Ontario Energy Board Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario



EB-2018-0130

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Application for electricity transmission revenue requirement effective January 1, 2019

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1 January 24, 2019

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on October 26, 2018 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act)¹, and under the OEB's *Filing Requirements for Electricity Transmission Applications*. Hydro One is seeking approval for changes to its electricity transmission revenue requirement to be effective January 1, 2019.

The OEB issued a Notice of Hearing on December 7, 2018. Each of Anwaatin Inc. (Anwaatin), Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario (AMPCO), Building Owners and Managers Association, Greater Toronto (BOMA), Consumers Council of Canada (CCC), Environmental Defence Canada Inc. (ED), Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe), HQ Energy Marketing Inc. (HQEM), Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), London Property Management Association (LPMA), Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG), Power Workers' Union (PWU), School Energy Coalition (SEC), and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status.

Each of Anwaatin, AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, ED, Energy Probe, LPMA, SEC, and VECC also applied for cost eligibility.

Anwaatin, AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, Energy Probe, HQEM, IESO, LPMA, OPG, PWU, SEC, and VECC are approved as intervenors. The list of parties in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order.

¹ S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B)

ED is not approved as an intervenor at this time for the reasons discussed below.

Anwaatin, AMPCO, BOMA, CCC, Energy Probe, LPMA, SEC, and VECC are each eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

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

Revenue Cap Index (RCI) and Benchmarking Study

Hydro One has proposed an RCI approach to determine its 2019 transmission revenue requirement. The OEB acknowledges that Hydro One has proposed that the OEB adopt the RCI and associated parameters that were proposed and are being considered in the proceeding arising out of Hydro One Sault St. Marie LP's (Hydro One SSM) application for approval of its 2019 revenue requirement.² The OEB will not further test the benchmarking and total factor productivity evidence filed in the Hydro One SSM proceeding in this current Hydro One transmission proceeding.

Hydro One has proposed that the rate setting parameters (inflation and productivity factors) be approved on a preliminary basis based on the proposed parameters for the Hydro One SSM proceeding, with a variance account to true up to the parameters approved for Hydro One SSM. As part of final submissions, the OEB would like parties to address the following:

- Is it appropriate to use the rate setting parameters proposed for Hydro One SSM on a preliminary basis, or should another approach be adopted?
- What should be the nature of the proposed variance account? Should it true up to the approved parameters for Hydro One SSM, true up to parameters determined in Hydro One's Custom IR proceeding or some other option?
- What additional evidence should Hydro One be required to file in its next Custom IR application with respect to the RCI parameters?

Issue raised by ED

In its intervenor status request, ED raised a question of whether Hydro One should comply with the directions from the OEB's decision in EB-2016-0160 in the current

² EB-2018-0218

application, including the direction to explore cost effective opportunities for transmission line loss reductions. Hydro One responded to ED's request and stated that based on the mechanistic nature of the current application (i.e. an RCI adjustment to determine its 2019 transmission revenue requirement), it did not intend to address prior OEB directions.³ Hydro One indicated that it also considered the relevance of the OEB's direction on line losses to the current application and determined that this direction would have no impact on the requested RCI adjustment. Hydro One stated that addressing prior directions in its planned 2020-2022 Custom IR application would be consistent with the OEB's filing requirements and Handbook for Utility Rate Applications. In its reply to Hydro One's letter, ED reiterated that it is important to ensure Hydro One's work related to transmission line losses reductions is on track and this issue should be examined in this proceeding.⁴

The OEB directs Hydro One to provide an update on the status of its work which was ordered by the OEB in the EB-2016-0160 proceeding regarding opportunities for reducing transmission line losses. This status update is for information purposes only to inform the OEB that progress is being made, but will not be adjudicated as part of this proceeding as it has no impact on the requested RCI adjustment.

The OEB's expectation is that the work ordered by the OEB in the EB-2016-0160 proceeding will be substantially advanced and reported as part of Hydro One's next rebasing application. If Hydro One does not file a rebasing application for 2020, the OEB may consider the appropriate timing and process for examining Hydro One's progress on this subject. Based on that, ED is requested to inform the OEB whether it still seeks intervenor status in this proceeding and, if so, what the scope of its intervention would be.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. The OEB may issue further procedural orders from time to time.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. ED shall inform the OEB and serve on all parties whether it still seeks intervenor status in this proceeding and, if so, what the scope of its intervention would be by **January 29, 2019**.

³ Hydro One Responses to Environmental Defence Intervenor Status Request, January 3, 2019.

⁴ Environmental Defence, letter dated January 7, 2019.

- Hydro One shall file with the OEB and serve on all parties an update on the status of its work regarding transmission line loss reduction by February 28, 2019.
- 3. OEB staff and intervenors shall request any information and material from Hydro One that is in addition to Hydro One's evidence and that is relevant to the hearing by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **February 7, 2019.**
- 4. Hydro One shall file with the OEB complete written responses to the interrogatories and serve them on all parties by **February 28, 2019.**
- 5. OEB staff and intervenors shall file written submissions with the OEB and serve it on all parties by **March 14, 2019.**
- 6. Hydro One shall file with the OEB its reply submission and serve them on all parties by **March 28, 2019.**

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2018-0130 and be made electronically in searchable/unrestricted PDF format through the OEB's web portal at <u>https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/</u>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <u>http://www.oeb.ca/Industry</u>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below.

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

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Shuo Zhang at <u>Shuo.Zhang@oeb.ca</u> and OEB Counsel, James Sidlofsky, at <u>james.sidlofsky@oeb.ca</u>.

ADDRESS

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

E-mail: <u>boardsec@oeb.ca</u> Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free) Fax: 416-440-7656

DATED at Toronto, January 24, 2019

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Kirsten Walli Board Secretary Schedule A

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Procedural Order No. 1

Hydro One Networks Inc.

EB-2018-0130

Applicant and List of Intervenors

January 24, 2019

APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS

January 24, 2019

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