rate 3 Order, 2013 Rates, March 5, 2013, Appendix B, Rate Handbook p.58). Moreover, Enbridge's 4 residential rates have a significant fixed component unlike OPG's payment amounts. In 2013, 5 Enbridge forecast that 51% of its revenues would be collected through fixed charges (EB-2011-6 0354, Decision on Equity Rate and Order, February 7. 2013, p. 10). For all these reasons, the 7 approach adopted in this proceeding does not provide useful guidance as to the appropriate 8 approach for OPG.

9

10 In EB-2011-0210, the OEB approved Union Gas' rates effective January 1, 2013 and 11 implemented them on February 1, 2013 (EB-2011-0210, Decision and Rate Order, January 17, 12 2013, p. 20). As Union's smaller customers were then billed every two months, Union was able 13 to charge them the new rates effective January 1, 2013 with their first bill. For the larger 14 customers with monthly billing, Union collected the revenue foregone during the month of 15 January 2013 "through a temporary charge or credit in rates between February 1, 2013 and 16 December 31, 2013" (Ibid.). Here again, the circumstances are in no way similar to those facing 17 OPG. The interim period was one month and applied only to the larger customer classes who 18 are billed monthly. The total revenue shortfall for these customers was approximately \$4 million 19 (EB-2011-0210, Draft Rate Order, Appendix H, line 21). The recovery period was eleven months, 20 not the 3 years that OPG proposes. Finally, Union is subject to significantly less revenue recovery 21 risk than OPG for the reasons described above with respect to Enbridge.

22

In summary, none of the proceedings cited by OEB staff involve utilities facing circumstancesanything like those facing OPG in this proceeding. For OPG:

- The amounts in question are much larger than those involved in any of the cited
   proceedings;<sup>19</sup>
- The recovery risk is much greater; and
- The proposed recovery period is much longer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> April was used as the disposition month because consumption is not generally less variable than in the cold winter months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The revenue shortfalls for OPG are approximately \$701M for nuclear and \$21M for hydroelectric (See draft PAO, Appendix F, Table 1, line 10 and Table 2, line 5).

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 28 of 36

It is also worth noting that the proposed interim shortfall riders represent a significant fraction of OPG's total nuclear payment amounts. Over the 2019 through 2021 proposed recovery period, the proposed smoothed nuclear payment amounts average \$79.85/MWh<sup>20</sup> and the proposed nuclear interim period shortfall rider is \$6.27/MWh.<sup>21</sup> Thus under OEB staff's approach, for each MWh that OPG exceeds forecast production during recovery period, customers would pay on average approximately 8% more than the approved payment amounts.<sup>22</sup>

7

For all these reasons, the approach that the OEB approved for OPG in EB-2007-0905 remainsappropriate and should be adopted here.

10 6.0 RATE SMOOTHING

# 11 6.1 SUMMARY

12 In the draft PAO, OPG introduced a revised rate smoothing proposal intended to produce annual

13 increases of approximately \$0.65 or 0.4%<sup>23</sup> for residential customers' monthly bills during the IR

14 Term, with a total interest cost of approximately \$1.1B over the deferral and recovery period (the

15 "OPG Proposal").

16

In their submissions on the draft PAO, OEB staff and SEC propose alternative smoothing
approaches (the "OEB staff Proposal" and "SEC Proposal" respectively, collectively the
"alternative proposals"). AMPCO supports the SEC Proposal (AMPCO Submission, pp.1-2). CME
conditionally supports the SEC Proposal, "assuming that SEC's calculations are accurate" (CME
Submission, p. 2).<sup>24</sup>

22

OPG has reviewed the alternative proposals, as described in Section 6.2, below. Based on that
 review, OPG continues to believe that its proposal best satisfies the rate smoothing principles that
 the OEB endorsed in the Decision (Decision, p. 155).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The smoothed payment amounts that OPG proposes are: \$76.17/MWh in 2019; \$79.70/MWh in 2020 and \$83.67/MWh in 2021, which average to \$79.85/MWh (draft PAO, Appendix C, Table 1, line 4). <sup>21</sup> Draft PAO, Appendix F, Table 2, line 7.

