



Ontario
Energy
Board | Commission
de l'énergie
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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

May 6, 2025

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters
Independent Electricity System Operator**

Re: Enhancing Cyber Security Readiness in Ontario's Electricity Sector

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is proposing to require that utilities report cyber security incidents to the IESO, which will then report the most impactful incidents to the OEB. The IESO will use the reported information to distribute de-identified situational awareness alerts to the industry. The new requirements would be implemented in the summer of 2025. IESO and OEB staff will share details of this initiative with utilities at an upcoming engagement with the Cyber Security Advisory Committee (CSAC), scheduled for 1:30-3:30 p.m. on May 29, 2025. All licensed electricity transmitters and distributors are encouraged to participate.

Effective October 1, 2024, all licensed distributors and transmitters (utilities) are required to participate in the IESO's Lighthouse service. This requirement aims to enhance Ontario's cyber security readiness, advancing Ontario utilities towards robust cyber security risk awareness, management and collaboration. Currently, the IESO has limited visibility into cyber security incidents in Ontario's electricity sector, and bases Lighthouse alerts on general industry sources. The OEB also lacks sufficient information and insight into incidents being experienced by utilities to assess the effectiveness of the Ontario Cyber Security Standard with respect to protecting utility customers from the impacts of cyber security incidents.

To address these challenges, the OEB is planning to require utilities to report cyber security incidents beginning in the summer of 2025. Under the proposed reporting requirements, the utilities will be required to provide information regarding specified cyber security incidents to the IESO. The IESO will provide the OEB with an identified subset

of the utility reports, that recognizes the areas of focus for the OEB. The IESO will use the reported information to distribute de-identified situational awareness alerts to the industry.

This initiative is intended to:

- Increase the value of the Lighthouse service offerings by issuing alerts based on incidents and trends that are affecting Ontario entities,
- Support a coordinated and integrated approach to raising awareness of and responding to cybersecurity incidents among OEB-licensed entities,
- Enhance the OEB's capability to evaluate the effectiveness of cybersecurity requirements and guide improvements.

Please contact Muzi Liu, Senior Advisor at muzi.liu@oeb.ca with questions about the meeting to be held on May 29, 2025 or for more information about CSAC participation.

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance