



Hydro One Networks Inc.

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other
charges effective January 1, 2021**

**INTERIM RATE ORDER
November 26, 2020**

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) filed an annual distribution rate update application (the application) with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on August 31, 2020 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 15, (Schedule B) seeking approval for changes to its electricity distribution rates to be effective January 1, 2021.

In the application, Hydro One requested that in the event the OEB's decision approving 2021 rates is delivered or implemented after January 1, 2021, an Interim Order making its current distribution rates and charges effective on an interim basis as of January 1, 2021 be issued and also that an account be established to recover any differences between the interim rates and the actual rates effective January 1, 2021 based on the OEB's Decision and Order.

The OEB notes that in its Decision on Hydro One's 2020 Update Application,¹ Hydro One's rates were declared as interim for the 2020 rate year as the seasonal rates matter was being considered in a separate proceeding. That matter remains the subject of a separate proceeding.² Accordingly, any rates established for 2021 will also be considered interim pending the disposition of the seasonal rates matter.

Findings

The OEB finds that it is not necessary to make Hydro One's current rates interim as of January 1, 2021, as they are already interim and will remain so pending the disposition of the seasonal rates matter. However, to provide clarity on this matter, the OEB is confirming that rates are interim as of January 1, 2021 pending the disposition of the seasonal rates matter. The OEB notes that given that the current proceeding is in the submission stage, it is unlikely that the OEB will be able to issue a decision for it in 2020

¹ EB-2019-0043 *Decision and Rate Order*, December 17, 2019.

² EB-2020-0246

given normal case metrics. The OEB will make all reasonable efforts to reach a decision in a time frame that would allow for the implementation, on an interim basis, of 2021 distribution rates on January 1, 2021.

This confirmation of interim rates is made without prejudice to the OEB's decision on Hydro One's application and should not be construed as predictive, in any way whatsoever, of the OEB's final determination of the effective date for rates arising from the application. The OEB confirms that any rate riders with expiry dates on Hydro One's current tariff shall not be charged to customers beyond the expiry dates.

The OEB will not, however, approve Hydro One's request for an account to recover any differences between the interim rates and the actual rates effective January 1, 2021 based on the OEB's final Decision and Order. The OEB believes that there is no need for such a deferral account at this time since the rates have been made interim as of January 1, 2021. The OEB will determine the need for such an account once it makes its final determination on the effective date for the rates and charges requested in this application.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Hydro One's current rates and charges shall remain interim as of January 1, 2021 pending the disposition of the seasonal rates matter.
2. Hydro One's request for an account to recover any differences between the interim rates and the actual rates effective January 1, 2021 based on the OEB's final Decision and Order is denied at this time.

DATED at Toronto, November 26, 2020

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Original signed by

Christine E. Long
Registrar