

EB-2024-0058

Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp.

Application for electricity distribution rates and other charges beginning May 1, 2025

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 2 November 27, 2024

Welland Hydro-Electric System Corp. (Welland Hydro-Electric System) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) dated August 23, 2024 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15* (Schedule B) seeking approval for changes to the rates that Welland Hydro-Electric System charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2025. As part of its request, Welland Hydro-Electric System has also applied to update its microFIT monthly service and an annual Renewable Generation Connection Rate Protection payment from the IESO under Ontario Regulation 25 330/09.

On October 9, 2024 the OEB issued Procedural Order No. 1 which approved the parties to this proceeding and set out, among other matters, procedural steps for interrogatories and responses to those interrogatories.

The OEB received Welland Hydro-Electric System's responses to interrogatories on November 21, 2024. As part of its filing, Welland Hydro-Electric System requested confidential treatment of its response to 2-Staff-12 (Attachment B). Redacted version of the interrogatory response was filed for the public record and an unredacted version was filed confidentially with the OEB pursuant to the *Rules of Practice and Procedure* and the *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings* (Practice Direction).

In its cover letter to the OEB dated November 21, 2024, Welland Hydro-Electric System states that the redactions relate to unit pricing and billing rates of a Master Services Agreement and are presumptively confidential under the Practice Direction, and that disclosure of this information could produce a significant loss or gain. Welland Hydro-Electric System further states that the confidential information would disclose a detailed scope of work and unit pricing that if made public, could be used by competitors to undercut or unfairly compete with contracting parties and interfere with future negotiations with alternative vendors. In addition, signatures in the Master Services Agreement were redacted.

Welland Hydro-Electric System states that the OEB has previously granted confidential treatment for unit pricing and billing rates in agreements and has allowed signatures in agreements of this kind to remain confidential.

At this time, the OEB is making provision for written submissions on Welland Hydro-Electric System's request for confidential treatment of certain portions of the interrogatory response to 2-Staff-12, Attachment B. As an interim measure, intervenors that wish to make submissions on the request for confidentiality shall be granted access to the unredacted document provided they have executed the OEB's Declaration and Undertaking by filing it with the OEB and with a copy sent to Welland Hydro-Electric System.

It is necessary to make provision for the following matters related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Intervenors that wish to review the unredacted version of interrogatory response to 2-Staff-12, Attachment B, for which confidential treatment is sought will sign and file the OEB's Confidential Declaration and Undertaking form.
- 2. Welland Hydro-Electric System shall provide unreducted versions of interrogatory response to 2-Staff-12, Attachment B to intervenors who signed the OEB's Confidentiality Declaration and Undertaking.
- 3. OEB staff and intervenors that wish to file written submissions shall file such submissions with the OEB and deliver them to all other parties on or before **December 2, 2024**.
- 4. If no submissions are received by **December 2, 2024**, then Welland Hydro-Electric System's request for confidential treatment of the redacted information is approved.

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 Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Please quote file number, **EB-2024-0058** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the <u>OEB's online filing portal</u>.

- 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 account</u>, or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the <u>File</u> documents online page 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 at the address below 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, Narisa Jotiban at Narisa.Jotiban@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at Michael.Millar@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **November 27, 2024**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi Registrar