



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2024-0295

HYDRO ONE REMOTE COMMUNITIES INC.

Application for an Electricity Distribution Licence Amendment

BY DELEGATION, BEFORE: Brian Hewson
Vice President
Consumer Protection & Industry Performance

October 22, 2024

DECISION AND ORDER

Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. (HORCI) filed an application on October 4, 2024, with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) pursuant to section 74 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act) to amend Schedule 1 of its electricity distribution licence, ED-2003-0037, to include Poplar Hill First Nation.

This Decision and Order is being issued by the Delegated Authority pursuant to section 6 of the OEB Act. The Delegated Authority has considered the application without holding a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the OEB Act.

As set out in O. Reg. 199/02: Hydro One Inc., made under the Electricity Act, 1998, HORCI requires a service area amendment to its electricity distribution licence to include Poplar Hill First Nation before it can provide the community with service.¹ Upon being authorized by the OEB to serve the Poplar Hill First Nation, HORCI will also be able to provide residents of the community with the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection funding, in accordance with O. Reg. 442/01: Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection, made under the OEB Act.²

HORCI expects to be able to complete the distribution connection of Poplar Hill First Nation to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) controlled grid, via the Wataynikaneyap Power LP (WPLP) transmission line, on November 5, 2024.

The OEB grants the application to amend Schedule 1 of HORCI's electricity distribution licence to include the community of Poplar Hill First Nation within HORCI's licensed service area. The OEB notes that upon the service area amendment taking effect, Poplar Hill First Nation will become eligible for rate protection under O. Reg. 442/01: Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection, made under the OEB Act. However, as HORCI has not yet completed the distribution connection of Poplar Hill First Nation to

¹ Section 1. (2) of O. Reg. 199/02 provides that Hydro One Inc. shall not, directly or through a subsidiary, own or operate generation facilities and distribution systems in and shall not distribute electricity within Poplar Hill First Nation unless, after the OEB has received an application for a licence amendment from HORCI, the OEB has issued an order amending the licence to include that community within its service area.

² Section 2.3.1 of O. Reg. 442/01 provides that once the OEB has issued an order amending HORCI's licence to include Poplar Hill First Nation within its service area, HORCI will be authorized to provide consumers who occupy residential premises in the community with rate protection under section 79 of the OEB Act, as it is one of the remote communities named in Schedule 3 of the regulation.

the IESO-controlled grid, via the WPLP transmission line and considering that HORCI expects to connect the Poplar Hill First Nation on November 5, 2024, the OEB's approval in this Decision and Order shall not take effect until HORCI files written evidence with the OEB confirming completion of the distribution connection of the Poplar Hill First Nation to the IESO-controlled grid, via the WPLP transmission line. Once the OEB receives the written confirmation described in this Decision and Order, Schedule 1 of HORCI's electricity distribution licence ED-2003-0037 will be amended to include Poplar Hill First Nation.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Subject to paragraph 2 below, Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.'s application to amend its electricity distribution licence ED-2003-0037, specifically Schedule 1 of the licence, to include Poplar Hill First Nation is approved.
2. The grant of the amended electricity distribution licence ED-2003-0037 shall not take effect until Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. advises the Ontario Energy Board, in writing, that the distribution connection of Poplar Hill First Nation to the Independent Electricity System Operator controlled grid, via the Wataynikaneyap Power LP transmission line has been completed.

DATED at Toronto October 22, 2024

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance