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BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING

August 20, 2025

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

Re: Enhancing Cyber Security Readiness in Ontario's Electricity Sector
Ontario Energy Board File No. EB-2023-0173

What You Need to Know

- **The Ontario Energy Board is issuing version 3.0 of the Ontario Cyber Security Standard which requires licensed electricity distributors or transmitters to report cyber security incidents.**
- **Incident reporting is expected to improve utilities' cyber security readiness and enhance consumer protection.**
- **Licensed distributors and transmitters will be required to report cyber security incidents to the Independent Electricity System Operator starting September 22, 2025.**

Today, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is issuing version 3.0 of the [Ontario Cyber Security Standard](#) (Standard), which introduces a requirement for licensed electricity distributors or transmitters (collectively referred to as utilities) to report cyber security incidents, as defined in the Standard, to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). This version of the Standard will come into effect on September 22, 2025. Utilities are required to report cyber security incidents that occur on or after this date.

Under the requirements of the Standard, utilities are required to report a cyber security incident by the end of the next business day after it has confirmed the incident. The IESO will use the reported information to distribute situational awareness alerts to

Lighthouse participants through the Lighthouse service. The IESO will also report notable cyber security incidents, as defined in the Standard, to the OEB.

In establishing the incident reporting requirements, the OEB's objectives are to:

- 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.
- Increase the value of the Lighthouse service offerings by issuing alerts based on incidents and trends that are affecting Ontario entities.

To support the implementation of this requirement, the IESO's licence has been amended to authorize the collection of Cyber Security Incident Reports from utilities.

A report template is included in Appendix B of the Standard. The IESO has posted guidance on the reporting process in the Lighthouse portal.

Background

The OEB announced its intention to establish requirements for incident reporting in a May 6, 2025 [letter](#). On May 29, 2025, IESO and OEB staff presented their proposal for incident reporting to utilities at a Cyber Security Advisory Committee (CSAC) meeting and invited attendees to comment on the proposed requirements. OEB staff received feedback on the proposed requirements including requests for clarification of the definition of a reportable cyber security incident, consideration of the impact of the reporting timeline on utilities, and guidance on the reporting process.

The OEB considers the definition of cyber security incident included in the Standard to be sufficiently clear in identifying which incidents must be reported. The OEB does not intend to provide interpretation or examples at this time, but it recognizes that utilities may encounter uncertainty in applying the definition. The OEB expects utilities to apply reasonable judgment in determining what constitutes a reportable incident. However, in cases of uncertainty, the OEB encourages utilities to submit a report. The OEB may issue guidance in the future, as warranted, based on the experience reviewing the nature of incident reports received or in response to enquiries from the sector.

When submitting a report, the OEB expects utilities to make their best effort to provide a complete submission. However, the OEB recognizes that complete information may not always be available within the next business day reporting timeline. To comply with the Standard, utilities should prioritize submitting reports on time, even if some information

is incomplete. The Standard requires that a utility submit a revised incident report when new material information becomes available.

Utilities may submit questions about this letter or the Standard to the OEB's industry relations email, IndustryRelations@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance