



Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc.

**Application for electricity distribution rates beginning
May 1, 2025**

**PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 5
September 17, 2025**

BEFORE: Anthony Zlahtic
Presiding Commissioner

Patrick Moran
Commissioner

Vinay Sharma
Commissioner

Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc. (Greater Sudbury Hydro) filed a cost of service application with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on October 30, 2024, under section 78 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*, seeking approval for changes to the rates that Greater Sudbury Hydro charges for electricity distribution, beginning May 1, 2025.

In Procedural Order No. 2 dated April 24, 2025, the OEB established the timetable for additional procedural steps relating to the unsettled elements in this proceeding.^{1, 2} The unsettled elements relate to Greater Sudbury Hydro's transition from cash-based accounting to accrual-based accounting for Other Post-Employment Benefits.

Procedural Orders No. 3 and No. 4 amended the dates for certain procedural steps.^{3, 4}

¹ The unsettled matters are part of Issue 6.1 of the OEB-approved Issues List. The Issues List was approved in the [OEB's Decision on Issues List](#), dated December 19, 2025.

² EB-2024-0026, [Procedural Order No. 2](#), April 24, 2025

³ EB-2024-0026, [Procedural Order No. 3](#), June 6, 2025

⁴ EB-2024-0026, [Procedural Order No. 4](#), July 7, 2025

On June 27, 2025, Greater Sudbury Hydro filed an Argument-in-Chief.⁵ OEB staff filed a submission on July 11, 2025⁶ and the intervenors filed their submissions on July 18, 2025^{7,8,9,10} to which Greater Sudbury Hydro replied on August 1, 2025.¹¹

In its reply submission, Greater Sudbury Hydro introduced an alternative proposal to revert to a cash-basis recovery for Other Post-Employment Benefits effective May 1, 2020.¹² Greater Sudbury Hydro noted that if the OEB were to consider a transition amount that approximates what OEB Staff or intervenors propose, the resulting recovery gap would materially impact Greater Sudbury Hydro's ability to operate within approved revenues. Greater Sudbury Hydro further noted that:

*denying a material portion of the transition amount would leave GSHi with a persistent funding gap that could only be covered from its ROE. Because GSHi relies on that ROE to finance capital projects, bridging the shortfall would mean either (i) scaling back capital work to preserve the current debt to equity ratio, or (ii) borrowing more to maintain investment levels, thereby worsening the ratio, pressuring credit metrics, and increasing borrowing costs for future projects. In both cases, the long-term effect would result in constrained financial capacity leading to heightened risk to system reliability.*¹³

The OEB notes that this alternative proposal was not explored during the discovery process.

To expedite the proceeding, the panel has prepared the following questions to which Greater Sudbury Hydro is to provide written responses.

1. Based on OEB staff's submission (supported by intervenors CCMBC and AMPCO), adjustments need to be made to Greater Sudbury Hydro's prior-period income/equity.
 - a. Please provide the impact of this adjustment on Return on Equity, the Debt/Equity ratio, cash flow and any other financial metrics based on OEB staff's submission.
 - b. Please provide the same information based on VECC's and SEC's submissions.

⁵ EB-2024-0026, [Greater Sudbury Hydro Argument-in-Chief](#), June 27, 2025

⁶ EB-2024-0026, [Staff Submission](#), July 11, 2025

⁷ EB-2024-0026, [CCMBC Submission](#), July 18, 2025

⁸ EB-2024-0026, [VECC Submission](#), July 18, 2025

⁹ EB-2024-0026, [SEC Submission](#), July 18, 2025

¹⁰ EB-2024-0026, [AMPCO Submission](#), July 18, 2025

¹¹ EB-2024-0026, [Greater Sudbury Hydro Reply Submission](#), August 1, 2025

¹² Ibid, p. 33

¹³ Ibid, p. 33

2. Please provide the bill impacts for Greater Sudbury Hydro's rate classes based on OEB staff's proposed disposition of approximately \$9.5M (\$6.998 million plus the grossed-up PILs to be confirmed by Greater Sudbury Hydro).
3. Please provide a proposed disposition period for these scenarios with supporting rational and detailed bill impacts calculations, in consideration of the OEB's mitigation policy, and intergenerational inequity concerns.

Following the response to these panel questions, the OEB is providing parties with an opportunity to make submission on Greater Sudbury Hydro's alternative proposal to revert to a cash-basis recovery as well as any alternate mitigation proposal raised by Greater Sudbury in its reply submission and/or responses to the panel's questions.

The OEB finds it necessary to make provision for the matters set out below related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

1. Greater Sudbury Hydro shall provide responses to the panel's questions by **October 1, 2025**
2. Intervenors and OEB staff shall file their written submissions on Greater Sudbury Hydro's alternative proposal with the OEB and serve them on all other parties by **October 14, 2025**.
3. Greater Sudbury Hydro Inc. shall file its reply submission with the OEB and serve it on all parties by **October 28, 2025**.

Parties are responsible for ensuring that any documents they file with the OEB, such as applicant and intervenor evidence, interrogatories and responses to interrogatories or any other type of document, **do not include personal information** (as that phrase is defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*), unless filed in accordance with rule 9A of the OEB's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#).

Please quote file numbers, **EB-2024-0026** for all materials filed and submit them in searchable/unrestricted PDF format with a digital signature through the [OEB's online filing portal](#).

- Filings should clearly state the sender's name, postal address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Please use the document naming conventions and document submission standards outlined in the [Regulatory Electronic Submission System \(RESS\)](#)

[Document Guidelines](#) found at the [File documents online page](#) on the OEB's website.

- Parties are encouraged to use RESS. Those who have not yet [set up an account](#), or require assistance using the online filing portal can contact registrar@oeb.ca for assistance.
- Cost claims are filed through the OEB's online filing portal. Please visit the [File documents online page](#) of the OEB's website for more information. All participants shall download a copy of their submitted cost claim and serve it on all required parties as per the [Practice Direction on Cost Awards](#).

All communications should be directed to the attention of the Registrar at the address below and be received by end of business, 4:45 p.m., on the required date.

With respect to distribution lists for all electronic correspondence and materials related to this proceeding, parties must include the Case Manager, Georgette Vlahos at georgette.vlahos@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, James Sidlofsky at james.sidlofsky@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

Tel: 1-877-632-2727 (Toll free)

DATED at Toronto, **September 17, 2025**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar