

Very Small Distributor Working Group - Touchpoint Meeting #2

Meeting Notes

Date:	October 7, 2025, 3:00pm - 3:45pm
Attendance:	Atikokan Hydro Inc.: Jennifer Wiens Cornerstone Hydro Electric Concepts: Greg Van Dusen Electricity Distributors Association: Rudra Mukherji Fort Frances Power Corp.: Joerg Ruppenstein Hearst Power Distribution Co. Ltd.: Jessy Richard Tandem Energy Services: Manuela Ris-Schofield Vulnerable Energy Consumers Coalition: Bill Harper Wellington North Power Inc.: Richard Bucknall OEB Staff: Tyler Davids, Donald Lau, James Sidlofsky, Adam Hafejee

While very small distributors (fewer than 5,000 customers) will continue to automatically qualify for the one-day Issues Meeting process, OEB staff presented new eligibility criteria for the expansion of the one-day Issues Meeting to small distributors (5,000-30,000 customers).

- Intervenors noted that they need to be allotted enough time to review the case in detail prior to the one-day Issues Meeting, which is a shorter timeline than the status quo process. Intervenors noted that the shorter timeline is not suitable for more complex cases.
 - OEB staff notes that the criteria developed for small distributors to use the one-day Issues Meeting aims to limit eligibility to simpler cases and would therefore address intervenor concerns.

OEB staff presented four metrics from the five cases that went through the very small distributor process compared to their previous case. The four metrics included questions asked, intervenor costs, third-party application costs, and total cycle time.

- Distributors believe the metrics should be presented for very small distributors only to eliminate outliers such as Northern Ontario Wires' recent cost of service application, which was a more complex case with over 5,000 customers.
- Participants suggested to inflation normalize the intervenor cost metrics.
- Participants suggested, as part of the OEB's initiative to track the impact of its regulatory process on very small distributors, that the OEB consider tracking costs associated with various applicant 3rd party cost drivers after each very small distributor case.
- Participants suggested reducing the number of model iterations throughout the cost of service process.
 - OEB staff noted that it will consider ways to reduce model iterations.

Based on recommendations from the working group, OEB staff provided model training to very small distributors on September 3rd-4th, 2025.

- Participants found the model training helpful and a useful refresher for those who have used the models before.