



Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc.

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other
charges beginning January 1, 2022**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2
March 18, 2022**

Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc. (Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on December 1, 2021, 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 Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2022.

Procedural Order No. 1 (PO 1), dated January 28, 2022, approved School Energy Coalition (SEC) and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition (VECC) as intervenors in this proceeding and established procedural steps for discovery and a settlement conference. On March 7, 2022, the OEB received a letter from Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution requesting an extension to the filing date of its interrogatory responses from March 10, 2022, to March 17, 2022. The OEB granted the request.

By letter dated March 17, 2022, Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution requested a further extension to the date for filing the interrogatory responses and asked for an additional two business days. By email on the same day, VECC indicated that they were not available the week of March 21, 2022 and would therefore have insufficient time to review the interrogatory responses and ask any follow-up questions before the settlement conference scheduled for March 28 -31, 2022. VECC suggested moving the settlement conference date to April 5, 2022.

By email on March 18, 2022, Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution stated that VECC's proposed date would not work due to a planned external audit beginning on April 4, 2022. Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution stated that it planned to file most of the written responses with the models on March 18, 2022 and stated that it was available on March 30 – 31, 2022 for the settlement conference but that its counsel was not available for a third day on April 1, 2022.

SEC did not object to any of the proposed alternate dates for the settlement conference.

After consideration of the parties' requests, the OEB will grant a further extension until March 21, 2022 for Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution to file its interrogatory responses. The OEB also considers it necessary to reschedule the settlement conference to start on a later date and all parties are available on March 30-31, 2022 (or did not object to those dates). Therefore, the case schedule will be amended based on the latest series of requests.

While the OEB's preference would be to provide for three days for the settlement conference as originally scheduled, however, given the parties' varying schedules this cannot be accommodated without significantly delaying the procedural schedule. Accordingly, the OEB will reschedule the settlement conference for two days. The OEB expects that the additional time allowed for filing interrogatories and delaying the settlement conference will allow the parties to be better prepared for the settlement conference and that it can be concluded in two days.

In the event that the parties have not been able to complete the settlement conference but wish to continue settlement discussions, Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution should advise the OEB by end of day on April 1, 2022.

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. Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on OEB staff and all intervenors before or on **March 21, 2022**.
2. A settlement conference among the parties and OEB staff will be convened on **March 30-31, 2022**, starting at 9:30 a.m. If necessary, the settlement conference will continue at a time convenient to parties and addressed in a settlement discussion letter to be filed with the OEB. This will be a virtual event and information on how to participate will be provided in advance of the conference.
3. **Within 48 hours** of the conclusion of the settlement conference, Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution shall file a letter informing the OEB of the status of the settlement discussions including whether a tentative agreement had been reached or if the parties propose to continue the settlement discussions.

4. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference, Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by **April 8, 2022**. In that event, parties shall file and serve on the other parties by **April 15, 2022**, any submissions on which issues shall be heard in writing, and for which issues the OEB should hold an oral hearing.
5. If there is a settlement, any settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **May 2, 2022**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing.
6. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **May 9, 2022**.
7. The OEB is setting a tentative date of **May 17, 2022, starting at 9:30 a.m.** for Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution to present to the OEB any settlement proposal and a summary of any unsettled issues in the case. OEB staff will, at the direction of the OEB, confirm or amend this date in subsequent correspondence.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, **do not include personal information** (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#).

Please quote file number, **EB-2021-0056** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the [OEB's online filing portal](#).

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address
- Please use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\) Document Guidelines](#) found at the [Filing Systems page](#) on the OEB's website
- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the [File documents online page](#) of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#)

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below and be received by end of business, 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, Margaret DeFazio at margaret.defazio@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Ian Richler at ian.richler@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **March 18, 2022**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar