

## Hydro Ottawa Limited

### Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges for the period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025

#### DECISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY July 28, 2020

Hydro Ottawa Limited (Hydro Ottawa) filed a custom incentive rate-setting application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on February 11, 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 Ottawa charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2021, and for each following year through to December 31, 2025.

#### Hydro Ottawa Interrogatory Responses

On June 23, 2020, Hydro Ottawa requested confidential treatment for two interrogatory responses: EPRF-112(A) through (G) and OEB-117(A) and (B). The subject material related to Hydro Ottawa's new facilities.

Hydro Ottawa sought confidential treatment for the following reasons:

- EPRF-112: the attachments contain commercially sensitive and security related matters with respect to Hydro Ottawa's new facilities
- OEB-117: the two attachments contains Class B and Class C estimates along with information on the physical security of the new facilities

The OEB issued a Decision on Confidentiality and Procedural Order No.4 (PO#4) on July 7, 2020. The OEB granted confidential treatment to working papers filed by Pacific Economics Group Research LLC in PO#4. PO#4 also set out procedural steps for submissions and reply submission on the confidentiality request for interrogatory responses from Hydro Ottawa.

Energy Probe filed a submission on July 10, 2020, stating that it had no objection to the confidentiality request by Hydro Ottawa.

OEB staff filed a submission on July 14, 2020. OEB staff noted that Hydro Ottawa did not provide a detailed summary of the redacted information. For the purpose of its submission, OEB staff reviewed the un-redacted versions of these documents and broadly sorted each redacted item into one of the following five categories: Property Disposal & Severance, Information Technology (IT) Systems, Contaminated Soil, Site Plan and Floor Plan information and Miscellaneous.

With respect to redacted information on the disposal and severance of Hydro Ottawa's Merivale and Albion properties, OEB staff agreed with Hydro Ottawa that redactions in this category relate to commercially sensitive information that could reasonably be expected to adversely impact future contractual negotiations. Regarding redacted information on the IT systems and IT infrastructure in its new buildings, OEB staff submitted that the redacted information on the physical location and specifications of Hydro Ottawa's IT systems, if made public, could reasonably pose a security risk to its operations.

For the Site Plan and Floor Plan Information category, OEB staff supported confidential treatment of documents or floor plans that detail the location and specification of Hydro Ottawa's IT system. However, OEB staff submitted that redaction on EPRF-112(A) page 6, which is a general site plan drawing with no explicit references to Hydro Ottawa's IT system, should be made public.

With respect to the Contaminated Soil and Miscellaneous categories, OEB staff noted that redactions in these categories do not contain any commercially sensitive information or security related details, and submitted that items in these categories should be made public.

Hydro Ottawa filed a reply submission on July 24, 2020. As part of that reply, and in response to OEB staff's submission, Hydro Ottawa filed attachments to EPRF-112(A), EPRF-112(B) and EPRF-112(F) that contained fewer redactions. However, Hydro Ottawa identified two items that it believed should remain confidential.

One item is under the Site Plan and Floor Plan category: Hydro Ottawa notes that pages 5-9 of EPRF-112(A) provide numerous and various aspects of the design of Hydro Ottawa properties, including locations of mechanical rooms and reference to the location of Hydro Ottawa's control centre. The other item is under the Miscellaneous category; Hydro Ottawa notes that pages 16 and 38 of EPRF-112(E) relate to a

sensitive labour relations matter that cannot be placed on the public record. Hydro Ottawa is also maintaining that certain site plan-related information at pages 29 and 50 of EPRF-112(B) should remain redacted.

The OEB accepts Hydro Ottawa's reply submission and grants confidential treatment to OEB-117(A) and (B), and EPRF-112(A) through (G) based on Hydro Ottawa's updated redactions submitted on July 24, 2020.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2019-0261**, be made in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature 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 [boardsec@oeb.ca](mailto:boardsec@oeb.ca).

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 [Shuo.Zhang@oeb.ca](mailto:Shuo.Zhang@oeb.ca) and OEB Counsel, James Sidlofsky at [James.Sidlofsky@oeb.ca](mailto:James.Sidlofsky@oeb.ca).

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**DATED** at Toronto, **July 28, 2020**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar and Board Secretary