OEB Staff Interrogatories Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd. EB-2025-0049

Please note, Centre Wellington Hydro Ltd. (Centre Wellington Hydro) 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 Tabs 1, 12, 13 and 14

Preamble:

On Tab 1 (Row 53) Centre Wellington Hydro has indicated its is partially embedded within Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One). On Tabs 12, 13 and 14 there are no billing details entered for the IESO sections. This indicates Centre Wellington Hydro is fully embedded in Hydro One.

Question(s):

- a. OEB staff has updated Tab 1 to fully embedded within Hydro One. Please confirm this is correct.
- b. If Centre Wellington Hydro is in fact only partially embedded within Hydro One, please change Tab 1 back to partially embedded within Hydro One and update the IESO billing details for Tabs 12, 13 and 14.

Responses:

- a) Yes, Centre Wellington Hydro (CWH) confirms that is correct.
- b) NA

Ref 1: IRM Rate Generator Model Tabs 16.1

Preamble:

Starting in July, on Tab 16.1 Centre Wellington Hydro has added four new rates: (1) Rider Disposition CBR Class B, (2) Rider Grp 1 2024, (3) Rider Disp Acct 1595 and (4) Rider Grp 1 Non WMP 2024.

JULY								
7 MONTH	DESCRIPTION	SERVICE POINT	KW	RATE	NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS	TOTAL CHARGE	COMMENTS	DELETE?
3	Monthly Service Charge	10313602, 10333796, 92205047		824.2800	3	2,472.84		
,	Meter Charge	10313602, 10333796, 92205047		417.5900	2	835.18		
)	Specific St Lines	10333796	5.24	655.2453		3,433.49		
l	Common ST Lines	10069833	28,190.97	1.6301		45,954.10		
2	Rider-DVA Group 1	10069833	28,190.97	-0.1340		-3,777.59		
3	Rider-DVA Group 2	10069833	28,190.97	-0.0363		-1,023.33		
1	Rider-DVA Group 2 different rate	10069833	28,190.97	0.0291		820.36		
5	Rider-DVA Group 1 Non WMP	10069833	28,190.97	-0.1880		-5,299.90		
5	Rider Disposition CBR Class B	▼ 10069833	28,190.97	-0.2481		-6,994.18		
7	Rider Disp Grp 1 2024	10069833	28,190.97	0.4094		11,541.38		
3	Rider Disp Acct 1595	10069833	28,190.97	-0.0241		-679.40		
)	Rider Disp Grp 1 Non WMP 2024	10069833	28,190.97	0.3400		9,584.93		
) Total						56,867.87		

Question(s):

- a) Please explain why these new rates were added July through to December.
- b) Please update Tab 16.1, if necessary, for any errors or omissions.

Responses:

a) CWH copied the rates as they are shown on each monthly Hydro One invoice. The charges mentioned above were applied to CWH's July 2024 invoice from Hydro One.

b) NA

Staff Interrogatory-3

Ref 1: IRM Rate Generator Model Tabs 21

Ref 2: Manger's Summary p 26

Preamble:

On page 26 of the Centre Wellington Hydro's Manager Summary it states "CWH confirms that no class experiences a total bill impact exceeding 10%, and as such, no rate mitigation plan is required."

RATE CLASSES / CATEGORIES (eg: Residential TOU, Residential Retailer)		Sub-Total Sub-Total							Total				
		Units A			В		C		Total Bill				
			**	%		*	%		\$	%		\$	%
RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - RPP	kWh	\$	4.90	15.1%	\$	4.75	11.8%	\$	10.57	19.3%	\$	10.56	7.9%
GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - RPP	kWh	\$	10.98	16.1%	\$	8.18	9.2%	\$	22.44	18.1%	\$	22.42	6.7%
GENERAL SERVICE 50 to 4,999 kW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Other)	kW	\$	701.58	17.3%	\$	262.83	3.9%	\$	2,511.68	20.2%	\$	2,838.20	3.6%
UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - RPP	kWh	\$	2.24	11.7%	\$	2.57	11.8%	\$	4.53	17.0%	\$	4.53	8.1%
SENTINEL LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - RPP	kW	\$	191.60	14.8%	\$	336.57	23.8%	\$	499.12	27.4%	\$	498.62	27.3%
STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Other)	kW	\$	(79.31)	-8.2%	\$	(82.70)	-7.4%	\$	9.19	0.7%	\$	10.38	0.2%
RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Retailer)	kWh	\$	4.90	15.1%	\$	5.73	12.7%	\$	11.54	19.3%	\$	13.04	6.3%
GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Retailer)	kWh	\$	10.98	16.1%	\$	10.78	10.6%	\$	25.04	18.3%	\$	28.29	5.3%
GENERAL SERVICE 50 to 4,999 kW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Retailer)	kW	\$	701.58	17.3%	\$	262.83	3.9%	\$	2,511.68	20.2%	\$	2,838.20	3.6%
SENTINEL LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Retailer)	kW	\$	191.60	14.8%	\$	336.61	23.8%	\$	499.16	27.4%	\$	564.05	27.2%
GENERAL SERVICE 50 to 4,999 kW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION - Non-RPP (Other)	kW	\$	2,946.01	17.6%	\$	1,172.27	4.1%	\$	10,810.19	20.4%	\$	12,215.51	3.4%

Question(s):

- a) As highlighted above the Sentinel Lighting Rate Classification RPP and Sentinel Lighting Rate Classification Non-RPP (Retailer) have bill impacts above 27%. The main contributors are the ACM rate rider and the LV rate rider. Has Centre Wellington Hydro contacted these customers and made them aware of the large increase? If so, how did Centre Wellington Hydro contact these customers and what responses, if any received to date, did the customers provide?
- b) Please confirm RRR data of 23,070 kWh and 64 kW is correct.
- c) Has Centre Wellington Hydro considered rate mitigation for these rate classes? If so, what was considered and how does Centre Wellington propose to mitigate such bill impacts for these customers?

Responses:

a) CWH has not contacted Sentinel Lighting customers regarding the projected bill impacts, as the class is very small with stable, long-term arrangements.

The increase is driven almost entirely by formulaic, OEB-approved riders, many of which are automatic pass-through adjustments beyond the utility's control. While the percentage change appears high, the dollar impact is minimal, and the class represents only 0.08% of CWH's total distribution revenue.

- b) CWH confirms the data is accurate.
- c) As it stands, CWH has reviewed the potential for rate mitigation but does not believe any specific measures are necessary. These adjustments are formula-based and applied consistently across all classes, introducing mitigation without a cost allocation study would offer little benefit and could unfairly shift costs to other customers.

Ref 1: IRM Rate Generator Model, Tab 20 and 21

Ref 2: Manager's Summary p 5

Preamble:

Centre Wellington Hydro notes in its Managers Summary an error regarding the GS 50 – 4,999 kW class – the DVA Rate Rider for Group 2 accounts, with an expiry date of December 31, 2025. The rate rider is showing on the Proposed Tariff Sheet and is being used in the Bill Impact.

Question(s):

a) Please confirm OEB staff has updated the IRM Rate Generator Model correctly to address the error.

Response:

a) Confirmed. The correction is included in the model being submitted with the responses.

Staff Interrogatory-5

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 update Tab 3 (Continuity Schedule) as necessary to reflect the Q4 2025 OEB-prescribed interest rate of 2.91%.

Response:

a) Completed. (CWH had used the OEB-prescribed interest rate for Q3, and it is unchanged, therefore no update required.)

Ref 1: EB-2024-0063, OEB Letter, July 26, 2024

Ref 2: EB-2024-0063, OEB Letter, October 31, 2024

Ref 3: EB-2024-0063, Decision and Order, March 27, 2025, pp. 92

Ref 4: EB-2025-0019 CWH 2026 Manager Summary Aug 14, page. 21

Preamble:

On July 26, 2024, the OEB issued a Letter and Accounting Order establishing a variance account for the deemed short-term debt rate (DSTDR) related to the generic proceeding on cost of capital and other matters.

