

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2024-0005

HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.

Application for the extension of an interim distribution licence issued in relation to distribution assets serving the Cat Lake community.

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson

Vice President,

Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

January 16, 2024

DECISION AND ORDER

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) holds an interim licence issued by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) under section 59(2) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) under which Hydro One has possession and control over the distribution assets that serve the Cat Lake community, specifically the deemed distribution assets owned by Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. (Cat Lake Power) and the distribution assets in the Cat Lake community owned by the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation. The interim licence was first issued by the OEB on July 21, 2006 (proceeding EB-2006-0180), and its term has since been amended and extended as described in Appendix 1.

On January 9, 2024, Hydro One provided the OEB with a written update on the status of its operations under the interim licence. Hydro One also requested to extend the term of its interim licence, ED-2006-0181.

In its status report, Hydro One states that all day-to-day operations of the distribution system were normal. Hydro One also reported that it, along with Hydro One Remote Communities Inc., are working with the Cat Lake community and other stakeholders on the final transfer issues to enable its purchase of the transmission assets (which have been deemed distribution assets) owned by Cat Lake Power. Hydro One expects to complete the agreement for the transfer with the Cat Lake community in 2024 and that it will make any necessary applications to the OEB at that time.

The OEB is satisfied that Hydro One's management and operation of the distribution assets supplying the Cat Lake community and the associated businesses will help ensure the continued reliability of supply to consumers in that community.

The OEB finds it necessary and in the public interest to extend the term of Hydro One's interim licence to ensure the continuity of reliable electricity supply to consumers in the community of Cat Lake.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The term of interim electricity distribution licence ED-2006-0181 is extended to July 31, 2024. The interim electricity distribution licence set out in Appendix 1, is effective as of January 16, 2024.
- Hydro One Networks Inc. continue to remain in possession and control of the deemed distribution assets owned by Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. and the distribution assets in the Cat Lake community that are owned by the Ontario

Electricity Financial Corporation and continue to comply with the provisions of the interim licence set out in Appendix 1.

- 3. Hydro One Networks Inc. continue collecting revenue from the customers in the Cat Lake community based on the applicable rates.
- 4. Hydro One Networks Inc. continue keeping track of revenues from the customers in the Cat Lake community and of the costs of operation and maintenance of the distribution assets in a deferral account (under the Uniform System of Accounts). Such account will be reviewed in a future rate proceeding. The OEB will determine at that point the cost responsibility in the event of a shortfall and the mechanism for that shortfall recovery.
- Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. continue surrendering possession and control of the deemed distribution assets and associated business. Cat Lake Power Utility Ltd. is not entitled to any compensation from the Crown, the OEB or any person for having surrendered possession and control of its deemed distribution assets and business.
- 6. Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation continue surrendering possession and control of the distribution assets and associated business serving the community of Cat Lake. The Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation is not entitled to any compensation from the Crown, the OEB or any person for having surrendered possession and control of its distribution assets and business.

DATED at Toronto January 16, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance