

Hydro One Networks Inc.

**Application for leave to upgrade existing transmission
line facilities in the Barrie-Innisfil area**

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2

January 23, 2020

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under section 92 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Act) for approval to:

- Replace two nine kilometre 115 kV single circuit transmission lines that are currently carried on separate towers, with a new 230 kV double circuit line, carried on a single tower
- Install new equipment and replace end-of-life equipment at the Essa Transformer Station
- Upgrade and expand the Barrie Transformer Station
- Extend the period over which InnPower Corporation may pay its share of the project costs
- Establish an account to track the collection of project costs from InnPower Corporation (InnPower) and any other future customer

Hydro One has also requested approval under section 97 of the Act for the form of agreement it offers to landowners to use their land for routing and construction of the proposed facilities.

The OEB issued a Notice of Hearing on November 11, 2019. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) applied for intervenor status. No objection was received from Hydro One.

In Procedural Order No. 1, issued December 6, 2019, the IESO was approved as an intervenor and the OEB made provision for the filing of interrogatories, interrogatory responses and submissions by parties.

On January 13, 2020 OEB staff filed a letter requesting a technical conference for further clarification on matters connected with interrogatory responses. However, by letter dated January 15, 2020, OEB staff advised that 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.

In its January 15, 2020 letter, OEB staff stated that it would be 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 requested 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.

The OEB does not approve the request for a settlement conference. The OEB believes that it is appropriate to provide for a technical conference for clarification of interrogatory responses.

It is expected that the scope of questioning for the technical conference will focus upon load forecasts; project need; sustainment activities; bill impacts; extension of the capital contribution period; Loan Methodology and Net Book Value Methodology to account for the capital contribution; and the Capital Contribution Recovery Differential Account.

The OEB expects that Hydro One will coordinate with the IESO and InnPower to ensure that the necessary witnesses will be available from both IESO and InnPower for the technical conference and evidence is provided for undertakings, if needed.

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. The dates for submissions and reply submission set out in Procedural Order No. 1 are cancelled.
2. A transcribed technical conference will be held on **February 11, 2020** starting at 9:30 a.m., at the OEB's offices at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto to clarify matters arising from interrogatory responses.
3. Any technical conference undertakings shall be filed with the OEB no later than **February 18, 2020**.

All filings to the OEB must quote the file number, EB-2018-0117, and be made in searchable / unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice/>. Two paper copies must also be filed at the OEB's address provided below. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address and telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Parties must use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the RESS Document Guideline found at <https://www.oeb.ca/industry>. If the web portal is not available parties may email their documents to the address below. Those who do not have computer access are required to file seven paper copies.

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

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, David Martinello at David.Martinello@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, James Sidlofsky at James.Sidlofsky@oeb.ca.

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DATED at Toronto, January 23, 2020
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Christine E. Long
Registrar and Board Secretary