

## BY EMAIL and RESS

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June 5, 2025 Our File: EB20250051

Ontario Energy Board 2300 Yonge Street 27th Floor Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Attn: Ritchie Murray, Acting Registrar

Dear Mr. Murray:

Re: EB-2025-0051 - Burlington Hydro - Procedural Order No. 1

We are counsel to the School Energy Coalition ("SEC"). We write to request changes to the schedule set out in Procedural Order No. 1 to address three issues.

First, SEC believes additional time is required to file interrogatories in light of the determination that this proceeding will be subject to the Interrogatory Collaboration Pilot. Regardless of which of the two pilot approaches the OEB decides to implement, both require coordination among intervenors to produce a single set of interrogatories. This will almost certainly require additional time for parties to collaborate effectively and to work through the new process and technology. Further, the OEB's letter indicated an intention to pilot this approach in a proceeding involving three to five intervenors, whereas this proceeding involves eight, which is a further reason additional time will likely be required.

Second, additional time is also required between the filing of interrogatory responses and the start of the Settlement Conference. SEC submits that ten days provides insufficient time to properly review the interrogatory responses and to prepare accordingly. This concern is especially important given the scope and magnitude of the application (e.g. 2026 distribution bill impacts of approximately 30-37% and an ACM request), as well as the number of intervenors, which is likely to result in a large volume of interrogatory responses. In SEC's experience, particularly in proceedings involving this number of intervenors, adequate preparation time is critical to ensure that the Settlement Conference is efficient and productive.

Third, SEC requests that the Settlement Conference be scheduled no earlier than August 5. The undersigned, whom is responsible for this matter on behalf of SEC, is unavailable between July 21 and August 1. SEC understands the inherent challenges in accommodating the availability of each party's representatives given the multi-party nature of OEB proceedings, and therefore does not make this request lightly. We would further note that when we sought information regarding potential dates

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Exhibit 1, p.54

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for the steps in this application we were directed by OEB Staff to consult with the OEB's Application Planning Tool. While the dates provided by that tool are estimates only, it does indicate that the Settlement Conference would have been expected to begin on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

SEC submits that changes to the schedule set out in Procedural Order No. 1 would not prejudice any party and would still allow the OEB to meet its performance standards for cost-based applications below the \$500M annual revenue requirement.

Yours very truly, **Shepherd Rubenstein P.C.** 

Mark Rubenstein

cc: Brian McKay, SEC (by email)

Applicant (by email)