

EB-2023-0198

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Application for leave to construct a new electricity transmission line between Lakeland Transmission Station to Mackenzie Transmission Station and Mackenzie Transmission Station to Dryden Transmission Station

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2 November 24, 2023

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on July 31, 2023, under sections 92 and 97 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act*, *1998*, for an order granting leave to construct approximately 360 kilometres of electricity transmission line and associated facilities in the regions of Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora, Ontario (Project). The proposed electricity transmission line would extend between the Lakehead Transformer Station and the Mackenzie Transformer Station, and between the Mackenzie Transformer Station and the Dryden Transformer Station. Hydro One states that the Project is required to increase long-term transmission capacity in northwest Ontario.

Hydro One has also applied to the OEB for approval of the form of land use agreements it offers to landowners for the routing and construction of the Project.

On November 10, 2023, the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 which set the deadline for written interrogatories from OEB staff and intervenors as November 28, 2023, with complete written responses from Hydro One due on December 12, 2023. In its letter dated November 23, 2023, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), an intervenor in the proceeding, requested an extension of two weeks, to December 12, 2023, to complete its written interrogatories. MNO stated that it requires an extension to thoroughly review the evidence filed by Hydro One and draft its request for additional information accordingly.

A two-week extension for MNO to file its interrogatories would require a corresponding extension for Hydro One to file interrogatory responses, from December 12 to December 26, 2023. Parties should note that the OEB has a <u>holiday timeout period</u> for its adjudicative process from December 18, 2023 to January 5, 2024. The holiday timeout recognizes that many offices are closed or operating with limited staff during the

late December and early January period and, as a result, are generally not in a position to meet adjudicative deadlines. During this period, the OEB avoids issuing decisions and documents that require immediate action from recipients or plan procedural steps, except in unique circumstances.

To minimize the delay in the proceeding, the OEB will only allow a one-week extension to December 5, 2023 for intervenors to file their interrogatories. OEB staff is still expected to file its interrogatories by November 28, 2023. Intervenors are encouraged to file interrogatories earlier than December 5, 2023 if possible to avoid unnecessary delay. Intervenors are also encouraged not to duplicate interrogatories filed by OEB staff. The OEB also extends the deadline for Hydro One to file its interrogatory responses from December 12, 2023, to December 15, 2023.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. OEB staff shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hydro One that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **November 28, 2023**.
- 2. Intervenors shall request any relevant information and documentation from Hydro One that is in addition to the evidence already filed, by written interrogatories filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **December 5, 2023**.
- 3. Hydro One shall file with the OEB complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on intervenors by **December 15, 2023**.

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 <u>Rules of Practice and Procedure</u>.

Please quote file number, **EB-2023-0198** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the <u>OEB's online</u> 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 <u>Regulatory Electronic Submission System (RESS)</u> <u>Document Guidelines</u> found at the <u>File documents online page</u> on the OEB's website.

- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet <u>set up an</u> <u>account</u>, or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact <u>registrar@oeb.ca</u> for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File</u> <u>documents online page</u> 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 <u>Practice Direction on Cost Awards</u>.

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar 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, Vithooshan Ganesanathan at <u>Vithooshan.Ganesanathan@oeb.ca</u> and OEB Counsel, Ljuba Djurdjevic at <u>Ljuba.Djurdjevic@oeb.ca</u>.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, November 24, 2023

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi Registrar