



Ontario
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BY EMAIL

November 23, 2023

Neighbours on the Line
Robin Sadko, Communications Director
2134 Gus Wuori Road,
Kaministiquia, Ontario
P0T 1X0

Dear Robin Sadko:

**Re: Hydro One Networks Inc.
Leave to Construct Application - Waasigan Project
Ontario Energy Board File Number: EB-2023-0198**

On November 10, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued Procedural Order No. 1 in this proceeding, which among other matters, approved Neighbours on the Line (NOTL) as an intervenor and allowed it to apply for cost awards for representing the interests of directly impacted landowners for matters within the scope of the proceeding. The OEB did not grant cost eligibility to NOTL in respect of representing the interests of landowners who are not directly affected landowners.

In Procedural Order No. 1, the OEB noted that NOTL's intervention request did not provide any further information as to the make-up of the group, such as the number of directly affected landowners that are part of the group or how the residents that are not directly affected landowners are impacted. The OEB allowed NOTL an opportunity to provide additional information on how their members are affected by issues within the scope of the proceeding, or to identify any special circumstances that they wish the OEB to consider in relation to cost award eligibility in respect of representing the interests of members (other than directly affected landowners).

In its letter dated November 16, 2023, NOTL stated that "There are 100 +/- directly affected landowners and about 2,500 residents from Shuniah to Shabaqua who will feel the negative effects of this power project". NOTL stated that both direct and indirect property owners will be impacted by "devalued property values and loss of tax base".

The OEB maintains its decision from Procedural Order No. 1 with respect to NOTL's eligibility for cost awards. OEB does not grant cost eligibility to NOTL in respect of representing the interests of landowners who are not directly affected landowners.

Please review the OEB's [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#) (Practice Direction) which sets out, in section 3, the parties that are typically eligible for cost awards. Also, please see section 6 and Appendix "A" (Cost Award Tariff) of the Practice Direction which provides information about the types of costs and amounts (tariffs) that can be claimed.

With regard to NOTL's request to submit further information and an extension of two weeks to do so, please note that there is currently no timeline for parties to submit evidence. This will be dealt with by the panel of OEB Commissioners assigned to this case at a later time.

As set out in Procedural Order No. 1, NOTL (and other parties) have an opportunity to ask interrogatories (questions) on Hydro One's application that was filed in this proceeding. The interrogatories must be filed with the Registrar at the OEB by the deadline indicated in the Procedural Order (November 28, 2023).

The OEB also takes this opportunity to remind NOTL that for Leave to Construct applications, the scope of the OEB's review is limited to consideration of the interests of consumers with respect to prices and the reliability and quality of electricity service. Environmental issues are not part of the OEB's review unless there is a direct impact on price and the reliability and quality of electricity service. Environmental matters can be addressed through the Environmental Assessment process. More information about the final Environmental Assessment report and the process and timelines for comments on the report can be found on Hydro One's website: <https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/waasigan/project-approvals>

If you have any questions related to the OEB's processes, please contact the Case Manager, Vithooshan Ganesanathan at Vithooshan.Ganesanathan@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar

c: All Parties