

Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd.

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

**DECISION ON CONFIDENTIALITY
February 14, 2025**

Lakeland Power Distribution Ltd. (Lakeland Power) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on October 31, 2024 under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Lakeland Power charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2025.

As part of Lakeland Power's interrogatory responses, dated February 6, 2025, Lakeland Power requested that the OEB allow certain information to be treated as confidential and/or not relevant pursuant to the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#) and the [Practice Direction on Confidential Filings](#) (Practice Direction).¹ The confidentiality requests, as described by Lakeland Power, are outlined below:

Item	Reason for Confidential Treatment	Reference
1	<p><u>Section 11 of the Practice Direction – No Relevance</u></p> <p>The redacted information includes business plans and strategies for competitive affiliates of Lakeland Power. These affiliates are not regulated by the OEB. The business activities of these affiliates are not relevant to the OEB's determination on rates for the regulated entity, Lakeland Power.</p> <p><u>Section 5 of the Practice Direction – Confidential</u></p> <p>Alternatively, the redactions are consistently treated in a confidential manner by Lakeland Power's affiliates, which engage in competitive business activity that could be impaired and prejudice their competitive position should this information be publicly posted.</p>	<p>1-SEC-1, Appendix D, PDF pages 14-17, 23-26</p> <p>1-SEC-9, Appendix G, PDF pages 12-14, 19-21</p>

¹ EB-2024-0039, LPDL_Combined Responses to Staff_SEC_VECC IRs_20250206, February 6, 2025

Lakeland Power filed both a non-confidential redacted version of its interrogatory responses for the public record and a confidential unredacted version for the OEB's review.

Section 11.1.3 of the Practice Direction states:

The OEB will review the confidential, un-redacted version of the document to confirm that the redacted information is not relevant. Parts 5 and 6 do not apply to information that has been redacted on the basis that it is not relevant unless and until the OEB determines that the information is, in fact, relevant to the proceeding.²

Findings

The OEB finds that the information Lakeland Power seeks to have treated as confidential is potentially relevant given that proposed shared services cost allocation methodology and the quantum is an approved issue on the issues list for this hearing.

However, the OEB agrees with Lakeland Power that the information contains commercially sensitive business planning details and therefore may be kept confidential.

Lakeland Power will provide unredacted copies to individuals that execute the OEB's form of Declaration and Undertaking, subject to Lakeland Power's right to object to the Declaration and Undertaking from any person.

² *Practice Direction on Confidential Filings*, revised December 17, 2021, p. 16

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:

1. Lakeland Power's request for confidential treatment of certain portions of the interrogatory responses noted above, filed on February 6, 2025, is granted.
2. Lakeland Power shall provide individuals that have signed and filed a Declaration and Undertaking with the non-redacted, confidential version of interrogatory responses to 1-SEC-1 and 1-SEC-9 for which confidential treatment has been granted, in accordance with the findings.

DATED at Toronto, **February 14, 2025**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Nancy Marconi
Registrar