

## **Hydro One Networks Inc.**

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## Joanne Richardson

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## BY EMAIL AND RESS

November 3, 2023

Ms. Nancy Marconi Registrar Ontario Energy Board Suite 2700, 2300 Yonge Street P.O. Box 2319 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ms. Marconi.

## EB-2022-0140 – Hydro One Networks Inc. Leave to Construct Chatham to Lakeshore Project – Notification of Material Change

Condition 3 of the OEB's Decision and Order, granting Hydro One's sought relief to construct the Chatham to Lakeshore Project, requires Hydro One to inform the OEB of any material changes to the Project, including scope, cost, and schedule.

Hydro One would like to inform the OEB that the Project is progressing one-year ahead of schedule and is now planned to be in-serviced by December 2024 versus December 2025, as provided in the S.92 application. By delivering the Project one-year ahead of schedule, Hydro One now forecasts to reduce the cost of the project to \$253 million - approximately \$15 million less than identified in the S.92.

Once complete, the Project will enable the connection of new load and increase the reliability and resiliency of the entire electricity network in the Windsor-Essex region. The forecast improvement in project delivery timelines is a product of Hydro One's ongoing Reconciliation efforts with Indigenous communities, early and meaningful engagement with the local community that allowed the company to integrate local needs into project planning, as well as Provincial and municipal organizations' prioritization of the Project. With respect to the latter, Hydro One would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the OEB in modernizing their process for reviewing leave to construct applications that promote accountability and provide greater predictability for regulated entities and other interested stakeholders. The OEB has enhanced the effectiveness of Leave to Construct application reviews and provided greater predictability in the processing timelines for these types of applications, which has helped to advance the in-service date of this project.

In concert with this update, Hydro One requests that the OEB continue to hold Hydro One's expropriation authority request in abeyance. Though all properties have an executed option agreement that permits



construction to proceed, there remains a handful of properties where easement agreements are awaiting execution due to technical circumstances associated with closing. Consequently, the request to maintain the expropriation application in abeyance is being requested strictly for technical expropriation purposes should the need arise.

An electronic copy of this letter has been submitted using the Board's Regulatory Electronic Submission System.

Sincerely,

Joanne Richardson