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# DECISION AND ORDER

## EB-2024-0115

## HYDRO OTTAWA LIMITED

### Decision on Confidentiality and Issues List

**BEFORE: Allison Duff**  
Presiding Commissioner

**Robert Dodds**  
Commissioner

**David Sword**  
Commissioner

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**June 24, 2025**

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## 1 OVERVIEW

Hydro Ottawa Limited (Hydro Ottawa) filed an application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on April 15, 2025, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Hydro Ottawa charges for electricity distribution, beginning January 1, 2026, and for each following year through December 31, 2030.

In Procedural Order No. 1, issued June 3, 2025, the OEB set out a schedule of procedural steps and provided for (i) submissions on Hydro Ottawa's confidentiality requests made by letters dated April 15, 2025, and April 28, 2025; and (ii) the process for filing a draft issues list for this proceeding by OEB staff.

OEB staff filed a submission regarding the confidentiality requests on June 10, 2025.

OEB staff also filed a draft issues list agreed upon by all parties on June 10, 2025, except for Enbridge Gas Inc., who took no position.

The OEB approves Hydro Ottawa's confidentiality requests and the draft issues list filed by OEB staff. In addition, the OEB is providing five scenarios that illustrate potential hearing schedules to assist parties in planning.

## 2 CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTS

### Background

As part of its application, Hydro Ottawa filed two letters to the OEB dated April 15, 2025<sup>1</sup> and April 28, 2025<sup>2</sup> requesting confidential treatment for the following information pursuant to the OEB's Practice Direction on Confidential Filings (Practice Direction):<sup>3</sup>

- Exhibit 1, Tab 3, Schedule 4, Attachment A, Page 1 (Document 1)
  - Item 1 – Asset Efficiency - Operational information regarding generation activities of an affiliate
  - Items 2 and 3 – Profitability Metrics - Co-mingled financial information of affiliates
- Exhibit 6, Tab 2, Schedule 1, Attachment A, Pages 1-155 (Document 2)
  - Employee Names / Employment History
  - Registered Business Numbers
- Exhibit 8, Tab 2, Schedule 3, Attachment C, Pages 64, and 69-70 (Document 3)
  - Metered Badge Number
  - Transformation Identification Numbers

OEB staff filed a submission on June 10, 2025, while intervenors did not file any submissions objecting to Hydro Ottawa's confidentiality requests.

In its submission, OEB staff did not oppose Hydro Ottawa's requests for redaction, arguing that the information in the three documents listed above is irrelevant to the proceeding.

However, OEB staff disagreed that some of the proposed redactions in Document 2 characterized as "Employee Names and Employment History" were personal information as described in the OEB's Practice Direction. OEB staff also noted that Hydro Ottawa did not identify in its cover letter three of its proposed redactions to Document 2, which were registered business numbers.

On June 16, 2025, Hydro Ottawa filed a letter to the OEB stating that since no party objected to Hydro Ottawa's confidentiality requests, no reply submission from Hydro Ottawa was required.

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<sup>1</sup> EB-2024-0115, [Letter to OEB](#), April 15, 2025

<sup>2</sup> EB-2024-0115, [Letter to OEB](#), April 28, 2025

<sup>3</sup> Ontario Energy Board, [Practice Direction on Confidential Filings](#), December 17, 2021

**Findings**

OEB approves Hydro Ottawa's confidentiality requests. The OEB agrees with OEB staff that the redacted information in the three documents listed above is irrelevant to the issues to be decided in this proceeding.

Since the OEB finds this information to be irrelevant, the redactions shall be withdrawn from the record in this proceeding.

### 3 ISSUES LIST

#### Background

On June 10, 2025, OEB staff filed a letter with the OEB advising that parties had come to an agreement on an issues list and provided it as an attachment to that letter.

Also in the letter, OEB staff noted that the parties were requesting to file interrogatories by exhibit number, rather than having interrogatories correspond to the issues list as required under Rule 26.02(e)(ii) of the OEB's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*. Given the current issues list was prepared prior to the interrogatory process, some parties also indicated they may wish to raise additional matters for inclusion on the Issues List after the responses to the interrogatories are received.

#### Findings

The OEB approves the proposed issues list filed by OEB staff on June 10, 2025, with a change to correct the duplication of a proposed issue. The proposed issue 1.4 regarding distribution losses has been moved to replace proposed issue 7.4.

The approved Issues List is attached as Schedule A to this decision.

As requested by the parties, the OEB waives the requirement under Rule 26.02(e)(ii) of the [\*Rules of Practice and Procedure\*](#) that the interrogatories correspond to the approved Issues List. Parties may file interrogatories according to the exhibit numbers in the application. The OEB also agrees that additional matters may be proposed for addition to the approved Issues List after the responses to the interrogatories are received, for the OEB's consideration.

## 4 SCHEDULE

Procedural Order No. 1 established procedural steps up to and including the interrogatory process. To assist parties in planning, the OEB is providing five scenarios in Schedule B that illustrate potential subsequent procedural steps, and the associated dates for those steps, in this proceeding.

After interrogatory responses are filed and reviewed, the OEB will seek input from parties prior to establishing the next procedural steps and dates.

**DATED** at Toronto June 24, 2025

**ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD**

Ritchie Murray  
Acting Registrar

**SCHEDULE A**  
**DECISION AND ORDER**  
**ISSUES LIST**  
**HYDRO OTTAWA LIMITED**  
**EB-2024-0115**  
**JUNE 24, 2025**

## **Approved Issues List**

### **1. General**

- 1.1. Has the applicant responded appropriately to all relevant OEB directions from previous proceedings?
- 1.2. Are the rates and bill impacts resulting from Hydro Ottawa's application appropriate?
- 1.3. Is the proposed effective date appropriate?
- 1.4. Did Hydro Ottawa appropriately consider customer needs and preferences in the formulation of its proposed plan and spending?

### **2. Custom Incentive Rate Setting**

- 2.1. Are all elements of Hydro Ottawa's Custom Incentive Rate Setting proposal for the determination of rates appropriate?
- 2.2. Is the proposed 2026-2030 Custom Performance Scorecard Appropriate?

### **3. Capital Spending and Rate Base**

- 3.1. Are the proposed capital expenditures and in-service additions appropriate?
- 3.2. Are the proposed rate base and depreciation amounts appropriate?

### **4. OM&A**

- 4.1. Are the proposed OM&A expenditures appropriate?
- 4.2. Is the proposed shared services cost allocation methodology and the quantum appropriate?

### **5. Cost of Capital, PILs, and Revenue Requirement**

- 5.1. Is the proposed cost of capital (interest on debt, return on equity) and capital structure appropriate?
- 5.2. Is the proposed PILs (or Tax) amount appropriate?
- 5.3. Is the proposed Other Revenue forecast appropriate?
- 5.4. Have all impacts of any changes in accounting standards, policies, estimates and adjustments been properly identified and recorded, and is the rate-making treatment of each of these impacts appropriate?
- 5.5. Is the proposed calculation of the Revenue Requirement appropriate?

## **6. Load Forecast**

- 6.1. Is the proposed load forecast methodologies and the resulting load forecasts appropriate

## **7. Cost Allocation, Rate Design, and Other Charges**

- 7.1. Are the proposed cost allocation methodology, allocations, and revenue-to-cost ratios, appropriate?
- 7.2. Is the proposed rate design, including fixed/variable splits, appropriate?
- 7.3. Are the proposed Retail Transmission Service Rates and Low Voltage rates appropriate?
- 7.4. Are the proposed loss factors appropriate, considering OEB requirements and utility measures to cost-effectively reduce distribution losses?
- 7.5. Are the Specific Service Charges and Retail Service Charges appropriate?
- 7.6. Are rate mitigation proposals required and appropriate?

## **8. Deferral and Variance Accounts**

- 8.1. Are the proposals for deferral and variance accounts, including the balances in the existing accounts and their disposition, requests for new accounts, requests for discontinuation of accounts, and the continuation of existing accounts, appropriate?

**SCHEDULE B**  
**DECISION AND ORDER**  
**HYDRO OTTAWA LIMITED**  
**EB-2024-0115**  
**JUNE 24, 2025**

## Scenario

No Expert Evidence, Complete Settlement

Stage	Procedural Steps	days	Case Schedule Days Elapsed	Case Schedule Date Planned*
	OEB Issues Procedural Order No. 1	8	35	Tuesday, June 3, 2025
Discovery Process	OEB Staff Files proposed Issues List	7	42	Tuesday, June 10, 2025
	OEB Issues Decision on Issues List (Targeted)	14	56	Tuesday, June 24, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenors Files Interrogatories	28	84	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
	Applicant Files Responses to Interrogatories	21	105	Tuesday, August 12, 2025
	OEB staff and intervenors to file topic areas and time estimates for Technical Conference	14	119	Tuesday, August 26, 2025
	Technical Conference Begins	7	126	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
	Technical Conference Ends (4 days)	3	129	Friday, September 5, 2025
	Undertakings Filed	7	136	Friday, September 12, 2025
	Motions Hearing Held (Re Incomplete IRRs & Undertakings)	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
Settlement Process	Decision on Motions	4	147	Tuesday, September 23, 2025
	Settlement Conference Begins	6	153	Monday, September 29, 2025
	Settlement Conference Ends & progress letter filed	4	157	Friday, October 3, 2025
	Settlement Proposal Filed	21	178	Friday, October 24, 2025
	OEB Staff Submission on Settlement Proposal Filed	7	185	Friday, October 31, 2025

## Scenario

## Expert Evidence, Complete Settlement

Stage	Procedural Steps	days	Case Schedule Days Elapsed	Case Schedule Date Planned*
	OEB Issues Procedural Order No. 1	8	35	Tuesday, June 3, 2025
<b>Discovery Process</b>	OEB Staff Files proposed Issues List	7	42	Tuesday, June 10, 2025
	OEB Issues Decision on Issues List (Targeted)	14	56	Tuesday, June 24, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenors Files Interrogatories	28	84	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
	Applicant Files Responses to Interrogatories	21	105	Tuesday, August 12, 2025
	OEB staff and intervenors to file topic areas and time estimates for Technical Conference	14	119	Tuesday, August 26, 2025
	Technical Conference Begins	7	126	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
	Technical Conference Ends (4 days)	3	129	Friday, September 5, 2025
	Undertakings Filed	7	136	Friday, September 12, 2025
<b>Expert Evidence</b>	Filing of Third-Party Evidence	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
	Applicant and Intervenor files Interrogatories	7	150	Friday, September 26, 2025
	Response to Interrogatories	7	157	Friday, October 3, 2025
<b>Motions</b>	Motions Hearing Held (Re Incomplete IRRs & Undertakings)	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
<b>in parallel</b>	Decision on Motions	4	147	Tuesday, September 23, 2025
<b>Settlement Process</b>	Settlement Conference Begins	10	167	Monday, October 13, 2025
	Settlement Conference Ends & progress letter filed	4	171	Friday, October 17, 2025
	Settlement Proposal Filed	21	192	Friday, November 7, 2025
	OEB Staff Submission on Settlement Proposal Filed	14	206	Friday, November 21, 2025

## Scenario

No Expert Evidence, Partial Settlement, Written Hearing

Stage	Procedural Steps	days	Case Schedule Days Elapsed	Case Schedule Date Planned*
	OEB Issues Procedural Order No. 1	8	35	Tuesday, June 3, 2025
Discovery Process	OEB Staff Files proposed Issues List	7	42	Tuesday, June 10, 2025
	OEB Issues Decision on Issues List (Targeted)	14	56	Tuesday, June 24, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenors Files Interrogatories	28	84	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
	Applicant Files Responses to Interrogatories	21	105	Tuesday, August 12, 2025
	OEB staff and intervenors to file topic areas and time estimates for Technical Conference	14	119	Tuesday, August 26, 2025
	Technical Conference Begins	7	126	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
	Technical Conference Ends (4 days)	3	129	Friday, September 5, 2025
	Undertakings Filed	7	136	Friday, September 12, 2025
	Motions Hearing Held (Re Incomplete IRRs & Undertakings)	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
Motions	Decision on Motions	4	147	Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Settlement Process	Settlement Conference Begins	6	153	Monday, September 29, 2025
	Settlement Conference Ends & progress letter filed	4	157	Friday, October 3, 2025
	Settlement Proposal Filed	21	178	Friday, October 24, 2025
	OEB Staff Submission on Settlement Proposal Filed	14	192	Friday, November 7, 2025
Argument Process	Applicant's Argument-in-chief Filed	7	199	Friday, November 14, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenor Argument Filed	14	213	Friday, November 28, 2025
	Applicant's Reply Argument Filed	14	227	Friday, December 12, 2025

## Scenario

## Expert Evidence, Partial Settlement, Written Hearing

Stage	Procedural Steps	days	Case Schedule Days Elapsed	Case Schedule Date Planned*
	OEB Issues Procedural Order No. 1	8	35	Tuesday, June 3, 2025
<b>Discovery Process</b>	OEB Staff Files proposed Issues List	7	42	Tuesday, June 10, 2025
	OEB Issues Decision on Issues List (Targeted)	14	56	Tuesday, June 24, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenors Files Interrogatories	28	84	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
	Applicant Files Responses to Interrogatories	21	105	Tuesday, August 12, 2025
	OEB staff and intervenors to file topic areas and time estimates for Technical Conference	14	119	Tuesday, August 26, 2025
	Technical Conference Begins	7	126	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
	Technical Conference Ends (4 days)	3	129	Friday, September 5, 2025
	Undertakings Filed	7	136	Friday, September 12, 2025
<b>Expert Evidence</b>	Filing of Third-Party Evidence	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
	Applicant and Intervenor files Interrogatories	7	150	Friday, September 26, 2025
	Response to Interrogatories	7	157	Friday, October 3, 2025
<b>Motions</b>	Motions Hearing Held (Re Incomplete IRRs & Undertakings)	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
<b>in parallel</b>	Decision on Motions	4	147	Tuesday, September 23, 2025
<b>Settlement Process</b>	Settlement Conference Begins	10	167	Monday, October 13, 2025
	Settlement Conference Ends & progress letter filed	4	171	Friday, October 17, 2025
	Settlement Proposal Filed	21	192	Friday, November 7, 2025
	OEB Staff Submission on Settlement Proposal Filed	14	206	Friday, November 21, 2025
<b>Argument Process</b>	Applicant's Argument-in-chief Filed	7	213	Friday, November 28, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenor Argument Filed	14	227	Friday, December 12, 2025
	Applicant's Reply Argument Filed	14	241	Friday, December 26, 2025

## Scenario

## Expert Evidence, No Settlement, Oral Hearing

Stage	Procedural Steps	days	Case Schedule Days Elapsed	Case Schedule Date Planned*
	OEB Issues Procedural Order No. 1	8	35	Tuesday, June 3, 2025
<b>Discovery Process</b>	OEB Staff Files proposed Issues List	7	42	Tuesday, June 10, 2025
	OEB Issues Decision on Issues List (Targeted)	14	56	Tuesday, June 24, 2025
	OEB Staff and Intervenors Files Interrogatories	28	84	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
	Applicant Files Responses to Interrogatories	21	105	Tuesday, August 12, 2025
	OEB staff and intervenors to file topic areas and time estimates for Technical Conference	14	119	Tuesday, August 26, 2025
	Technical Conference Begins	7	126	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
	Technical Conference Ends (4 days)	3	129	Friday, September 5, 2025
	Undertakings Filed	7	136	Friday, September 12, 2025
<b>Expert Evidence</b>	Filing of Third-Party Evidence	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
	Applicant and Intervenor files Interrogatories	7	150	Friday, September 26, 2025
	Response to Interrogatories	7	157	Friday, October 3, 2025
<b>Motions</b>	Motions Hearing Held (Re Incomplete IRRs & Undertakings)	7	143	Friday, September 19, 2025
<b>in parallel</b>	Decision on Motions	4	147	Tuesday, September 23, 2025
<b>Settlement Process</b>	Settlement Conference Begins	10	167	Monday, October 13, 2025
	Settlement Conference Ends & progress letter filed	4	171	Friday, October 17, 2025
	Settlement Proposal Filed (Partial)	0	171	Friday, October 17, 2025
	OEB Staff Submission on Settlement Proposal, if any	0	171	Friday, October 17, 2025
<b>Argument Process</b>	Presentation of Settlement Proposal and Oral Hearing on Unsettled Issues	10	181	Monday, October 27, 2025
	Oral Hearing Ends/Decision on Settlement Agreement	4	185	Friday, October 31, 2025
	Undertakings from Oral Hearing filed	7	192	Friday, November 7, 2025
	Applicant's Argument-in-chief Filed	21	213	Friday, November 28, 2025
	OEB Staff Submission	10	223	Monday, December 8, 2025
	Intervenor Arguments	10	233	Thursday, December 18, 2025
	Applicant's Reply Argument Filed	11	244	Monday, December 29, 2025