



**Burlington Hydro Inc.**

**Application for electricity distribution rates beginning  
May 1, 2021**

**DECISION ON ISSUES LIST AND PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2  
February 12, 2021**

Burlington Hydro Inc. (Burlington Hydro) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on October 30, 2020, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Burlington Hydro charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2021.

**Issues List**

Procedural Order No. 1, dated December 17, 2020 made provision for, among other matters, the filing of a proposed issues list. On February 8, 2021, OEB staff filed a proposed issues list that had been agreed to by the parties in the proceeding.

**Findings**

The OEB approves the issues list as proposed with one exception. The OEB finds that the issue under Capital stating “investment in non-wires alternatives, including distributed energy resources, where appropriate” is not necessary and shall be deleted. The OEB finds that this issue can be subsumed under capital investments and that there is no compelling reason to articulate it separately. The approved Issues List is in Schedule A of this Decision.

## Confidentiality

In the cover letter accompanying its interrogatory responses dated February 1, 2021, Burlington Hydro requested confidential treatment of five documents where partial redactions were made pursuant to the OEB's *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings*.<sup>1</sup>

1. 2-Staff-17 c)

Burlington Hydro submits the information regarding calculations performed by the Evaluation Tool is proprietary information that represents commercial and technical material that is consistently treated in a confidential manner by the person providing it to the OEB. It has made redactions to the remainder of its response.

2. CCC-13

Burlington Hydro has redacted the expected total cost of the customer engagement services provided by Innovative Research Group (Innovative). It submits the disclosure of the project cost could reasonably be expected to significantly prejudice and interfere in Innovative's negotiating position on future engagements with other local distribution companies.

3. DSP-DRC-4 a)

Burlington Hydro has redacted certain information regarding project details and timelines as filed in the written instructions for customer engagement in Appendices A and B. It submits this is proprietary information. Disclosure of the project details could reasonably prejudice Innovative's competitive position and approach to customer engagement.

4. 2-SEC-14 b)

Burlington Hydro redacted certain information regarding the settings and assumptions configured within the Evaluation Tool that represents commercial and technical material that is consistently treated in a confidential manner by the person providing it to the OEB.

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<sup>1</sup> Ontario Energy Board, Practice Direction on Confidential Filings, October 28, 2016

## 5. 4-VECC-46 a)

Burlington Hydro redacted the cost of the Program Evaluation Tool and the Project Prioritization Tool.

The OEB is making provision for written submissions on Burlington Hydro's confidentiality request at this time. Only those representatives of parties to the proceeding that have signed the OEB's Declaration and Undertaking, filed it with the OEB and provided a copy to Burlington Hydro, will be provided access to the un-redacted interrogatory responses.

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. The approved Issues List is attached to this Decision as Schedule A.
2. Counsel and consultants for intervenors who wish to review un-redacted versions of Burlington Hydro's responses to these five interrogatories, for which confidential treatment is sought will sign and file the OEB's Confidentiality Declaration and Undertaking form, and provide a copy to Burlington Hydro, if they have not already done so.
3. Burlington Hydro is to provide un-redacted versions of these interrogatory responses to parties' counsel and/or consultants who have signed the OEB's Confidentiality Declaration and Undertaking.
4. Parties that wish to file written submissions on the confidentiality requests from Burlington Hydro shall file such submissions with the OEB and deliver them to all other parties on or before **February 26, 2021**.
5. If Burlington Hydro wishes to respond to any submissions on the confidentiality requests, the reply submissions must be filed with the OEB and delivered to all parties on or before **March 5, 2021**.

All materials filed with the OEB must quote the file number, **EB-2020-0007**, be submitted in a searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the OEB's web portal at <https://p-pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/PivotalUX/>. 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 [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](https://www.oeb.ca/industry) found at <https://www.oeb.ca/industry>. We encourage the use of RESS; however, parties who have not yet [set up an account](#), may email their documents to [registrar@oeb.ca](mailto:registrar@oeb.ca).

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar 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, Lawren Murray, at [Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca](mailto:Lawren.Murray@oeb.ca).

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

**DATED** at Toronto, **February 12, 2021**

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

*Original signed by*

Christine E. Long  
Registrar

**FINAL ISSUES LIST**  
**EB-2020-0007**  
**Burlington Hydro Inc. (Burlington Hydro)**

## **1.0 PLANNING**

### **1.1 Capital**

Is the level of planned capital expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning and pacing choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences
- productivity
- benchmarking of costs
- reliability and service quality
- impact on distribution rates
- trade-offs with OM&A spending
- government-mandated obligations
- the objectives of Burlington Hydro and its customers
- the distribution system plan
- the business plan

### **1.2 OM&A**

Is the level of planned OM&A expenditures appropriate and is the rationale for planning choices appropriate and adequately explained, giving due consideration to:

- customer feedback and preferences
- productivity
- benchmarking of costs
- reliability and service quality
- impact on distribution rates
- trade-offs with capital spending
- government-mandated obligations
- the objectives of Burlington Hydro and its customers
- the distribution system plan
- the business plan

- 1.3** Has Burlington Hydro appropriately considered measures to cost-effectively reduce distribution losses in its planning processes and included such measures where appropriate?

## **2.0 REVENUE REQUIREMENT**

- 2.1** Are all elements of the revenue requirement reasonable, and have they been appropriately determined in accordance with OEB policies and practices?
- 2.2** Has the revenue requirement been accurately determined based on these elements?

## **3.0 LOAD FORECAST, COST ALLOCATION AND RATE DESIGN**

- 3.1** Are the proposed load and customer forecast, loss factors, conservation and demand management adjustments and resulting billing determinants appropriate, and, to the extent applicable, are they an appropriate reflection of the energy and demand requirements of Burlington Hydro's customers?
- 3.2** Are the proposed cost allocation methodology, allocations, and revenue-to-cost ratios, appropriate?
- 3.3** Are Burlington Hydro's proposals, including the proposed fixed/variable splits, for rate design appropriate?
- 3.4** Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service Rates appropriate?
- 3.5** Are the Specific Service Charges, Retail Service Charges, and Pole Attachment Charge appropriate?

## **4.0 ACCOUNTING**

- 4.1** Have all impacts of any changes in accounting standards, policies, estimates and adjustments been properly identified and recorded, and is the rate-making treatment of each of these impacts appropriate?
- 4.2** Are Burlington Hydro's proposals for deferral and variance accounts, including the balances in the existing accounts and their disposition, requests for discontinuation of accounts, and the continuation of existing accounts, appropriate?

## **5.0 OTHER**

- 5.1** Is the proposed effective date (i.e. May 1, 2021) for 2021 rates appropriate?
- 5.2** Has Burlington Hydro responded appropriately to the requirement to address the savings and/or other beneficial impacts resulting from its operational effectiveness initiatives as outlined in the approved EB-2013-0115 settlement proposal?