

**Andrew J. Sasso**  
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January 7, 2021

Ms. Kirsten Walli  
Board Secretary  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th floor  
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Walli:

**Re: Regional Planning Process Review Consultation - Toronto Hydro Nomination for the Regional Planning Process Advisory Group  
Ontario Energy Board File No: EB-2020-0176**

On December 10, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) initiated a review of the regional planning process that applies to Ontario’s electricity sector, with a goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the process. As part of its review, the OEB has also invited stakeholders to volunteer to participate on a newly constituted Regional Planning Process Advisory Group (RPPAG). In selecting participants, the OEB indicated that it intends to prioritize practical and technical experience relevant to the assessment of regional planning activities and the related process.

By way of this letter, Toronto Hydro confirms Mr. Matthew Higgins, Director of Integrated Planning & Modernization, as its nominee for the RPPAG. Through both his current and former roles, Mr. Higgins has extensive experience and expertise in distribution system planning, customer engagement, rate-setting applications, and regulatory policy. Mr. Higgins has contributed to two Regional Planning cycles on behalf of Toronto Hydro and has led or advised on multiple planning-related Customer Engagement initiatives in support of rate applications and regional planning exercises. He has also represented Toronto Hydro on various OEB working groups (e.g. Activity and Program Benchmarking, Reliability Working Group). In his current senior role within Toronto Hydro’s Planning and Engineering Division, Mr. Higgins leads the development and strategic oversight of the utility’s integrated system plan and is responsible for the utility’s grid modernization roadmap. Mr. Higgins holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Public Policy. Toronto Hydro expects that Mr. Higgins will be able to assist the OEB with a broad range of issues that may arise during the course of this initiative.

At the company level, Toronto Hydro is a major regional distribution company, with a unique distribution grid situated in a dense urban environment, supplied by a large number of interconnections with the transmission network, and serving nearly 770,000 customers and delivering approximately 19 per cent of the electricity consumed in Ontario. In addition, it has over 2,000 various distributed energy resources operating within its service territory, including net-metering, energy storage, combined heat and power, closed transition, load displacement, and generation under various IESO programs.<sup>1</sup> It is also at the forefront of adopting utility led non-wires alternatives to local and regional planning issues, as evidenced by the success of its local demand response project at Cecil TS, which has successfully deferred station upgrades through a novel aggregation of battery storage and CDM. Accordingly, Toronto Hydro has a strong interest and is eager to share its experiences, challenges, and observations concerning various regional planning issues through representation at the OEB's RPPAG.

Toronto Hydro appreciates the OEB's consideration of its nomination for the RPPAG, and asks that all future correspondence on this matter be directed to the email address:

[regulatoryaffairs@torontohydro.com](mailto:regulatoryaffairs@torontohydro.com).

Respectfully,



**Andrew J. Sasso**  
Director, Energy Policy & Government Relations  
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<sup>1</sup> Including Feed-in-Tariff (FIT), microFIT, Process and Systems Upgrade Initiative (PSUI), and Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP).