



Ontario
Energy
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BY EMAIL and WEB POSTING

November 6, 2025

**To: All Licensed Electricity Distributors
All Licensed Electricity Transmitters**

**Re: Amendments to the Independent Assessment Requirement in the Ontario
Cyber Security Standard**

What You Need to Know

- **The OEB is releasing version 3.1 of the Ontario Cyber Security Standard, updating Independent Assessment requirements based on industry feedback.**
- **The Chief Executive Officer of the transmitter or distributor must sign and date the Independent Cyber Security Assessment Report (Report), along with the Independent Assessor.**
- **Completed and signed Reports must be submitted by the OEB's deadline.**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is issuing [version 3.1](#) of the Ontario Cyber Security Standard (Standard). This update clarifies that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a licensed transmitter or distributor (collectively referred to as utilities) must sign and date the Independent Cyber Security Assessment Report (Report), alongside the Independent Assessor. Utilities must file their completed and signed reports by the deadline set by the OEB.

Version 3.1 of the Standard comes into effect immediately.

Background

On December 16, 2024, the OEB issued an updated Standard that included the Independent Assessment requirements. Under section 5 of the Standard, utilities are required to periodically complete an independent cyber security assessment - based on the [Ontario Cyber Security Framework](#) - and submit a Report before the reporting

deadline. The OEB established the reporting deadline in its letter issued on [March 12, 2025](#) (the March 12th letter).

A Report template, attached as Appendix 1 to the Standard, requires the electronic signature of the “Qualified Individual” and “Utility Representative” upon completion of the independent assessment.

Following release of the Standard, OEB staff received enquiries seeking clarification on which utility representative is required to sign the Report.

Amendment to Independent Assessment Requirements

The OEB is revising the Standard, removing the term “utility representative” and replacing it with a requirement that the Report be signed by the utility’s CEO. This approach is consistent with requirements in section 2.1.22 b) and 3.1.7 of the [Electricity Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements](#), which require the utility’s CEO to sign the cyber security readiness self-certification statement.

Utilities listed under Group 1 of the Utility Reporting Schedule (Schedule) in the March 12th letter are reminded that they must file their Report by January 30, 2026.

OEB staff will send an email in late November with instructions on how utilities can securely and confidentially submit their completed and signed Reports. Utilities in Groups 2 and 3 of the Schedule will be sent instructions on submitting the completed and signed Report ahead of their submission deadline.

Any questions regarding the changes provided in version 3.1 of the Standard should be submitted to the IndustryRelations@oeb.ca.

Yours truly,

Brian Hewson
Vice President, Consumer Protection & Industry Performance