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BY EMAIL

January 15, 2020

Ms. Christine E. Long
Registrar and Board Secretary
Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
BoardSec@oeb.ca

Dear Ms. Long:

Re: **Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One)**
**Application for leave to upgrade existing transmission line facilities in the
Barrie-Innisfil area of Ontario**

OEB File Number: EB-2018-0117

On January 13, 2020, OEB staff filed a letter in this proceeding requesting that the OEB provide for a technical conference so that OEB staff can seek further clarification on matters related to interrogatory responses filed by Hydro One.

In making arrangements with Hydro One regarding the scheduling of the technical conference, Hydro One raised the possibility of a settlement conference as an alternative forum for clarifying its interrogatory responses. Hydro One proposed that OEB staff could ask clarification questions as part of the initial stage of the settlement conference and noted that Hydro One and OEB staff could ensure that any new evidence arising from the settlement conference be placed on the record of this proceeding.

OEB staff is prepared to participate in a settlement conference, subject to the OEB making OEB staff a party to the settlement conference in accordance with the *Practice Direction on Settlement Conferences*. OEB staff also respectfully requests that the OEB still provide for a technical conference following the settlement conference, in the event that a settlement is not reached and additional discovery is required to complete the record before submissions are filed.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By

David Martinello
Advisor, Generation & Transmission