

## Hydro Ottawa Limited

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

#### DECISION ON SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 8 October 2, 2020

Hydro Ottawa Limited (Hydro Ottawa) filed a custom incentive rate-setting (Custom IR) 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.

On June 22, 2020 the OEB issued its Decision on the Issues List and Procedural Order No. 3 and made provision for a settlement conference on August 10-12, 2020. The settlement conference continued for an additional three days and was attended by Hydro Ottawa, OEB staff<sup>1</sup> and the following eight intervenors: Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Consumers Council of Canada (CCC), Distributed Resource Coalition (DRC), Environmental Defence (ED), Energy Probe Research Foundation (Energy Probe), Pollution Probe (PP), School Energy Coalition (SEC) and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) (the Parties).

Richard Parry and Nash Smith who are registered intervenors in this proceeding, did not participate in the settlement conference.

The OEB received a settlement proposal from Hydro Ottawa on September 18, 2020. The Parties came to an agreement on all, but one issue related to rate design (Issue 7.3). The Parties proposed to proceed with a written hearing on the one outstanding issue with a condition that intervenors have an opportunity to provide a response to any new items raised in Hydro Ottawa's reply submission.

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<sup>1</sup> OEB staff's role is to provide advice on the parties' proposals and to ensure all relevant information is presented and considered in negotiations but is not a party to the settlement proposal.

In Procedural Order No. 7 dated September 22, 2020, the OEB made provision for OEB staff to file a submission on the settlement proposal by September 29, 2020. OEB staff filed a submission by the required date. OEB staff submitted that the settlement proposal reflected a reasonable evaluation of Hydro Ottawa's planned outcomes, including appropriate considerations of the relevant issues and allowed for appropriate resources for Hydro Ottawa to achieve its outcomes in its five-year plan. OEB staff also noted that the outcomes arising from the OEB's approval of the settlement proposal would reflect the public interest and would result in just and reasonable rates for customers.

## Findings

The OEB accepts the settlement proposal as filed. Further written reasons on the settlement proposal will be provided at a later date. At this time, provision will be made to address the unsettled issue by way of a written hearing. The remaining procedural steps are set out below.

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. Hydro Ottawa shall file its argument-in-chief related to the one unsettled issue with the OEB and serve it on all parties by **October 13, 2020**.
2. OEB staff and intervenors shall file any submissions with the OEB and serve them on all parties by **October 20, 2020**.
3. Hydro Ottawa shall file its reply argument, if any, with the OEB and serve on all parties by **October 27, 2020**.
4. Intervenors shall file any reply submissions on any new items raised in Hydro Ottawa's reply argument with the OEB and serve them on all parties by **November 3, 2020**.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2019-0261**, be submitted in a 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 [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@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).

Email: [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca)

Tel: 1-888-632-6273 (Toll free)

Fax: 416-440-7656

**DATED** at Toronto, **October 2, 2020**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original Signed By*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar