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**BY EMAIL**

October 3, 2025

Ritchie Murray  
Acting Registrar  
Ontario Energy Board  
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor  
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

Dear Ritchie Murray:

**Re: Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.  
Application for 2026 Electricity Distribution Rates  
Ontario Energy Board (OEB) File Number: EB-2025-0021**

In accordance with Procedural Order No. 1, please find attached the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) staff interrogatories in the above proceeding. The applicant and intervenor have been copied on this filing.

Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.'s responses to interrogatories are due by October 17, 2025.

Any questions relating to this letter should be directed to Kelli Benincasa at [Kelli.Benincasa@oeb.ca](mailto:Kelli.Benincasa@oeb.ca) or at 416-440-7624. The OEB's toll-free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

*Kelli Benincasa*

Kelli Benincasa  
Analyst, Incentive Rate Setting

Encl.

**OEB Staff Interrogatories  
Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.  
EB-2025-0021**

Please note, Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd. (NT Power) is responsible for ensuring that all documents it files with the OEB, including responses to OEB staff interrogatories and any other supporting documentation, 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*.

**Staff Interrogatory-1**

**Ref 1:** IRM Rate Generator Model, Tab 3

**Preamble:**

On September 11, 2025, the OEB published the 2025 Quarter 4 prescribed accounting interest rates applicable to the carrying charges of deferral, variance and construction work in progress (CWIP) accounts of natural gas utilities, electricity distributors and other rate-regulated entities.

**Question(s):**

- a) Please confirm that Tab 3 (Continuity Schedule) reflects the Q4 2025 OEB-prescribed interest rate of 2.91%. If not, please update Tab 3, as necessary.

**Staff Interrogatory-2**

**Ref 1:** Midland - IRM Rate Generator Model, Tabs 18 and 20

**Preamble:**

The wireless pole attachment charge and retail service charges on Tab 18 that were updated for the inflation factor of 3.70% did not flow through to Tab 20 in the final tariff schedule for 2026 rates.

OEB staff has updated the Rate Generator Model to correct this error.

**Question(s):**

- a) Please confirm that OEB staff has updated the model correctly.

### Staff Interrogatory-3

**Ref 1:** Midland - IRM Rate Generator Model, Tab 1

#### Preamble:

The assigned EB number (row 18) has been left blank and the last cost of service rebasing year entered is 2011 (row 30).

OEB staff has entered the assigned EB number of EB-2025-0021 (row 18) and updated the cost of service year to 2013 (row 30).

#### Question(s):

- a) Please confirm OEB staff has updated the Midland Rate Zone IRM Rate Generator Model on Tab 1 correctly.

### Staff Interrogatory-4

**Ref:** Manager's Summary, Pages 21-22

#### Preamble:

NT Power states that it incurred \$157,250 of OM&A and \$47,363 in capital costs. NT Power is not requesting recovery for the capital-related costs of the ice storm. A breakdown of the OM&A costs are reported in the table below:

	\$
Labour	124,711
Material	4,325
Equipment	20,540
Sub-contractor costs	7,674
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,250</b>
Carrying Charges	3,181
<b>Total Claim</b>	<b>160,431</b>

#### Question(s):

- a) Please confirm the total claim of \$160,431 is outside of the base upon which rates were derived.
- b) Please confirm that the Z-factor claim is directly related to the Z-factor event and if the event had not occurred, NT Power would not have incurred any of the costs.
- c) Please confirm all cost categories have been audited. If not, please indicate which costs have not been audited, and when they are targeted to be audited.

### **Staff Interrogatory-5**

#### **Question(s):**

- a) Please provide NT Power's annual OM&A Emergency Maintenance amounts included in rates, budgeted and actual expenditures for the years 2018 to 2024.

### **Staff Interrogatory-6**

**Ref:** Manager's Summary, Pages 21

#### **Preamble:**

At the above noted reference, NT Power indicates that the outages impacted 26% of its customer base. NT Power further notes that it was able to restore power to 90% of those affected within 50 hours.

#### **Question(s):**

- a) Please provide a copy of the outage map of NT Power's service territory displaying the affected outage service area(s).
- b) Please provide a copy of NT Power's Emergency Operation Plan that was activated in response to the ice storm.
- c) Discuss any deviation from this plan during the Z-factor event.
- d) Does NT Power have strategies in place for mitigating the impact of weather events, such as vegetation management? If so, please provide the related strategy.

### **Staff Interrogatory-7**

**Ref 1:** Manager's Summary, Page 22

#### **Question(s):**

- a) Clarify whether NT Power paid any premium amounts to its third-party contractors.
- b) Provide a separate schedule (breakdown) of the Third Party Contractor invoices based on labour, materials, meals, truck, other (provide explanation).

### **Staff Interrogatory-8**

**Ref 1:** Manager's Summary, Page 22

#### **Question(s):**

- a) Please provide a breakdown of all NT Power's internal labour costs (i.e., the \$124,711) applicable for the affected period using the following format.

Department	Number of Eligible Employees	Regular Hours Worked	Total Regular Time Payments	Overtime Hours Worked	Total Overtime Payments
Management					
Other Non-Union Employees					
<b>Sub-Total Non-Union</b>					
Union Employees					
Operations					
Other					
<b>Sub-Total Union</b>					
Total Internal Labour for Affected Parties					
Total Z-Factor Labour Costs					

- b) Please provide NT Power's policy with respect to overtime for its non-union employees and management.
- c) Please describe whether the Z-factor labour costs included payments made to union employees at regular rates of pay for work on pre-scheduled vacation days.

### Staff Interrogatory-9

#### Preamble:

NT Power did not indicate whether or not it assisted neighboring communities once power was restored to its customers.

#### Question(s):

- a) Please confirm whether or not NT Power assisted other LDCs.
- b) If NT Power did assist neighboring communities, did it charge a premium to assist other LDCs and if so how much?

## **Staff Interrogatory-10**

**Ref 1:** Manager's Summary, Page 23

### **Preamble:**

NT Power stated in its Manager's Summary:

The OEB-defined materiality threshold applicable to NT Power for Z-factors is based on 0.5% for a distributor with a distribution revenue requirement of between \$10 million and \$200 million. In determining NT Power's materiality threshold for this Z-factor claim, NT Power was guided by the OEB's decision in Elexicon Energy Inc.'s Z-factor claim. NT Power's last approved revenue requirements were determined in the former Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd.'s 2011 and former Midland Public Utility Corporation's 2013 cost of service rate applications, respectively. NT Power escalated each of the revenue requirements by its approved annual rate increase (i.e. inflation factor less X-factor) for each rate zone. The consolidated revenue requirement escalated to 2026 is \$26,011,156, and the corresponding materiality threshold is \$130,056. As a result, NT Power's Z-factor claim of \$157,250, excluding carrying charges, meets the materiality criteria.

### **Question(s):**

- a) Please provide NT Power's calculation for determining the materiality threshold in Excel format.

## **Staff Interrogatory-11**

**Ref 1:** Manager's Summary, Page 22

### **Preamble:**

NT Power stated in its Manager's Summary:

The costs resulting from the ice storm was unforeseen and outside the control of NT Power. NT Power maintains a proactive vegetation management program, including routine tree trimming to ensure compliance with overhead clearance requirements. However, due to the intensity of the ice storm, outages could not be avoided.

### **Question(s):**

- a) Please discuss in detail the budget reserved for vegetation management programs.

- b) Please provide the 2025 budget and actual amounts for capital and Operating, Maintenance and Administration expenses related to vegetation management. Discuss any budget versus actuals variance.
- c) Please explain how storm restoration or other emergency response/maintenance costs are normally considered in NT Power's budgeting process.