



Hydro Ottawa Limited

**Application for electricity distribution rates and other
charges beginning January 1, 2026**

PROCEDURAL ORDER NO. 3

October 7, 2025

Hydro Ottawa Limited (Hydro Ottawa) filed a custom incentive rate-setting 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.

Procedural Order No. 2 issued August 7, 2025, provided for, among other things, a technical conference, and a motions hearing if needed.

The technical conference took place from September 22 to September 25, 2025. Responses to the majority of undertakings from the technical conference were filed with the OEB on October 6, 2025.

Undertaking Responses

Hydro Ottawa filed the majority of the undertaking responses on October 6, 2025, and requested leave to file the remainder by October 8, 2025. The OEB approves Hydro Ottawa's request to file all undertaking responses by October 8, 2025.

Motions Hearing

A virtual motions hearing is scheduled for October 14, 2025. During the Motions Hearing, the OEB intends to hear oral motions regarding any interrogatories or undertakings for which better or more complete answers are sought. The objective is to avoid a lengthy written process.

To prepare for an oral process in this proceeding, intervenors and OEB staff who intend to present motions in the motions hearing shall file a letter with the OEB by October 10, indicating:

- The interrogatory or technical conference undertaking at issue
- References (or links) to any supporting documentation
- One paragraph explaining the reasons for wanting the information

If no letters are filed by October 10, 2025, the Motions Hearing scheduled for October 14, 2025 will be cancelled.

Expert Evidence

On September 29, 2025, OEB staff filed a letter requesting permission to file third party expert evidence. On October 1, 2025, Hydro Ottawa filed a letter in response to OEB staff's letter raising procedural concerns, to which OEB staff filed a responding letter on October 3, 2025.

OEB staff's request to submit third party expert evidence on Hydro Ottawa's proposed rate framework is approved.

The OEB approves OEB staff's proposal to file expert evidence by Christensen Associates Energy Consulting as described in the October 3rd letter. OEB staff expect the evidence to include an analysis of the productivity factor, benchmarking, stretch factor, growth factor and the impacts of the proposed deferral and variance accounts. The OEB finds that it would be assisted by having such third party expert evidence when considering issues 2.1 and 8.1, and evaluating all of the elements associated with Hydro Ottawa's proposed Custom IR framework.

Settlement Conference

The OEB is making provision for a settlement conference to be held from November 3, 2025 through November 7, 2025. Within 48 hours of the conclusion of the settlement conference, a letter from Hydro Ottawa shall be filed with the OEB with the status of the settlement discussions.

The following steps in the proceeding are subject to change should Hydro Ottawa request additional time to review the third party expert evidence and/or file reply expert evidence. If required, the OEB will consider a request to declare Hydro Ottawa's current rates interim as of January 1, 2026.

The OEB is making provision for the following related to this proceeding. Further procedural orders may be issued by the OEB.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD ORDERS THAT:**Motions Hearing**

1. If OEB staff or intervenors wish to present motions in the Motions Hearing, they shall file a letter with the OEB indicating the information sought, references to supporting documentation, and a one-paragraph explanation by **October 10, 2025**.

Expert Evidence

2. OEB staff shall file the third party expert evidence and provide a copy to Hydro Ottawa and intervenors by **October 14, 2025**.
3. If Hydro Ottawa or any party seeks information and material with respect to the third party expert evidence that is relevant to this proceeding, that information shall be requested by written interrogatories filed with the OEB, and copied to Hydro Ottawa and intervenors by **October 21, 2025**.
4. OEB staff shall file complete written responses to all interrogatories and serve them on Hydro Ottawa and intervenors by **October 28, 2025**.
5. If Hydro Ottawa seeks to request extension to the review period of the third party expert evidence, and/or file reply expert evidence, it shall request an extension by **October 20, 2025**.

Settlement Conference

6. A virtual settlement conference among the parties and will be convened on **November 3, 2025** starting at 9:30 a.m. This will be a virtual event and information on how to participate will be provided in advance of the conference.
7. **Within 48 hours** of the conclusion of the settlement conference, Hydro Ottawa shall file a letter informing the OEB of the status of the settlement discussions including whether a tentative agreement had been reached or if the parties propose to continue the settlement discussions.
8. If there is no settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference, Hydro Ottawa shall file a statement to that effect with the OEB by **November 11, 2025**. In that event, parties shall file and serve on the other parties by **November 18, 2024** any submissions on which issues shall be heard in writing, and for which issues the OEB should hold an oral hearing.

9. If there is a settlement, any settlement proposal arising from the settlement conference shall be filed with the OEB on or before **November 28, 2025**. In addition to outlining the terms of any settlement, the settlement proposal should contain a list of any unsettled issues, indicating with reasons whether the parties believe those issues should be dealt with by way of oral or written hearing. Any submission from OEB staff on a settlement proposal shall be filed with the OEB and served on all parties by **December 5, 2025**.
10. The OEB is setting a tentative date of **December 12, 2025**, starting at 9:30 a.m. for Hydro Ottawa to present to the OEB any settlement proposal and a summary of any unsettled issues in the case. OEB staff will, at the direction of the OEB, confirm or amend this date in subsequent correspondence.

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 number, **EB-2024-0115** 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 and be received by 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, Margaret DeFazio at Margaret.DeFazio@oeb.ca and OEB Counsel, Michael Millar at Michael.Millar@oeb.ca.

Email: registrar@oeb.ca

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

DATED at Toronto, **October 7, 2025**

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Ritchie Murray
Acting Registrar