

RESS & EMAIL

October 20, 2025

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Attention: Ritchie Murray, Acting Registrar

Dear Mr. Murray:

**Re: Hydro Ottawa Limited - Custom Incentive Rate-Setting Application for 2026-2030
Electricity Distribution Rates and Charges (EB-2024-0115) – Leave to File Reply
Evidence to Staff Expert Report**

We are legal counsel to Hydro Ottawa Limited (“Hydro Ottawa”) the applicant in the above referenced proceeding.

On October 14, 2025, OEB staff filed as expert evidence a copy of Christensen Associates’ report relating to Hydro Ottawa’s proposed rate framework. Hydro Ottawa disagrees with positions and recommendations set out in the Christensen Associates’ report.

Further to Procedural Order No. 3, dated October 7, 2025, Hydro Ottawa seeks leave to file reply evidence, including expert evidence, to address elements of the Christensen Associates report, including the recommended productivity factor, stretch and growth factors.

Pursuant to Rule 13.04, and as noted in Hydro Ottawa’s letter dated October 1, 2025, leave to file reply evidence should be granted as a matter of basic procedural fairness to enable the applicant to assess the accuracy, and consider the methodological soundness, of the Christensen Associates report and to respond to the new issues and points raised in OEB staff’s expert report that can materially affect its interests in this proceeding.

Hydro Ottawa intends to file interrogatories as outlined in Procedural Order No. 3 by October 21, 2025 which would maintain the current schedule for responses to be received by October 28, 2025. With respect to the remaining timeline of the proceeding, Hydro Ottawa intends to file the reply evidence by November 3, 2025, shortly after receiving the interrogatory responses. We note that a Settlement Conference has been scheduled to commence on November 3, 2025, and

we understand from Hydro Ottawa's discussions with OEB staff that the Settlement Conference is intended to be extended into the week of November 10th to accommodate an intervenor scheduling conflict on November 7, 2025. Specifically, Hydro Ottawa was asked for meeting information related to November 10 and 11.

To minimize impacts to the timeline set out in Procedural Order No. 3, Hydro Ottawa proposes that (i) the Settlement Conference commence on November 4th or 5th to give parties an opportunity to review the reply evidence and (ii) questions related to the reply evidence be addressed through settlement clarifications questions. If there is no settlement reached on the rate framework, Hydro Ottawa proposes that the parties could then choose to pose any question asked as an interrogatory. For greater certainty, any responses to clarifying questions provided by Hydro Ottawa during the Settlement Conference would be on a without prejudice basis and subject to settlement privilege.

We thank you for your consideration of the above noted request. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Coban". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The letters are dark and the background is a light, slightly textured grey.

Daliana Coban

cc:

April Barrie, *Hydro Ottawa Limited*