On October 31, 2024, the OEB issued a Letter and Accounting Orders establishing two variance accounts. One is the account regarding the return on equity (ROE) and the other is the account regarding deemed long-term debt rate (DLTDR), both related to the generic proceeding on cost of capital and other matters.

On March 27, 2025, the OEB issued its decision and order for the above-noted generic proceeding. The OEB addressed the variance accounts established by the above-noted Accounting Order and stated:

Utilities that implemented rates in 2025 using interim cost of capital parameters were granted variance accounts to record the difference between the revenue requirement at interim and final cost of capital parameters. The OEB will consider the disposition of these balances in both IRM and Custom IR update rate applications. The OEB will also consider applications to amend base rates to reflect any changes in revenue requirement for 2025, but only if there was no specific treatment previously approved by the OEB for the 2025 rate application. This approach will allow the variance accounts for 2025 to be disposed and closed.

Any adjustment to base rates should use only data from the final approved revenue requirement calculation and billing determinants (no updated forecast).

Per Ref 4, OEB staff notes that Centre Wellington Hydro has recorded the variance per Ref 3 through approved DVAs (i.e., DSTDR, DLTDR & ROE) starting January 1, 2025 and will propose for disposition in a future application.

Questions(s):

- a) Per Ref 3, please explain why Centre Wellington Hydro is not planning to dispose of the variance accounts relating to the DSTDR, DLTDR, and ROE, as applicable, as part of this application for 2026 rates.
- b) Please explain when Centre Wellinton Hydro plans to dispose of these variance account(s).
- c) Please explain how Centre Wellington Hydro plans to mitigate generating significant balances in the variance account(s) and minimize intergenerational equity.
- d) If Centre Wellington Hydro decides that these variance accounts are being disposed in this application,
 - i. Please submit the continuity schedule of these three accounts
 - ii. Please explain how the requirements of the OEB's March 27, 2025 decision and Accounting Orders have been addressed in the current application to dispose of these variance account(s) and confirm the accuracy of the balances in such variance accounts.

Responses:

Preamble:

CWH has reviewed the OEB's March 27, 2025, Cost of Capital Decision and subsequent staff guidance confirming that base-rate adjustments may be incorporated within the 2026 IRM proceeding.

Accordingly, CWH is taking a two-part approach:

- 1. Dispose of 2025 accumulated balances in the DSTDR, DLTDR, and ROE variance accounts through a one-time rate rider effective January 1, 2026; and
- 2. Align ongoing base rates with the OEB's final cost-of-capital parameters to eliminate the need for any future variance tracking or disposition.

This treatment ensures that all 2025 differences are cleared, rates are fully aligned with the OEB's final parameters, and the variance mechanism can be eliminated.

- a) CWH recognizes that disposition within the current 2026 IRM application is both permissible and consistent with the OEB's stated intent to dispose of these accounts following the finalization of cost-of-capital parameters for 2025. Accordingly, CWH has included the 2025 balances to be disposed in its 2026 IRM application.
- b) CWH is disposing of the accumulated 2025 DSTDR, DLTDR, and ROE variance accounts as part of this 2026 IRM application through a rate rider.

Effective January 1, 2026, CWH is proposing to adjust rates and align with the final Cost of Capital parameters. The updated base rates now fully reflect the OEB's final cost-of-capital decision, thereby aligning CWH's approved rates with the final parameters and rendering the variance mechanism no longer necessary. As a result, the associated accounts will be closed following year-end reconciliation.

c) Following confirmation from OEB Staff that CWH may amend its 2025 base rates within the current 2026 IRM proceeding, CWH has updated its 2025 approved revenue requirement to reflect the OEB's final cost-of-capital parameters effective January 1, 2025 (Decision and Order issued March 27, 2025).

Parameter	Final Value
Return on Equity (ROE)	9.00 %
Deemed Long-Term Debt Rate	4.51 %
Deemed Short-Term Debt Rate	3.91 %
Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)	6.28 %

CWH recalculated its 2025 revenue requirement using these parameters within a worksheet based on the RRWF framework. The update revises the return on equity and return on debt components of the cost of capital, automatically recalculating the overall revenue requirement.

The Board-approved revenue-to-cost ratios and fixed-to-variable splits were maintained as approved in the Cost Allocation and Rate Design models.

All relevant and related models, (RRWF, ACM, and IRM) have been updated to incorporate the revised revenue requirement.

Accordingly, the DSTDR, DLTDR, and ROE variance accounts have been addressed through this base-rate realignment, and no separate rate rider or variance disposition is required for rates effective January 1, 2026.

d) By incorporating the OEB's final cost-of-capital parameters directly into the 2025 base rates, CWH has eliminated all variances going forward and therefore removed the need for any further tracking, disposition, or variance accounting related to these parameters.

The revised rates and rate riders are shown below and can be found in the file entitled CWH Base Current Rates vs Revised Rates 20251015.

Base Rate Change Analysis							
Fixed Rates	Current Rates	Proposed	<u>Change</u>				
	Fixed	Fixed					
Residential	\$34.13	\$33.86	-\$0.2744				
General Service<50kW	\$23.50	\$23.31	-\$0.1890				
General Service 50-4999kW	\$198.93	\$197.33	-\$1.5997				
Unmetered Scattered Load	\$13.73	\$13.62	-\$0.1104				
Sentinel Lights	\$6.82	\$6.77	-\$0.0548				
Streetlights	\$3.69	\$3.66	-\$0.0297				
Variable Rates	Current Rates	Proposed	<u>Change</u>				
	Vat	Var					
Residential	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$0.0000				
General Service<50kW	\$0.0245	\$0.0243	-\$0.0002				
General Service 50-4999kW	\$4.9522	\$4.9158	-\$0.0364				
Unmetered Scattered Load	\$0.0213	\$0.0211	-\$0.0002				
Sentinel Lights	\$18.0452	\$17.9001	-\$0.1451				
Streetlights	\$17.9559	\$17.8115	-\$0.1444				

2025 DSTDR, DLTDR, and ROE Rate Rider

# MOTHIS 12	# Months	12
-------------	----------	----

Rate Class (Enter Rate Classes in cells below)	Units	# of Customers /kWh/ kW	Rev Reqt Allocation	% Allocation	Balance of Group 2 Accounts	1508 Cost of Capital 2025 Var Rider
RESIDENTIAL	# of Customers	6,781	\$2,754,996.94	58.87%	-\$22,333.36	-\$0.02
GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW	kWh	23,327,957	\$792,438.09	16.93%	-\$6,423.89	\$0.0000
GENERAL SERVICE 3,000 TO 4,999 KW	kW	190,648	\$1,004,423.35	21.46%	-\$8,142.35	-\$0.0036
UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD	kWh	550,939	\$13,663.58	0.29%	-\$110.76	\$0.0000
SENTINEL LIGHTING	kW	92	\$3,682.43	0.08%	-\$29.85	-\$0.0269
STREET LIGHTING	kW	1,556	\$110,749.46	2.37%	-\$897.79	-\$0.0481
Total			\$4,679,953.84	100.00%	-\$37,938.01	

Difference in Base Rev Req

Ref 1: Centre Wellington Hydro EB-2025-0049 2026 ACM_ICM_Model_1.0_20250814, Tab 5 & 10

Ref 2: (EB-2024-0012) CWH 2025 Rev Reqt Workform DRO 20241210, Tab 3

Ref 3: (EB-2024-0012) CWH 2025 Chapter 2 DRO 20241210, 2BA

Preamble:

Per Ref 1 & 2, OEB staff has compiled Table 1 below showing the differences of revenue requirement inputs:

Description	Ref 1 (a)	Ref 2/3 (b)	Variance
			(b-a)
Gross Fixed Assets-Re-based	\$33,427,827	\$33,874,551	\$446,724
Opening			
Re-based Capital Additions	\$1,318,200	\$1,161,500	(\$156,700)
Accumulated Depreciation - Re-based	\$14,829,487	\$14,893,600	\$64,113
Opening			
Re-based Depreciation Expense	\$898,279	\$917,724	\$19,445
Working Capital Allowance Base	\$19,487,083	\$19,509,910	\$22,827

Question(s):

- a) Please confirm OEB staff's observations and update/resubmit Ref 1, as applicable.
- b) Per Ref 1, please fill in the current tax rate in Tab 10 and update the incremental revenue requirement.

Responses

- a) CWH Confirms that the OEB's observations are correct. A revised model is being filed along with these responses.
- b) A rate of 26.5% has been added to tab 10 of the revised ACM/ICM model

Ref 1: EB-2025-0049 Manager Summary (Aug 14), Section 11.4

Ref 2: Centre Wellinton Hydro EB-2025-0049 2026-IRM-Rate-Generator-Model_V1, Tab 8 & 9

Preamble:

Per Ref 1, Centre Wellington Hydro states that Accounts 1588 and 1589 were last disposed on a final basis in EB-2025-0049 for the balance up to December 31, 2023.

Question(s):

- a) Please confirm that Account 1588 and 1589 were last disposed on a final basis in EB-2024-0012 for the balance up to December 31, 2023.
- b) Please complete Tab 8 & Tab 9 in Ref 2 which remains unfilled and resubmit it.

Responses:

- a) Confirmed.
- b) As per tab 8 of the PILs model approved in the 2025 Cost of Service, the taxable income is 0. No changes are required to tabs 8 and 9 of the IRM model.

Staff Interrogatory-9

Ref 1: Centre Wellinton Hydro EB-2025-0049 2026 ACM_ICM_Model_1.0_20250814, Tab 3

Ref 2: (EB-2024-0012) CWH_2025_DVA_Continuity_Schedule DRO_20241210, Tab 4

Ref 3: EB-2025-0049 Manager Summary (Aug 14), Section 13

Ref 4: Chapter 3 Filing Requirements_20250619, Section 3.3.2.5

Preamble:

Per Ref 1 & 2, OEB staff has copied Table 2 below showing the differences of billing determinants:

Rate Class	Billed kWh				
	Ref 1	Ref 2			
GENERAL SERVICE 50	68,944,551	71,416,143			
TO 4,999 KW					

Per Ref 3, Centre Wellinton Hydro states that it has provided the ACM model results both with and without the application of accelerated CCA. OEB staff notes there is only one ACM model submitted in this application.

Per Ref 4, it states that the accelerated CCA should not be reflected in the ICM revenue requirement.

Question(s):

- a) Please explain the Billed kWh variance between Ref 1&2 identified in Table 2 above.
- b) Please confirm whether the revenue requirement in the current ACM model is factored with accelerated CCA.
 - If yes, please explain why Centre Wellinton Hydro reflects accelerated CCA in calculating the revenue requirement while it was not allowed per the filing requirements (Ref 4).

Responses:

- a) The difference between the two values in the table above is 2,471,592 kWh which is the Wholesale Market Participant (WMP) in section C of the (EB-2024-0012) CWH 2025 DVA Continuity Schedule DRO 20241210, Tab 4
- b) CWH confirms that no accelerated CCA has been applied to the revenue requirement related to the ACM project, in compliance with Section 3.3.2.5 of Chapter 3 of the OEB's Filing Requirements.

Staff Interrogatory-10 2026 CoC parameters update

Question(s):

a) Please confirm Centre Wellington Hydro will update the ACM model based on 2026 Cost of Capital parameters when these parameters are to be issued in the fall.

Response:

a) Confirmed.

Ref 1: IRM Rate Generator Model Tab 6.1

Preamble:

On Tab 6.1 GA the Sentinel Lighting Service Classification Global Adjustment (GA) rate is calculated as \$0,0040 per kWh, where as every other rate class is calculated as \$0,0048 per kWh. Generally all rate classes are charged/refunded the same rate rider per kWh.

14				Total Metered 2024 Consumption for Class A Customers that were Class A for the entire period GA balance accumulated	Total Metered 2024 Consumption for Customers that Transitioned Between Class A and B during the period GA balance accumulated	Non-RPP Metered 2024 Consumption for Current Class B Customers (Non-RPP Consumption excluding WMP, Class A and Transition Customers' Consumption)		otal GA \$ allocated to Current Class B Customers	GA Rate Rider	
15			kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh				
16										
17	RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION	kWh	462,510	0	0	462,510	0.9%	\$2,231	\$0.0048	kWh
18	GENERAL SERVICE LESS THAN 50 KW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION	kWh	4,228,908	0	0	4,228,908	8.3%	\$20,398	\$0.0048	kWh
19	GENERAL SERVICE 50 to 4,999 kW SERVICE CLASSIFICATION	kWh	68,041,639	22,229,458	0	45,812,181	89.5%	\$220,977	\$0.0048	kWh
20	UNMETERED SCATTERED LOAD SERVICE CLASSIFICATION	kWh	126,624	0	0	126,624	0.2%	\$611_	\$0.0048	kWh
21	SENTINEL LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION	kWh	496	0	0	496	0.0%	\$2	\$0.0040	kWh
22	STREET LIGHTING SERVICE CLASSIFICATION	kWh	548,321	0	0	548,321	1.1%	\$2,645	\$0.0048	kWh
23		Total	73,408,498	22,229,458	0	51,179,040	100.0%	\$246,864		

Question(s):

a) Please confirm OEB staff has updated the model correctly, to have the Sentinel Lighting Service Classification GA rate rider adjusted to \$0.0048 per kWh.

Response:

a) Confirmed. CWH notes that tab 6.1 GA is purely formulaic and calculated automatically. As such CWH did not change the GA Rate Rider that was being shown. CWH confirms the updated model shows \$0.0048 per kWh.

Staff Interrogatory-12

Question(s):

a) In the instance the OEB releases any updated rates / charges (e.g., 2026 Uniform Transmission Rates) before Centre Wellington Hydro provides its responses to OEB staff's interrogatories, please update the Rate Generator Model, as applicable, and identify the rates / charges that were updated.

Response:

a) The model has been updated to reflect the most recently published transmission rates.

Ref 1: 2025 Cost of Service - Exhibit 2 Rate Base 2.6.6 New Policy Options for the Funding of Capital

Preamble:

Below is a table from Centre Wellington Hydro's 2025 Cost of Service for the expected costs to construct the Fergus MS-5 station.

	Component	Summary
1)	Property Costs	\$ 60,00
2)	Engineering, Design, Construction Mgmt	\$ 180,50
3)	Major equipment	\$ 1,573,60
4)	Civil Construction	\$ 727,50
5)	Electrical	\$ 296,00
6)	Miscellaneous	\$ 55,00
7)	NBH Staff Coets	\$ 25,00
	Sub-Total Contingency 15%	\$ 2,917,60 \$ 437,64
	Total	\$ 3,355,24

Question(s):

a) Please confirm the expected costs are still on track for the Fergus MS-5 station to go into service in Q1 2016. If not, please fill out the table below and provide commentary on any variance between actual and expected costs.

	Component	Cost of Service	Actual Costs
	Component.	Expected Costs	7 totalai Gooto
1)	Property Costs	\$60,000	
2)	Engineering Design	\$180,500	
	and Construction		
	Management		
3)	Major Equipment	\$1,573,600	
4)	Civil Construction	\$727,500	
5)	Electrical	\$296,000	
6)	Miscellaneous	\$55,000	
7)	NBH Staff Costs	\$25,000	
	Subtotal	\$2,917,600	

Contingency 15%	<u>\$437,640</u>	
Total	\$3,355,240	

Response:

a) CWH confirms that costs are still on track as per the summary included. Note, Fergus MS5 station is to go into service in Q1 2026.