IN THE MATTER OF the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, c.15 (Schedule B);

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. to the Ontario Energy Board for an Order or Orders approving of fixing just and reasonable distribution rates and other service charges to be effective May 1, 2025, Board File No. EB-2024-0039.

AFFIDAVIT

I. DARREN BECHTEL, at the Town of Huntsville, MAKE AN OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

I am the Chief Financial Officer for Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. and, as such, have knowledge of the matters hereinafter deposed to.

Pursuant to the OEB's Letter of Direction dated November 25, 2024 (the "Letter") in the above-referenced case (attached to this Affidavit as Exhibit 1), Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. has completed the following steps:

- In accordance with paragraph 1 of the Letter, the Notice of Hearing, the Application and the evidence, and any amendments thereto, were posted on Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.'s website. The form of the posted notice is attached to this Affidavit as Exhibit 2.
- 2. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the Letter, the Notice of Hearing, the Application and the evidence, and any amendments thereto, were served directly by email on November 29, 2024, to all intervenors in Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.'s previous cost of service proceeding, EB-2018-0050, i.e., School Energy Coalition and Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition. The form of notice sent to the intervenors is attached to this Affidavit as Exhibit 3.
- 3. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Letter, the Notice of Hearing was served by email on December 3, 2024 on customers for whom Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.'s has an email address and the appropriate permissions to use the email address to send utility or regulatory information, together with the required email message. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Letter, the email includes the words "Notice of Hearing" within the email subject line and provides a link to the Notice as posted on Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.'s website posted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Letter. The form of notice sent to the customers is attached to this Affidavit as Exhibit 4.
- 4. In accordance with paragraph 4 of the Letter, the required message was posted on Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.'s X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. As required, the posts include a link to the Notice of Hearing as posted on Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.'s website in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Letter. A copy of the required posts is attached as Exhibit 5.

Sworn remotely by Darren Bechtel at the Town of Huntsville in the Province of Ontario, before me at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, on December 4, 2024, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely))))	
Saralı Crothers)	Darren Becktel
Sarah Crothers LSO No. 89213C)	Darren Bechtel
	,	
Commissioner for Taking Affidavits in the Province of)	
Ontario		

The attached document is **Exhibit 1** to the Affidavit of Darren Bechtel.

Sworn remotely by Darren Bechtel at the Town of Huntsville in the Province of Ontario, before me at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, on December 4, 2024, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.

Sarali Crothers

EXHIBIT 1 LETTER OF DIRECTION



BY E-MAIL

T 416-481-1967 1-888-632-6273

F 416-440-7656 OEB.ca

November 25, 2024

Darren Bechtel
Chief Financial Officer
Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.
200-395 Centre St. N
Huntsville, ON P1H 2M2
dbechtel@lakelandholding.com

LETTER OF DIRECTION

Dear Darren Bechtel:

Re: Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. (Lakeland Power) 2025 Cost of Service Application Ontario Energy Board File number: EB-2024-0039

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has now issued its Notice of Hearing for Lakeland Power's 2025 Distribution Rates (Notice). The Notice will be published by the OEB in, in accordance with directions to the OEB's media agent which were copied to you. Please note that you must comply with the directions in paragraphs 1 to 3 below prior to **December 5, 2024**, which is the publication date of the newspaper in which the Notice will appear last. If you are unable to comply with the directions within this timeframe, you must inform the Registrar immediately at registrar@oeb.ca.

You are directed:

- 1. To post the enclosed Notice, the application and evidence, and any amendments thereto, on Lakeland Power's website.
- 2. To arrange for the service of the enclosed Notice, the application and evidence on all intervenors in Lakeland Power's past cost of service proceeding, EB-2018-0050.
- 3. To arrange for service of the enclosed Notice on customers for whom Lakeland Power has an email address and the appropriate permissions to use the email address to send utility or regulatory information, together with the following email message:

a) "Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to increase our electricity distribution rates. Please review the Ontario Energy Board's Notice of Hearing to learn more and to find out how you can participate in the Ontario Energy Board's hearing."

The email must include the words "Notice of Hearing" within the email subject line and provide a link to the Notice as posted on Lakeland Power's website posted in accordance with paragraph 1.

- 4. To post the following message if Lakeland Power has an X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook, and/or Instagram account:
 - a) "We have applied to the Ontario Energy Board to increase our electricity distribution rates. Learn more. Have your say."

The post is required to include the Bigbox ad and to provide a link to the Notice as posted on Lakeland Power's website in accordance with paragraph 1.

To provide a copy of the Notice, the application and evidence, and any amendments thereto, to anyone requesting the material.

5. To file with the OEB an affidavit confirming that the steps set out in paragraphs 1 through 4 have been completed.

You are further directed not to include any documents or materials when serving or publishing the Notice other than documents or materials expressly required by this letter of direction.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi Registrar

Enclosed:

- Notice
- Big Box Ad
- Media estimate

cc: Chris Litschko, Chief Executive Officer John Vellone, Legal Counsel The attached document is **Exhibit 2** to the Affidavit of Darren Bechtel.

Sworn remotely by Darren Bechtel at the Town of Huntsville in the Province of Ontario, before me at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, on December 4, 2024, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.

Sarali Crothers

EXHIBIT 2 FORM OF NOTICE – WEBSITE







Notice of Cost of Service Application - Case Number EB-2024-0039

Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to change its electricity distribution rates effective May 1, 2025.

- To review the notice and full application, including all models and evidence, please visit the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) website
- Notice of Hearing: English

The attached document is **Exhibit 3** to the Affidavit of Darren Bechtel.

Sworn remotely by Darren Bechtel at the Town of Huntsville in the Province of Ontario, before me at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, on December 4, 2024, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.

Sarali Crothers

EXHIBIT 3

FORM OF NOTICE - INTERVENORS

From: Darren Bechtel < dbechtel@lakelandholding.com >

Sent: November 29, 2024 8:48 AM

 $\textbf{To:} \underline{\ mark@shepherdrubenstein.com;} \underline{\ pay@shepherdrubenstein.com;} \underline{\ SEC@oesc-cseo.org;} \underline{\ markgarner@rogers.com;} \underline{\ bharper.consultant@bell.net}$

 $\textbf{Cc: Boyle, Colm} < \underline{\textbf{CBoyle@blg.com}}; \textbf{Crothers, Sarah} < \underline{\textbf{SaCrothers@blg.com}}; \textbf{Darren Bechtel} < \underline{\textbf{dbechtel@lakelandholding.com}} > \underline{\textbf{Colm}} < \underline{\textbf{Colm}} <$

Subject: Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. - Notice of Application - EB-2024-0039

Good morning

In accordance with the Letter of Direction issued by the OEB on November 25, 2024, please find attached the Notice of Application for Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. EB-2024-0039

 $All application documents submitted at this time can be found on the OEB's website using the following link: $$\frac{https://www.rds.oeb.ca/CMWebDrawer/Record?q=CaseNumber=EB-2024-0039\&sortBy=recRegisteredOn-\&pageLength=400$$

Sincerely,

Darren Bechtel, CPA Chief Financial Officer

| lakeland

Lakeland Holding Ltd. Phone (705) 789-5442 x227 The attached document is **Exhibit 4** to the Affidavit of Darren Bechtel.

Sworn remotely by Darren Bechtel at the Town of Huntsville in the Province of Ontario, before me at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, on December 4, 2024, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.

Sarah Crothers

EXHIBIT 4

FORM OF NOTICE - EMAIL

From: Lakeland Power Service Desk < service@lakelandpower.on.ca >

Sent: December 3, 2024 2:07 PM

To: Sharon Shipston <<u>sshipston@lakelandpower.on.ca</u>> Subject: Lakeland Power - Notice of Hearing

Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to increase our electricity distribution rates.

Please review the Ontario Energy Board's Notice of Hearing to learn more and to find out how you can participate in the Ontario Energy Board's hearing.

To review the Notice of Hearing, please visit Lakeland Power's website.

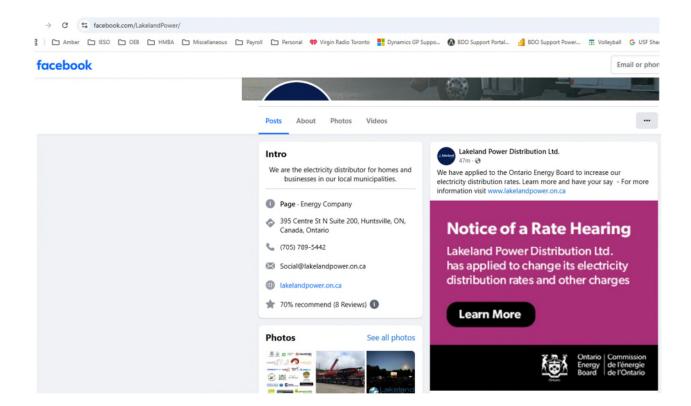
The attached document is **Exhibit 5** to the Affidavit of Darren Bechtel.

Sworn remotely by Darren Bechtel at the Town of Huntsville in the Province of Ontario, before me at the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, on December 4, 2024, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.

Sarali Crothers

EXHIBIT 5

FORM OF NOTICE – FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, X, LINKEDIN



Instagram



