

**Hydro 2000 Inc.**

**Application for electricity distribution rates beginning  
May 1, 2020**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 1  
May 5, 2020**

Hydro 2000 Inc. (Hydro 2000) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on February 25, 2020 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B), seeking approval for changes to the rates that Hydro 2000 charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2020. The application was accepted by the OEB as complete on March 9, 2020.

A Notice of Hearing was issued on April 14, 2020. Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) applied for intervenor status and cost eligibility.

No objection was received from Hydro 2000.

VECC is approved as an intervenor. The list of participants in this proceeding is attached as Schedule A to this Procedural Order. VECC is eligible to apply for an award of costs under the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

**Issues List**

It is the OEB's expectation that a party will be best positioned to identify issues relevant to Hydro 2000's application after the applicant has responded to interrogatories. Hydro 2000, OEB staff and VECC shall develop and OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list for the OEB's consideration. The OEB will approve an issues list prior to the settlement conference.

**Interrogatories**

At this time, provision is being made for written interrogatories. The OEB will review the single test year application both in the context of the projects and programs that are

requested for the test year and from the perspective of the distributor's plans for the subsequent four years until the next scheduled rebasing application.

A party filing interrogatories should examine the value presented by the proposed investments as opposed to focusing only on the costs. The party should also assess the fit between the applicant's plans and its stated objectives, and consider how the plans contribute to positive outcomes for customers, in particular those outcomes that arise from the asset management decisions reflected in the applicant's distribution system plan. The OEB will consider the entire five-year distribution system plan to assess the planning and pacing proposals of the applicant and whether the test year requests are appropriately aligned with the distribution system plan. The OEB will also consider productivity and benchmarking results in assessing cost forecasts, bill impacts and distributor performance.

A party filing interrogatories should not engage in detailed exploration of items that do not appear to be material and should use the materiality thresholds documented in Chapter 2 of the Filing Requirements as a guide. In making its decision on cost awards, the OEB will consider whether VECC made reasonable efforts to ensure that their participation in the hearing was focused on material issues.

A party filing interrogatories should consult sections 26 and 27 of the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#) regarding required naming and numbering conventions and other matters related to interrogatories.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. OEB staff shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hydro 2000 that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **May 15, 2020**.
2. VECC shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hydro 2000 that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **May 20, 2020**.
3. Hydro 2000 shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on OEB staff and VECC by **June 10, 2020**.

4. OEB staff shall file a proposed issues list, or, alternatively, shall advise the OEB in writing that the parties and OEB staff have been unable to reach an agreement on a draft issues list by **June 18, 2020**.
5. A settlement conference among the parties and OEB staff will be convened on **June 24, 2020**, starting at 9:30 a.m., at 2300 Yonge Street, 25th floor, Toronto, or will be held remotely. If necessary, the settlement conference will continue on June 25, 2020 to June 26, 2020.
6. Any settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **July 21, 2020**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing.
7. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **July 28, 2020**.
8. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference, Hydro 2000 shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by **July 10, 2020**. In that event, parties shall file and serve on the other parties by **July 17, 2020**, any submissions on which issues shall be heard in writing, and for which issues the OEB should hold an oral hearing.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2019-0041**, be made in searchable/unrestricted PDF format electronically through the OEB's web portal at <https://pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/eservice>. Filings must clearly state the sender's name, postal address, 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.

**NOTE: The OEB is temporarily waiving the paper copy filing requirement until further notice. 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, Tina Li at [Tina.Li@oeb.ca](mailto:Tina.Li@oeb.ca) and OEB Counsel, Ljuba Djurdjevic at [LjubaDjurdjevic@oeb.ca](mailto:LjubaDjurdjevic@oeb.ca).

**ADDRESS**

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

Email: [boardsec@oeb.ca](mailto:boardsec@oeb.ca)  
Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)  
Fax: 416-440-7656

**DATED** at Toronto, May 5, 2020

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

**By delegation, before: Christine E. Long**

*Original signed by*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar and Board Secretary

**SCHEDULE “A”**

**Hydro 2000 Inc.**

**Board File No. EB-2019-0041**

**APPLICANT & INTERVENORS**

**Dated: May 5, 2020**

**Hydro 2000 Inc.**  
**EB-2019-0041**

**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

**May 05, 2020**

**APPLICANT**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Hydro 2000 Inc.**

**Lise Wilkinson**

General Manager  
Hydro 2000 Inc.  
440 St. Philippe St.  
P.O. Box 370  
Alfred, ON K0B 1A0  
Tel: 613-679-4093  
Fax: 613-679-0452  
[info@hydro2000.ca](mailto:info@hydro2000.ca)

**APPLICANT COUNSEL**

**Michael Buonaguro**

Counsel  
The Energy Boutique  
24 Humber Trail  
Toronto ON M6S 4C1  
Tel: 416-767-1666  
Fax: 416-767-1666  
[mrb@mrb-law.com](mailto:mrb@mrb-law.com)

**INTERVENORS**

**Rep. and Address for Service**

**Vulnerable Energy  
Consumers Coalition**

**John Lawford**

Counsel, Regulatory and Public Policy  
Public Interest Advocacy Centre  
2-285 McLeod Street  
Ottawa ON K2P 1A1  
Tel: 613-562-4002 Ext: 25  
Fax: Not Provided  
[jlawford@piac.ca](mailto:jlawford@piac.ca)

**Hydro 2000 Inc.**  
**EB-2019-0041**

**APPLICANT & LIST OF INTERVENORS**

**May 05, 2020**

**Vulnerable Energy  
Consumers Coalition**

**Mark Garner**

Consultant - Project Manager  
647 Broadway Avenue  
Toronto ON M4G 2S8 Tel:  
647-408-4501  
Fax: Not Provided  
[markgarner@rogers.com](mailto:markgarner@rogers.com)

**Bill Harper**

Consultant  
107 Baker Ave.  
Richmond Hill On L4C 1X5  
Tel: 416-348 0193  
Fax: Not Provided  
[bharper.consultant@bell.net](mailto:bharper.consultant@bell.net)