

DECISION AND ORDER

EB-2025-0094

PUC (TRANSMISSION) LP BY ITS GENERATION PARTNER PUC (TRANSMISSION) GP INC.

Issuance of Electricity Transmission Licence and Application for an exemption from section 6.1.3 of the Transmission System Code

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

April 10, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Through this Decision and Order, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is issuing an electricity transmission licence to PUC (Transmission) LP by its general partner PUC (Transmission) GP Inc. (PUCT) and, for the reasons set out below, is granting it a temporary exemption from section 6.1.3 of the Transmission System Code (TSC).

This Decision and Order is issued by the Delegated Authority, pursuant to section 6 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEB Act). The Delegated Authority has considered the application without holding a hearing pursuant to section 6(4) of the OEB Act.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, PUCT applied to the OEB for an electricity transmission licence (EB-2021-0088) under section 57 of the (OEB Act). The record of that proceeding described PUCT's plans to construct, own and operate transmission facilities in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, with an expected project in-service date by the end of 2024, and PUCT's plan to apply to the OEB for leave to construct the facilities under section 92 of the OEB Act.

On October 21, 2021, the OEB issued a Decision and Order¹ granting the application and making the issuance of the licence conditional on PUCT receiving leave to construct approval from the OEB and filing with the OEB a complete description of the facilities to be included in schedule 1 of the licence.

On August 27, 2024, the OEB issued a Decision and Order² granting PUCT leave to construct the transmission facilities in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

On January 29, 2025, further to the conditions set out in the OEB's EB-2021-0088 Decision and Order, PUCT filed a letter with the OEB that contained a complete description of the facilities to be included in schedule 1 of the licence, as follows:

> A 230 kV transformer station, the Tagona West TS, located at the easterly end of Yates Avenue within the City of Sault Ste. Marie; and,

¹ EB-2021-0088

² EB-2023-0360

 Approximately 20 circuit km of 230 kV transmission lines within the City of Sault Ste. Marie connecting the Tagona West TS to Third Line TS.

PUCT states that it does not expect an in-service date of the transmission facilities described above until Q2 of 2027 and notes that no customers will be able to connect to the transmission line until at least this date.

Included in the January 29, 2025, filing was a further application from PUCT requesting that, with the issuance of the licence, the OEB also grant PUCT a temporary exemption from section 6.1.3 of the TSC.

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE AMENDMENT

PUCT is now applying for a temporary exemption from the requirements set out in section 6.1.3 of the TSC. This section provides as follows:

A transmitter shall publish on its website its Board-approved connection procedures for processing requests to connect to its transmission system or to modify existing connections, and shall make those connection procedures available upon request. A transmitter's connection procedures shall be consistent with this Code and shall be consistent with and complementary to the Market Rules and the IESO's market procedures as they relate to connection.

PUCT submits that it requires the requested exemption because electricity transmitters are required to have an OEB approved Transmission Connection Procedures (TCP). However, the Transmission Connections Review (EB-2024-0126) is ongoing and PUCT should await the conclusion of the outcome of the <u>Transmission Connections Review</u> before filing its TCP to the OEB for approval.

In the light of the factors set out above, PUCT is requesting that the exemption from section 6.1.3 of the TSC extend to the date the TCP has been approved by the OEB or by December 31, 2025, whichever comes first.

DECISION

The OEB finds that PUCT has filed the required notification of its approved transmission facilities in accordance with the conditions set out in the OEB Decision and Order issued on October 21, 2021. Therefore, the OEB is issuing an electricity transmission licence (ET-2021-0088) to PUCT.

Having considered PUCT's application for a temporary exemption from section 6.1.3 of the TSC, the OEB finds that awaiting the conclusion of the Transmission Connections Review before submitting its TCP is a reasonable proposal. To provide a reasonable period for PUCT to file its TCP, and for the OEB to review and consider it, the OEB grants PUCT exemptions until the earlier of the date its TCP is approved or December 31, 2025. If it has not obtained approval for its TCP by that date, PUCT may seek an extension of the exemption.

In granting the licence exemption, the OEB acknowledges that PUCT's transmission system will not be ready for connection until 2027, and that no prospective customer will be able to connect to PUCT's transmission system until at least that time.

The OEB reminds PUCT that if it receives a request from a customer to connect to its transmission facilities after the in-service date, PUCT will be required to commit to the requests for connection, and comply with the TSC, the OEB Act, Electricity Act and its electricity transmission licence.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- The electricity transmission licence for PUC (Transmission) LP by its general partner PUC (Transmission) GP Inc. is being issued, on such conditions as are contained in the attached licence (ET-2021-0088).
- 2. Schedule 1 "Specification of Transmission Facilities" to ET-2021-0088 hereby include the description of the following approved transmission facilities:
 - A 230 kV transformer station, the Tagona West TS, located at the easterly end of Yates Avenue within the City of Sault Ste. Marie;
 - Approximately 20 circuit km of 230 kV transmission lines within the city of Sault Ste. Marie connecting the Tagona West TS to Third Line TS.

3. Schedule 2 "List of Code Exemptions" to ET-2021-00088 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

"The Licensee is exempt from section 6.1.3 of the Transmission System Code as per the Board's Decision and Order in EB-2025-0094. This exemption expires on December 31, 2025 or on the date that the Board approves the Licensee's Transmission Connection Procedures, whichever is earlier."

DATED at Toronto April 10, 2025

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Brian Hewson Vice President, Consumer Protection and Industry Performance