 $<sup>^{22}</sup>$  \$6.27/\$79.85 = 7.9%.

 $<sup>^{23}</sup>$  Draft PAO, Appendix I, Table 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> As OPG demonstrated in Section 6.4, several elements of SEC's calculations are not accurate.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 29 of 36

The OEB staff Proposal strikes a different balance than the OPG Proposal. It would require OPG to defer recovery of less revenue requirement and would result in moderately lower interest costs over the full deferral and recovery period. However, it would also result in greater year-over-year variation in customer bills and higher transition impacts at the end of the recovery period. While both approaches are reasonable, OPG believes that the consistent year-over-year increase in bills under its proposal offers better value for customers.

7

8 On the other hand, the SEC Proposal is inconsistent with the OEB-endorsed rate smoothing 9 principles and has significant adverse impacts. In order to reduce 2018 bill impacts, SEC proposes 10 that the OEB defer approximately \$2.7B<sup>25</sup> over the IR Term. Although SEC does not specify the 11 carrying costs associated with its proposal in its submissions, OPG calculates that the SEC 12 Proposal would result in total interest costs of \$2.7B over the full deferral and recovery period, an 13 increase of almost 250% over the OPG Proposal. In OPG's submission, the long term cost of 14 SEC's proposal more than outweighs the short term benefit of reducing 2018 bill impacts.

### 15 6.2 COMPARISON OF PROPOSALS

16 To assist the OEB in comparing the relative merits of each proposal, OPG presents the outcomes

17 of each proposal in Chart 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> SEC states that its proposal would increase deferred revenue to \$2B, but OPG cannot validate this number and the SEC Proposal does not include annual deferral amounts (as required by O. Reg. 53/05). This issue is discussed in Section 6.4.

	OPG Proposal	SEC Proposal	OEB staff Proposal
2017-2021 Average Change in WAPA	2.7%	9.2%	2.0%
2022-2026 Average Change in WAPA	8.0%	8.0%	8.0%
2027-2036 Average Change in WAPA	(1.5)%	(1.1)%	(2.4)%
Peak RSDA Balance (\$B)	\$2.7	\$4.9	\$1.9
2017 - 2021 RSDA Additions (\$M)*	\$732	\$2,705	\$515
2017 - 2021 Interest (\$M)*	\$21	\$313	\$41
Total Interest (\$B)	\$1.1	\$2.7	\$0.5
Interest Cost / Deferred Revenue Ratio	0.4	0.6	0.2
FFO Interest Coverage > = 3 (2017-2021) & (2022-2026)	4.3 / 4.6	2.6 / 3.9	4.2 / 5.0
DEBT to EBITDA < = 5.5 (2017- 2021) & (2022-2026)	6.5 / 5.4	7.0 / 6.3	6.7 / 5.4
Nuclear Payment Amount Transition Impact (\$/MWh)	(\$0.19)	(\$13.28)	\$12.27
Average Annual Bill Impact (2017- 2021) in %	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Average Annual Bill Impact (2017- 2021) in \$	\$0.65	\$0.39	\$0.52
Average Annual Bill Impact (2017- 2036) in %	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Average Annual Bill Impact (2017- 2036) in \$	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.29

#### Chart 3: Outcomes of Rate Smoothing Proposals<sup>26</sup>

\* Additional rows to reflect submissions by OEB staff and SEC

1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Chart 3 is consistent with Chart 6 in the draft PAO, Appendix I, and with Chart 3 in Ex. A1-3-3 and Ex. N3-1-1. Beyond including the OEB staff and SEC proposals, the only structural change is the addition of two rows as noted, to reflect these parties' submissions. As OPG has no basis to propose alternatives, Chart 3 maintains an average WAPA increase of 8% in the 2022-2026 period for the alternative proposals, consistent with the OPG Proposal.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order **Response to Comments** Page 31 of 36

1 OPG discusses the relative merits and shortcomings of the alternative proposals in Sections 6.3 2 and 6.4 below.

#### 3 6.3 **OEB STAFF PROPOSAL**

4 The OEB staff Proposal trades-off lower overall cost for greater year-over-year volatility in 5 residential customer bills when compared to the OPG Proposal. It defers moderately less revenue 6 requirement than the OPG Proposal during the IR Term (approximately \$515M, compared to 7 \$732M proposed by OPG). As a result, the peak Rate Smoothing Deferral Account ("RSDA") 8 balance is lower and it has the lowest total interest costs over the full deferral and recovery 9 periods.

10

11 The OEB staff Proposal substantially increases volatility. In 2018 and 2019, the residential bill 12 impact of the OEB staff Proposal is twice that of the OPG Proposal.<sup>27</sup> The transition impact at the 13 end of the recovery period is also greater, resulting in an increase of over \$12/MWh in nuclear 14 payment amounts in 2037.

15

16 In OPG's view, the OEB staff Proposal is a reasonable alternative to the OPG Proposal. However, 17 on balance, OPG continues to believe that its proposal produces the best value for customers by 18 maintaining a constant year-over-year increase in monthly bills for residential customers during 19 the IR Term. The OEB staff Proposal would allow customer bills to vary more each year, and may 20 result in greater "rate shock" at the end of the recovery period.

21 6.3.1

# **OEB Staff Bill Impact Calculation**

22 OEB staff endorses the methodology that OPG used to calculate the \$0.65 impact on residential 23 customers' monthly bills (OEB staff Submission, p. 13). OEB staff also notes that, throughout the 24 course of this proceeding, OPG used an average residential total bill value of \$150, which was 25 current when the application was filed in May 2016 (*Ibid.*). As OEB staff also notes, the average 26 total bill has changed over the course of this proceeding. To allow for consistent comparison 27 between smoothing proposals, OPG continues to calculate residential customer bill impacts 28 against a total bill of \$150.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> OEB staff Submission, Schedule A, line 25.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 32 of 36

1 For 2019 through 2021, OEB staff concurs with the 0.5% year-over-year bill impacts for 2 medium/large and industrial customers calculated by OPG (OEB staff Submission, p. 14).<sup>28</sup> For 3 2018, OEB staff calculates bill impacts from a lower starting point,<sup>29</sup> and concludes that the bill 4 impact for non-RPP customers would be 4% in 2018. Since OEB staff does not supply the 5 calculation supporting its conclusions for 2018 bill impacts, OPG is unable to validate the result. 6 While OPG does not agree that it is appropriate to view the March 2018 bill impacts in isolation 7 as discussed in Section 6.4.2 below; otherwise, OEB staff have at least identified bill impacts that 8 appear to be calculated on a comparable basis to those provided by OPG.

9

#### 6.3.2 Responses to OEB Staff Requests

OEB staff requests that OPG confirm the interest charges it expected to result from the OPG
 Proposal during the IR Term (OEB staff Submission, p. 10).<sup>30</sup>

12

13 OPG forecasts that the total interest charges resulting from the OPG Proposal during the IR

14 Term will be approximately \$21M<sup>31</sup>, as estimated by OEB staff. Under the OPG Proposal, interest

15 charges are approximately \$19M less than the OEB staff Proposal and \$292M less than the SEC

16 Proposal during the IR Term.<sup>32</sup> The forecast differences over the total deferral and recovery

17 period are set out in Chart 3.

18

OEB staff also requests that OPG identify any significant calculation errors in the OEB staffProposal (OEB staff Submission, p. 11).

21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> As discussed in Section 6.3, OEB staff also endorsed the methodology that OPG used to calculate residential customer bill impacts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The OEB staff Proposal uses a starting point WAPA of \$50.72/MWh, reflecting the end of prior period payment riders on December 31, 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> In the draft PAO, OPG provided total interest charges associated with the OPG Proposal across the full deferral and recovery period, but did not specify the specific interest charges during the IR Term.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> For the purpose of comparing smoothing proposals, a simplified methodology has been applied consistently to the OPG, OEB staff, and SEC proposals to estimate interest. OPG confirms that \$21M is a reasonable estimate using this simplified methodology. However, the OEB approved methodology calculates interest on deferral and variance account balances on a monthly basis, and using this methodology would result in interest cost of approximately \$22M.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> As shown in Chart 3, Total IR Term interest charges under the OEB staff Proposal and the SEC Proposal are approximately \$41M and \$313M, respectively.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 33 of 36

OPG has identified no such errors. However, OPG notes that the OEB staff Proposal includes interim period shortfall riders in the calculation of WAPA. SEC's calculations also include these riders in WAPA. As OPG identified in the draft PAO, under O. Reg. 53/05, WAPA does not include the impact of such riders (draft PAO, Appendix I, p. 13). However, this issue does not affect the deferral amounts or bill impacts that OEB staff identify.

### 6 6.4 SEC PROPOSAL

7 Any short-term benefits of the SEC Proposal are dwarfed by its long-term cost. The SEC Proposal 8 will cost customers billions of dollars more than either the OPG Proposal or the OEB staff 9 Proposal. Although SEC did not provide total carrying costs in its submission, OPG calculates 10 that total interest costs under the SEC Proposal will be approximately \$2.7B, an increase of \$1.6B 11 over the OPG Proposal and \$2.2B over the OEB staff Proposal. The only benefit that customers 12 receive for this substantial cost increase is lower bill impacts in 2018 when compared against the 13 artificially low rates that resulted from the expiry of payment riders at the end of 2016 (a 14 comparison that OPG believes is misleading, as discussed in Section 6.4.2 below).

15

Nuclear rate smoothing requires that the OEB take a long-term view of OPG's payment amounts. The Darlington Refurbishment Program is a decade-long enterprise, and O. Reg. 53/05 requires that the OEB contemplate the trajectory of payments over the span of at least twenty-years. The rate smoothing principles endorsed by the OEB reflect the fact that the OEB must balance competing long-term issues when approving rate smoothing deferral amounts.

In contrast, the SEC Proposal focuses on a much smaller period of time: the months between the
 expiry of OPG's prior payment riders and the implementation of the payment amounts and riders
 approved by the OEB in this application. Consequently, the SEC Proposal results in poor value
 for customers in the long-term.

26

27 OPG identifies other specific flaws in the SEC Proposal in the following subsections.

30

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 34 of 36

#### 6.4.1 SEC Selectively Conflates WAPA with Bill Impacts

SEC's submissions generally use changes in WAPA as a stand-in for bill impacts. SEC repeatedly
cites an increase of 27.05% in the commodity portion of non-RPP customers' bills in 2018, based
on annual changes in WAPA, starting from the reduced 2017 WAPA of \$50.72/MWh (SEC
Submission, paras. 3.2.4 and 3.2.11). In OPG's view, this approach is unhelpful and potentially
misleading. WAPA and bill impacts are not equivalent or interchangeable.

7

1

8 Where SEC does refer to bill impacts, it does so selectively. Without evidentiary support, SEC 9 provides annual impacts, in dollars, for one customer: the Toronto District School Board. The only 10 customer class for which SEC cites a specific bill impact is a typical large industrial customer in 11 the Alectra PowerStream rate zone, for which SEC cites a bill impact amount in absolute dollars 12 on an annual basis.<sup>33</sup> When the OEB assesses customer bill impacts, it typically focuses on the 13 percentage change on monthly bills. Consistent with that practice and with its response to 14 undertaking J20.1, OPG has identified year-over-year bill impacts of the OPG Proposal for 15 medium/large and industrial customers on a monthly basis, across three distinct service areas (draft PAO, Appendix I, p. 16 and Tables 1B, 1C, and 1D). SEC's selective, annualized examples 16 17 do not reflect bill impacts on customers across Ontario, nor do they situate those impacts in the 18 context of customers' total bills.

### 19 6.4.2 Methodological Flaws in the 2018 Bill Impact Calculations

SEC's method of calculating bill impacts ignores the decrease in payments amounts from which customers have benefitted since January 1, 2017. SEC's bill impact calculation begins with the 2017 interim payment amounts (without riders), the effect of which is to exaggerate the impact of new payment amounts and riders.

