

Consultation Response: EB-2024-0092

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

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The below items include consultation feedback on behalf of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

Municipal engagement

- Thank you for engaging municipalities directly in the consultation. It is important to continue the conversation and include small urban and rural communities.
- Best practice: Before the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) makes decisions, there is a need to engage with municipalities.
- Municipalities are not energy experts and have capacity limitations. When municipalities are consulted, it needs to be appropriate and relative to the municipal scope of work and expertise.

Consumer awareness and communication

- Communication needs to be transparent, timely and clear to stakeholders, business, and residents. Consumer awareness around targets and transitions should be top of mind.

Energy infrastructure is housing enabling infrastructure

- Energy distribution infrastructure must be in-place and keep pace with home development. It is housing enabling infrastructure.
- The impact to cost of development needs to be considered as it may impact economic growth and housing targets.
- All new homes require charging stations for vehicles. However, if all the homes had electric vehicles there would not be enough power in Eastern Ontario to charge the required infrastructure.

- Timeline concerns for development including home developers having to 'pay for it twice' as they have to pay upfront costs for the delivery lines as a security deposit, and then pay the same costs to install.

Distribution costs

- Cost should not be passed on to local distributors.
- Try to keep costs low. Particularly important in rural areas with less population.
- Rural delivery charge is so drastic it has become an economic barrier. There is a need to make sure a new business understands; a developer understands the cost.
- Moving ahead, it is important that the OEB not increase cost significantly to electricity distribution companies (EBCs) that are locally owned because they will have to pick up tab, which will get passed on to residents in their distribution area (e.g., Kingston Utilities).

Hydro One

- Hydro across an open road can only be done by Hydro One, private contractors cannot be used to add or build pole lines for the purpose of providing additional power to a client or to a subdivision even on municipal owned sites.
- Developers/municipalities/utilities have to pay Hydro One for the pre-engineering work before you can get a price from hydro to actually know what they may charge you to build a line or provide a service. This can be as much as \$100,000 upfront to find out it is an unaffordable project, and is therefore a risk and deterrent

About the EOWC

The EOWC is the regional voice for 103 municipalities across rural and small urban eastern Ontario, representing one quarter of Ontario's municipalities. The EOWC is an incorporated, non-profit organization representing 800,000 residents covering an area of 50,000 square



kilometres from Northumberland County to the Québec border. The EOWC has gained support and momentum by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, business leaders, the media, and the public. For more information, visit eowc.org.