As described in the draft PAO, OPG believes that bill impacts should be viewed on a cumulative basis, starting on January 1, 2017.<sup>34</sup> Chart 4 illustrates the annualized bill impact for residential and non-RPP customers in 2017 and 2018.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> SEC cites a monthly increase of approximately \$21,000 (or \$248,000 annually) for a large industrial customer in the Alectra PowerStream Rate Zone in 2018 (SEC Submission, pp. 15-16). As discussed in Section 6.4.2, OPG also disputes the starting point from which SEC has calculated 2018 bill impacts.
 <sup>34</sup> Draft PAO, Appendix I, Section 6.4.

					•	
Line				20	18	2017 & 2018
No.	Customer Class	Measure	2017	Jan - Feb	Mar - Dec	Average Impact
1	Residential Customers	(\$/Month)	-\$4.20	\$0.00	\$4.59	\$0.65
2		(%)	-2.8%	0.0%	3.0%	0.4%
3	Non-RPP Customers	(\$/Month)	-\$14,200	\$0	\$15,500	\$2,200
4		(%)	-3.3%	0.0%	3.6%	0.5%

#### Chart 4: Cumulative 2017-2018 Customer Bill Impacts under OPG Proposal

2 3

1

4 SEC's approach to bill impacts considers only the difference between payments on February 28,

5 2018 and those on March 1, 2018. By focusing exclusively on this single transition, SEC creates

6 the inaccurate impression that OPG's payment amounts are increasing by 27%, which in turn is

7 used to provide justification for SEC's extremely expensive rate smoothing proposal.

8

9 It is OPG's view that bill impacts are properly calculated on a cumulative basis, as shown in10 Chart 4 and as filed in the draft PAO.

11 6.4.3 Assumed Future Payment Riders

SEC states that OPG has not followed the OEB's guidance, in that the OPG Proposal does not reflect future riders for recovery of deferral and variance account balances that the OEB may approve in future applications (SEC Submission, p. 12).

15

16 Absent OEB approved balances and recovery periods, OPG does not believe it is appropriate or

17 consistent with the definition of WAPA in O. Reg. 53/05 to determine deferral amounts based on

18 speculative payment riders for future periods.

19

OPG does not understand the OEB's findings in the Decision to require that a rate smoothing proposal should include speculative riders based on decisions the OEB may make in future proceedings, as SEC suggests. As stated in Ex. N3-1-1 and Appendix I of the draft PAO, the OPG Proposal does not reflect payment riders for recovery of deferral and variance account balances after December 31, 2015, as none are proposed in this Application (draft PAO, Appendix I, p. 9).

The OEB will have tools to address bill impacts of any potential future payment riders in the proceeding where they are approved. In OPG's submission, the OEB would be better able to

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Response to Comments Page 36 of 36

consider such impacts in a future proceeding, at which time it would have on a complete record
on which to assess the bill impact of potential payment riders for recovery (or refund) of any
amounts approved, including appropriate recovery periods.

### 4 6.5 RATE SMOOTHING CONCLUSION

5 The alternative proposals present two very different approaches to rate smoothing. The OEB 6 staff Proposal is a reasonable alternative to the OPG Proposal, focused on minimizing deferral 7 amounts and carrying costs at the expense of more stable year-over-year customer bill impacts 8 and post-recovery transition impacts. In contrast, SEC focuses entirely on mitigating short term 9 bill impacts, the price of which is billions of dollars of deferred revenue and carrying costs. 10 11 OPG believes that its own proposal continues to provide the best value for customers, producing 12 stable year-over-year bill impacts during the IR Term and minimal post-recovery transition

12 stable year-over-year bill impacts during the IR Term and minimal post-recovery transition 13 impact. The SEC Proposal does not provide value for customers. As OEB staff observed, 14 customer bill impacts for both residential and non-RPP customers are well below the 10% 15 threshold the OEB applies to trigger rate mitigation for electric distributors and are "not sufficiently

16 significant to warrant mitigation." (OEB staff Submission, p. 14). OPG concurs with OEB staff's

17 assessment.

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Attachment 1

Base Document	Submission Reference	Submission	Change	Change Reference
Order	Staff 2.3	Revise Order number 5 to be consistent with order number 4 for 2017	Changed as requested	Order, Page 4
Appendix A	SEC 4.6.4	File a non-capital loss continuity schedule	Filed as requested	Appendix A, Table 22
Appendix C	Staff 2.3	Line 3, Table 1 should be listed as <u>Smoothed</u> Nuclear Payment Amount	Changed as requested	Appendix C, Table 1, line 3
Appendix C	Staff 2.3	Units in footnote 4 of Table 1 should be TWh	Changed as requested	Appendix C, Table 1, footnote 4,
Appendix F	Staff 2.3	Title for line 6 of table 2 should read 2021, not 2031	Changed as requested	Appendix F, Table 2, line 6
Appendix G	Staff 3.2	Specify descriptions proposed for the continuing accounts are effective as of the effective date of the Decision, namely June 1, 2017	Added sentence with requested specification	Appendix G, Page 2
	Staff 3.2	Pension & OPEB Cash Versus Accrual Differential Deferral Account	Changed description from variance account to deferral account	Appendix G, Page 13
	Staff 3.2	Bruce Lease Net Revenues Variance Account	Added purpose and general operation description from Ex H1-1-1. Also Deleted "had"	Appendix G, Page 14, 15
	OPG correction	"calculated as set out in EB-2013-0321 per EB-2016-0152"	Deleted "per EB- 2013-0321"	Appendix G, Page 8
	SEC 2.3.7, 2.3.8, 2.3.9 2.3.11, 2.3.17, 2.3.18, 2.3.19, 2.3.20, 2.3.25,	Specify the impact of the effective date where it is appropriate in specific cases	OPG has indicated the impact of the effective date	Appendix G, Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16
	2.3.26		Specified calculations for monthly reference amounts in	Appendix A, Tables 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a,

# **Concordance Table**

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Attachment 1

# **Concordance Table**

	252.2.2.10		Appendix A tables, where appropriate	16a, 17a, 18a, 19a, 20a
	SEC 2.3.19	Provide the annual reference amounts for each year	Added approved reference amounts	Appendix G, Page 9, 10
	SEC 4.8	Pension and OPEB Cost Variance Account: Recovery date of June	Revised Account description to reflect approved	Appendix G, Page 10
		30, 2021 is inconsistent with OPG's proposal to recover hydro and nuclear Deferral and variance account balances by December 31, 2021	recovery in months as discussed in Reply	Appendix D, Table 1 line 8 col (d), Appendix E, Table 1, line 11, col (d)
Appendix H	SEC 4.9	Add requirement to include tax impacts	Included the requirement to include tax impacts	Appendix H, Page 4
General	N/A	Headers, footers and Order reflect January 17, 2018 filing date of Draft Order	Filing date updated to February 5, 2018	Throughout document

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Attachment 2 Page 1 of 2

Table 1
Calculation of 2017 Capital Cost Allowance

	· ·		CC/	A Impact
	Description	2017		2017
(a)	OPG Proposed Depreciation (line 17, col. (a))	\$ 367.0	\$	394.1
	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Excluding Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 8 + line 10 + line 11 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b) + (c), line 8 + line 10 + line 11)	\$ (19.0)	\$	(34.9)
(c)	Reduction in Auxiliary Heating System in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 5, col. (b))	\$ (0.8)	\$	(1.9)
(d)	Reduction in Operations Support Building in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 6, col. (b))	\$ (0.2)	\$	(0.4)
(e)	Subtotal (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	\$ 347.0	\$	356.9
(f)	10% reduction to nuclear operations and support services in service additions (PAO App. A, Table 10, col. (b) line 7)	\$ (0.7)	\$	(4.1)
(g)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 13 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b), line 13)	\$ (3.1)	\$	-
(h)	OEB Approved Depreciation (e) + (f) + (g)	\$ 343.2	\$	352.8

Table 2 Calculation of 2018 Capital Cost Allowance

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			CCA Impact		
	Description	2018		2018		
(a)	OPG Proposed Depreciation (line 17, col. (a))	\$	395.0	\$	504.4	
(b)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Excluding Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 15 + line 17 + line 18 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b) + (c), line 15 + line 17 + line 18)	\$	3.5	\$	(13.8)	
(c)	Reduction in Auxiliary Heating System in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 15, col. (b))	\$	(0.8)	\$	(1.9)	
(d)	Reduction in Operations Support Building in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 16, col. (b))	\$	(0.2)	\$	(0.4)	
(e)	Subtotal (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	\$	397.5	\$	488.3	
(f)	10% reduction to nuclear operations and support services in service additions (PAO App. A, Table 10, col. (b) line 17)	\$	(2.0)	\$	(9.2)	
(g)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 20 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b), line 20)	\$	(3.1)	\$	-	
(h)	OEB Approved Depreciation (e) + (f) + (g)	\$	392.4	\$	479.2	

Table 3 Calculation of 2019 Capital Cost Allowance

				CCA Impact		
	Description	2019		2019		
(a)	OPG Proposed Depreciation (line 17, col. (a))	\$	400.3	\$	571.1	
(b)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Excluding Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 22 + line 24 + line 25 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b) + (c), line 22 + line 24 + line 25)	\$	21.1	\$	(0.1)	
(c)	Reduction in Auxiliary Heating System in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 25, col. (b))	\$	(0.8)	\$	(1.8)	
(d)	Reduction in Operations Support Building in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 26, col. (b))	\$	(0.2)	\$	(0.4)	
(e)	Subtotal (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	\$	420.3	\$	568.7	
(f)	10% reduction to nuclear operations and support services in service additions (PAO App. A, Table 10, col. (b) line 27)	\$	(3.1)	\$	(11.5)	
(g)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Asset Reitrement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 27 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b), line 27)	\$	(3.1)	\$	_	
(h)	OEB Approved Depreciation (e) + (f) + (g)	\$	414.0	\$	557.2	

Filed: 2018-02-05 EB-2016-0152 Draft Payment Amounts Order Attachment 2 Page 2 of 2

				CCA Impact		
	Description	2020		2020		
(a)	OPG Proposed Depreciation (line 17, col. (a))	\$	541.2	\$	594.8	
(b)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Excluding Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 29 + line 31 + line 32 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b) + (c), line 29 + line 31 + line 32)	\$	57.5	\$	2.4	
(c)	Reduction in Auxiliary Heating System in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 35, col. (b))	\$	(0.8)	\$	(1.8)	
(d)	Reduction in Operations Support Building in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 36, col. (b))	\$	(0.2)	\$	(0.4)	
(e)	Subtotal (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	\$	597.6	\$	595.1	
(f)	10% reduction to nuclear operations and support services in service additions (PAO App. A, Table 10, col. (b) line 37)	\$	(4.1)	\$	(12.9)	
(g)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 34 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b), line 34)	\$	(3.1)	\$	-	
(h)	OEB Approved Depreciation (e) + (f) + (g)	\$	590.3	\$	582.2	

Table 4 Calculation of 2020 Capital Cost Allowance

 Table 5

 Calculation of 2021 Capital Cost Allowance

				CCA Impact		
	Description	2021			2021	
(a)	OPG Proposed Depreciation (line 17, col. (a))	\$	316.7	\$	597.0	
(b)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Excluding Asset retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 36 + line 38 + line 39 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b) + (c), line 36 + line 38 + line 39)	\$	(22.2)	\$	(7.9)	
(c)	Reduction in Auxiliary Heating System in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 45, col. (b))	\$	(0.8)	\$	(1.6)	
(d)	Reduction in Operations Support Building in-service amount (PAO App. A, Table 10, line 46, col. (b))	\$	(0.2)	\$	(0.4)	
(e)	Subtotal (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	\$	293.4	\$	587.1	
(f)	10% reduction to nuclear operations and support services in service additions (PAO App. A, Table 10, col. (b) line 47)	\$	(4.8)	\$	(12.7)	
(g)	Adjustment for Ex. J21.1 - Asset Retirement Costs (J21.1 Att. 2, Table 7, col. (b), line 41 less J21.1 Att. 1, Table 5, col. (b), line 41)	\$	(0.2)	\$	-	
(h)	OEB Approved Depreciation (e) + (f) + (g)	\$	288.3	\$	574.4	